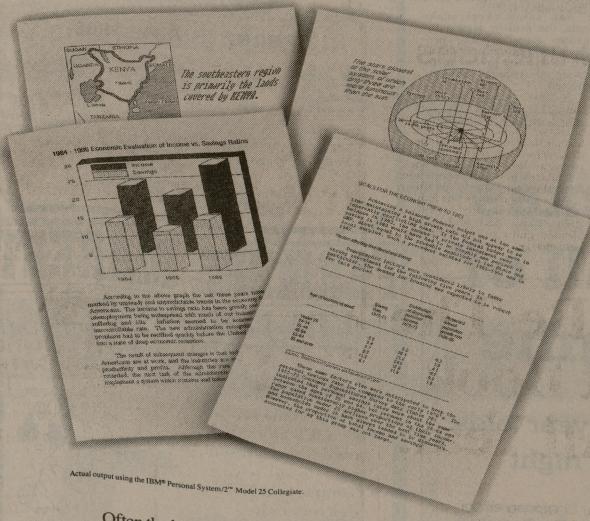


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Page 8/The Battalion/Monday, January 18, 1988

Hart leads Democrats V **Bush dominates GOP**

the party's March 8 primary while Vice President George Bush contin-ues to dominate the Republican field in his home state, according to a poll released Sunday.

While Bush retains a commanding lead in the GOP race in Texas, Hart's high negative ratings indicate his Texas lead of the Democratic field is "shaky. He is vulnerable," according to University of Houston political scientist Richard Murray.

With colleague Kent Tedin, Murray conducted the Jan. 4-11 survey

ray conducted the Jan. 4-11 survey of 1,020 Texas registered voters exclusively for the Houston Chronicle and the Dallas Morning News.

Of the 399 poll respondents who said they were likely to vote in the Democratic primary, 26 percent said they would vote for Hart and 17 percent for the Rey Jesses Jackson. The cent for the Rev. Jesse Jackson. The other candidates — Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore, Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, Missouri Rep. Richard Ge-phardt and former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt — are far back.

Forty percent of the Democrats are undecided.

Hart, a former Colorado senator, dropped out of the race last May in the wake of a scandal with a Miami model but got back in last month.

Murray attributes Hart's lead in part to the fact that most of the other Democratic contenders, with the exception of Jackson, are not well

The margin of error in the samples of likely primary voters is plus or minus 5 percentage points. The poll, with an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, was conducted through the UH Center for Public Policy.

Bush, who calls Houston home, has the support of 57 percent of the 347 poll respondents who said they are likely to vote in the state's March
8 GOP primary. Bush has an "incredibly positive" rating of 90 percent among the likely GOP voters, almost all of whom know who he is,

Tedia sid

HOUSTON (AP) — Gary Hart is in front of the pack of Democratic presidential contenders in Texas in centered on social securit

AMHERST, N.H. (AP) — Jesse Jackson blasted fellow Democratic presidential candidates Sunday for social security proposals he said would leave the nation "divided and destroyed" as Republican Bob Dole accused two opponents of "just saying no to everything."

Fresh from a pair of weekend de-bates, presidential candidates from both parties renewed the arguments sharpened in those televised con-frontations in Iowa and New Hamp-

The politically sensitive subject of social security continued to provide the brightest rhetorical sparks.

Gary Hart triggered a new round of debate among Democrats with a call for taxing 85 percent of social security benefits for those who make more than \$32,000 a year.

That fell short of former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt's call for full taxation of those benefits, but Hart's deficit cutting proposal sparked

deficit-cutting proposal sparked controversy after its unveiling late Saturday night in his Ottawa, Kan.,

Jackson rejected the ideas, saying they would undermine the universal

nature of the social security system. "If we try to separate the cream from the coffee, we will end politically divided and destroyed," he said on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley." "We should not tamper with that social security system."

was open to such ideas, 50 percent of such benefit ready taxed.

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"The level of taxation or justed," the presidental from Tennessee said on show. "That is something should be on the table. game. But basic social see

fits should not be touched. And social security of generate heat on the side as well, with Dole of theme from the Satur Dartmouth College. He Rep. Jack Kemp of New former Delaware Gov. Pet for their ideas for dealing

"As I listened to Pete and night just saying no to e no to this, no to that...y govern, too. You have choices too," Dole told house at the Sir William in Amherst.

Vice President George by rently the front-runner in Hampshire GOP primary hard private meetings in the day and appeared on one vision interview show.

Bush hit on the same the Saturday debate, but a he has become convinced posals for a line-item ver long history of supporters

the support of 12 percent of likely voters and a positive rating of 68 Only 21 percent of the Republi-

can voters are undecided. Twenty-nine percent of likely Democratic voters cited Hart as hav-

ing the best chance of winning the But Hart's high negative ratings

among the voters overall indicate its would be "absolutely unelectable" if the guy."

When asked to name the best change of

Bush's closest Texas competitor is
Kansas Sen. Robert Dole, who has

He is rated negatively by half of can with the best chance of the respondents, positively by 36 76 percent of likely GOP we percent, with 15 percent expressing Bush. He is rated negatively by half of

neutrality. (Percentages of 100 because of rounding)

Among likely Demon he is rated negatively by positively by 52 percent,

cent expressing neutrality
On the Republican side,
former Houston congress
Harris County Republica
man, is "incredibly strong"

Waldo









Warped



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