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# State reacts to Dukakis' choice

## Democrats thrilled over Bentsen pick

AUSTIN (AP) — With memories of 1960 firmly in mind, Texas Democrats praised Michael Dukakis' Tuesday selection of U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen as his running mate.

"I believe the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket is the best since Kennedy-Johnson," Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said, recalling the last time a Massachusetts man picked a Texas Democrat for his vice president.

But the praise was short of unanimous. Some of Jesse Jackson's supporters rapped the selection of Bentsen.

"I'm not ecstatic about the ticket," said State Rep. Al Edwards, D-Houston and chairman of Jackson's Texas delegation to next week's Democratic National Convention at Atlanta.

"I'm crying," Edwards said. "My man didn't get the choice. We missed first place and got picked over for second place. That's really disgusting."

Gerard Washington, Jackson campaign director in El Paso, said Jackson would have been "the best choice." He said 1988 is far different from 1960, particularly because Bentsen was not a presidential contender this year while Johnson was in 1960.

"Johnson ran strong in the primaries, and Dukakis doesn't look like JFK or talk like JFK," Washington said. "Bentsen would have been more helpful staying in the Senate and supporting a Dukakis-Jackson ticket."

Under the 1959 Texas law that let Johnson run simultaneously for the Senate and the vice presidency, Bentsen will do the same this year.

Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Barbara Jordan called the selection of Bentsen an "excellent one" and said Bentsen is well-liked in minority communities.

"He has certainly been open to

listen to the views of all people of Texas and there has been no time that Lloyd Bentsen's door was closed because of your race or ideology," Jordan said.

And she criticized Jackson supporters who believe he should have been the running mate.

"I regret that Jesse Jackson somehow feels he had some claim to the vice presidency. Nothing in history, in fact or common sense would indicate Jesse Jackson deserves the second spot," she said.

"Jesse Jackson lost the primaries to Michael Dukakis. He is not the co-nominee," Jordan added.

Ruben Bonilla of Corpus Christi, echoed Jordan's comments about Bentsen's strength in minority communities.

"We have the first ticket in American history of either party where both candidates are fluent in Spanish. I think it's a masterful political stroke," Bonilla said.

Senator Bentsen has a strong following across the philosophical ladder. He has support from the business community, but he also has the respect of the critical Hispanic constituency.

Praise for Bentsen came from many top Texas Democrats, all of whom said he should put Dukakis over the top for the state's 29 electoral votes.

No Democrat has ever won the presidency without carrying Texas.

Comptroller Bob Bullock said Dukakis "could not have picked a more able political leader."

Attorney General Jim Mattox said Bentsen's "strong ties to the business community" will help. He also recalled that Bentsen "whipped" George Bush in a 1970 Senate race.

San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros, co-chairman of Bentsen's senate re-election campaign, said the choice "makes for a winning ticket."

# Early sales of cattle blamed on drought

**By Donna Falcone**  
Reporter

Drought effects mounting in Texas are beginning to take their toll on the cattle industry by forcing ranchers to sell their calf crop early, said Dr. Carl Anderson, an economist with the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service.

Anderson said Texas' crop, forage and livestock situation is deteriorating rapidly as summer begins.

Moisture conditions throughout the United States are mixed, he said, but the drought situation is a problem in Texas, with emphasized drought stress in southern and northeastern regions.

Anderson said Texas cattle ranchers especially are feeling the pinch of the drought because their livestock are located in these drought stressed areas. The Panhandle, Rolling Plains and areas in and around Lubbock are classified as having adequate conditions, but are of little use, Anderson said, because these areas are cultivated for farming and are not used for grazing purposes.

But ranchers located in areas classified as short to barely adequate are being forced to sell their calf crop early and at a younger age. Anderson said that with the increase in grain prices, ranchers can no longer afford to feed their cattle.

"Ranchers in hardest hit south and southwestern counties are continuing to market or move their cattle in an effort to sustain some of their foundation herds," Anderson said. "Large offerings of cattle are

being consigned to local auction markets, creating depressed prices in a number of areas."

As a result of this heavy movement of livestock, the price of cattle is decreasing, Anderson said, providing consumers with a short-term decrease in beef prices.

But for ranchers, it's a different story. Anderson said the added sale of cattle has increased ranchers' annual costs because they are having to buy supplemental feed for their livestock.

And to complicate matters, Anderson said that feed shortages are mounting. Hay prices are constantly increasing and the price of grain has doubled since the drought minimized the corn crop in the Midwest, he said.

"We are beyond concerned when it comes to the stressed forage supply for feeding stock," Anderson said.

Heavy maintenance feeding of livestock continues in the driest areas although hay supplies are low and new crop cuttings are minimal, he said.

"The bottom line here is the cost of ranching," Anderson said.

He said the effects of the drought on the agro-business climate have caused ranchers' incomes to drop because their buying activities are limited to purchasing feed, with very little going to the replacement and maintenance of equipment and other needed purchases.

# Republicans: Bentsen makes no difference

AUSTIN (AP) — Making Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen his running mate won't help Democrat Michael Dukakis carry the nation's third-largest state, top Republicans said Tuesday, insisting that Texan George Bush already has the state locked up.

"When Texans are asked to choose between a Texan for president and a Texan for vice president, they're not going to choose second-best," said Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas.

Bush, who has clinched the GOP presidential nomination, lost to Bentsen when the two ran for the Senate in 1970. But Republican leaders said times have changed and predicted history won't repeat itself.

Texans will decide "whether they want one of their own president of the United States or do they want one of their own vice president. Texas has had both ... And I think Texas is going to decide they want one of their own president," Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said.

Fred Meyer of Dallas, the Texas GOP chairman, said, "George Bush will carry Texas this November. This is a race between George Bush and Michael Dukakis, not between the vice presidential candidates."

"The No. 2 man never wins the presidency for you," he said.

Meyer said Dukakis' liberal record would not appeal to Texans.

"Michael Dukakis is too liberal for Texas voters and picking Lloyd Bentsen as a running mate will not hide that fact," the chairman said.

Gov. Bill Clements, who is co-chairing Bush's Victory 88 committee in Texas, described the Bentsen choice as a desperate move.

"He can't carry Texas. This is a last-resort kind of movement on

his part. That still won't cut it," Clements said.

"Lloyd Bentsen cannot bring that kind of strength to the ticket," he said.

The Republican governor was defeated in 1982, when Senate candidate Bentsen's name was atop the Democratic ticket. Many political observers have said that Bentsen's campaign efforts helped unseat Clements after his first term.

But Clements, elected again in 1986, discounted Bentsen's strength.

"This is a far, far, far different situation," he said. "We will carry Texas for George Bush. You'd better believe it."

Jim Oberwetter, who helped run Bush's primary campaign in Texas, also said Bentsen's name on the Democratic ticket would have little impact.

Oberwetter noted that in 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and his Texas running mate Lyndon B. Johnson carried the state by just over 40,000 votes.

"And that was a Texan who was a powerhouse," Oberwetter said.

Oberwetter said only about 75,000 Texans voted in the Republican primary that year, compared with more than a million this year.

"I do not believe that George Bush will do anything but win in Texas. It is clear that the Democrats have chosen to make Texas the battleground. It will probably be one of two or three battleground states," he said.

However, Oberwetter described the choice of Southern Bentsen as a risk for Dukakis.

"This is an unbelievable crapshoot. If you lose the whole thing," he said.

# World briefs

## Results predict PRI will win presidency

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Despite the lowest proportion of the vote ever for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), results released until Tuesday indicated it will take the presidency by a more than 50 percent margin and pay little heed to opposition protests of fraud.

The Federal Election Commission, the only source of official results, adjourned early Tuesday and said it would not meet again until Wednesday night. Seven days after last Wednesday's voting, it still was officially releasing

only results on the Chamber of Deputies.

With the vote count lagging, the governing party again released data it said was obtained from the federal commission.

Those results showed its candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, had 53.59 percent of the votes counted. Cuauhtemoc Cárdenas, candidate of several leftist parties, followed with 26.08 percent, and Manuel J. Clouthier of the conservative National Action Party with 16.04 percent.

# Soviets launch second probe for Mars

MOSCOW (AP) — Orange flames lit the night sky of Soviet Central Asia Tuesday as the Soviet Union launched the second of a pair of space probes on an 111 million-mile odyssey to explore the mysteries of Mars and help prepare for a manned flight to the red planet.

Its companion, Phobos 1, was launched skyward atop a 200-foot-high Proton booster rocket

from Baikonur on Thursday, and Soviet media said its on-board navigation systems were switched on the next day.

If all goes well, the two Soviet spacecraft will enter the gravitational pull of Mars in January and fall into orbit just behind Phobos for a three-month remote study of the Martian surface, atmosphere and magnetic field.

# Jet inquiry to focus on several aspects

SEATTLE (AP) — An inquiry into the reasons why a jetliner lost part of its roof will focus on quality assurance, the design and certification of airplane bodies, and human and other factors in main-

tenance, the chairman of a fact-finding board said today.

Officials have said the hearing will also look into the maintenance and usable life of aging jetliners in general.

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