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Interview dates Feb. 17 & 18

Bush asks for more aid for Nicaraguan Contras

(AP) — Republican presidential candidate George Bush pressed for more aid to the Nicaraguan Contras on Monday while Paul Simon said the lack of a "celebrity star" has kept the Democratic race muddled.

Bob Dole, the Senate minority leader and Bush's chief rival for the Republican nomination, called the U.S.-Soviet arms treaty "a milestone achievement" despite his early reservations.

The Democratic candidates, except for Bruce Babbitt, were gathering in Boston for another of their traveling road show debates — this the third in as many days.

Babbitt temporarily halted campaign activities following the death Sunday of his 89-year-old father and returned home to Arizona.

New polls in Iowa and New Hampshire, the early delegate-contest states, showed the races still heavily divided but with support for Gary Hart dropping.

In New Hampshire, Hart dismissed questions about polls showing he's lost half his support in Iowa in recent weeks.

"I'm still ahead of where I was four years ago," Hart said.

Bush appeared before high school students in Berlin, N.H., and said the United States should keep pressure on Nicaragua's Sandinista government by continuing to aid the Contra rebels.

"If you take the pressure off, the Sandinistas will go back and do what they have been doing," he said, citing press censorship and the lack of free elections.

Referring to Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega's recent concessions, including lifting the state of emergency, Bush said, "I'm very skeptical about Ortega's intent."

Simon campaigned in Portland, Maine, where he offered an explanation for the polls showing several candidates clumped together tightly in Iowa.

"It's understandable people have not chosen yet," the Illinois senator said. "There is no celebrity star among the top three in Iowa today. People are still sorting it out and we have to get the message across."

Rep. Richard Gephardt, Simon and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis were running a dead heat in the latest *Des Moines Register* poll of Iowa. Gephardt had 19 percent, Dukakis 18 and Simon 17 percent — a statistically insignificant separation. Hart had fallen to 13 percent, Jesse Jackson had 11 percent and Babbitt 10 percent.

Dukakis was leading in his neighboring state of New Hampshire with 37 percent in the latest *Los Angeles Times* poll, followed by Simon at 19 percent. Moving up strongly was Babbitt, to third place with 13 percent. Other Democrats, including

Hart, were in the single digits.

Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate, delivered a strong statement of the treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missileification hearings began in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He referred to the pact received from Bush to support and said his earlier criticism was due to his study of the viet agreement.

"There's a lot of suggestion the Republican leaders should be on board," Dole said. "I've taken years to negotiate the treaty, maybe at least we ought to have a few days to make our own independent investigation."

"So I did my homework, think I can say... it's a good treaty is a milestone achievement," Dole said.

Dole leads the six-man group in the latest polls in Iowa, holds caucuses Feb. 8. But the Republican polls in New Hampshire, where the nation's primary will be held Feb. 16.

Republican Jack Kemp tried to hammer away at Dole's Social Security issue and said he wanted to delay the Social Security freeze; Dole says he wants to make the Social Security system

Boulter confident, gains state support for Senate position

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Beau Boulter of Amarillo said Monday he is picking up support from within the Texas Republican Party despite GOP challenges to his run for the U.S. Senate against Democrat Lloyd Bentsen.

The Panhandle Republican said the money is coming in at a rate of \$4,000 per day from across the state, particularly from West Texas, and that a growing number of leaders within the GOP's presidential campaigns are backing him.

"The Bush and Dole folks want to beat Lloyd Bentsen, as do the Kemp and Robertson people," he said. "And those people think that a sitting congressman on the budget committee has a better chance to do that than a Houston businessman who's never held office or a former state representative."

Others seeking a chance to go against Bentsen from the Texas Republican Party are Milton Fox, a former state representative from Houston, Ned Snead, a Georgetown businessman, and Wes Gilbreath, a Houston businessman.

Boulter listed several state GOP officials as having signed on as members of his steering committee, including Diana Denman, state party vice chairman, Fran Chiles, national committee member, Kay Danks, party secretary, and Henry Santamaria, party treasurer.

State GOP Chairman George Strake has thus far remained neutral.

"I'm not after the Robertson segment, I'm not after the Dole segment, I'm not after the Bush segment," Boulter said. "I'm after all of them, and the leadership in each of these campaigns, the grassroots leadership. And we're having not 100 percent success, but well over 90 percent success... of the people I've been in contact with."

Boulter said he feels those people newly attracted to the Republican primary because of Robertson's candidacy are people who naturally will vote for him because he is pro-life and agrees with them on other moral issues.

On the financial front, Boulter said money has been flowing from across the state, but he had no idea how much. He mentioned fund-raisers set in the near future in Dallas and Houston and said numerous party officials are helping raise money.

"We are getting some maximum contributions, but most of our contributions are coming in in smaller amounts," Boulter said. "The thing that most pleases me is that it is coming in from working people and small business people."

"My financial base in the state is going to be from people who can't afford to give \$1,000."

Contribution help family of dead officer

DALLAS (AP) — Donations poured in Monday to help the family of slain police officer Chase and to transport his remains to Wednesday's funeral in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Greater Dallas Police Commission gave Chase's family a check for \$10,000, and American Airlines offered a jet to officers and family members for the funeral.

Dallas billionaire H. Ross Perot and oilman Ray Hunt flew planes so the officers could attend the funeral. Greyhound Lines Inc. will provide a bus, announced at a news conference Monday.

A limousine company offered its services to the officer's family while in Dallas, and a grocery store chain paid for bumper stickers with a thumb up that read "Support our Police."

Motorists throughout the state drove with their lights on Monday in a show of support for the police department. A memorial service for Chase is scheduled today in Dallas, and a candle vigil is planned for tonight in front of City Hall. A rally is planned at City Hall for Sunday.

Chase was killed Saturday morning when a homeless man wrestled his gun away from him in the face as he pleaded his life.

Restaurant owner sells business to become city health inspector

FREEMONT (AP) — For two years beginning in 1983, Jo-Ann Proctor owned a fried chicken restaurant on Brazosport Boulevard and, like all food establishment operators, spent days under an appearance by the city health inspector.

That universal anxiety was mixed with a good share of annoyance. In the short time she served wings, legs and thighs to the public, four different inspectors passed through her doors.

"They never were able to develop a relationship with business people," Proctor said. "You had made the changes the first inspector said, then another would want something else."

What she saw amid the different faces rating her livelihood was an

opportunity to improve her hometown. Proctor, 38, knew she could do the job and do it better.

The former office manager and bookkeeper sold the food stand. From there, she began a series of training procedures which put her on the other end of the stick, in the hot seat as the city's 10th health inspector.

She admits the profession leaves her scatterbrained as it stretches in every direction and can take too much paperwork and court time before something is accomplished.

"I love it. You're steadily learning," she said. "I love knowing all the business people, knowing what their problems are and working together to solve them."

It is a job that never ends. Last

year, Proctor was in charge of inspecting the 110 bars, restaurants, bakeries, convenience stores, stands, day-care centers and other establishments in Freemont.

When the pile of resident complaints on her desk dwindled to an insupportable level, she does enforcement work such as closing owners to keep up abandoned property and automobiles, removing lots, stagnant water and garbage signs on city easements.

Recently it has become a challenge since the city is wading through a code of ordinances to update regulations unchanged since 1962. A lot of information sits on her desk help in conforming the codes to places, such as retail seafood markets, don't have governing codes.

Proctor to start from scratch.

"The job is overwhelming, it's a step back," she said. "When I bogged down in it, it isn't so bad."

Three days after Proctor's first day on the job, Freemont received its first dead fish complaint when the entire Gulf Coast was assaulted by the toxic red tide.

For the next six months, she learned how to take and check samples for traces of the poison plankton.

"The biggest part of my job is getting the mess cleaned up," she said. "All those dead fish have to go somewhere."

Along the way have been 1,000 written inspections, 150 donated vehicles, 496 calls on weeds and 362 miscellaneous inspections per day.

Drilling rigs exploring for oil, gas drop again in America

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of oil and gas drilling rigs working in the United States dropped again last week, falling by 28 to total 1,026, Baker Hughes announced.

The previous week, the count had dropped by 48 to 1,054.

A year ago, the rig count totaled 837. Houston-based Baker Hughes announced Monday.

Baker Hughes' count reflects the number of rigs working as of Friday.

The Houston-based oil toolmaker tallies the number of rigs actively exploring for oil, and not rigs producing oil.

The rig count is a widely-watched industry index of drilling activity.

In December 1981, at the height of the oil boom, the count reached a peak with 4,500 active rigs.

But in the summer of 1986, the rig count fell to 663 — the lowest since Hughes began compiling figures — as oil prices plunged to less than \$10 per 42-gallon barrel.

Among major oil producing states, Texas had the biggest decline, losing 19 rigs.

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