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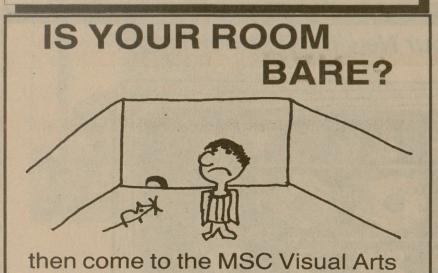
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World and Nation

8000 people evacuated as fire continues to burn in California

LAKE WILDWOOD, Calif. (AP) Monday, and slightly higher humid-acres Tuesday afternoon. blazes before potential warmer weather sets in. third day Tuesday to control a raging timber fire that ringed a high-tech industrial complex after de-stroying almost 100 homes and forcing thousands to evacuate

At least 97 homes and 57 other buildings were destroyed, and 4,000 to 5,000 other structures were threatened by the fast-moving, wind-fanned blaze northeast of Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada.

In less than 72 hours it blackened more than 40 square miles of brush and timber north and west of Grass Valley and Nevada City in a halfmoon arc 12 miles long and two to five miles wide.

This is the classic forest-urban interface. This is the fire of the 1990s," said Ed Waggoner of the state Department of Forestry, the operations director of the 2,788-member firefighting force.

However, fire officials said firefighting conditions were improved Tuesday, with an easing of the 20-30 mph wind that blew Sunday and

"We're not out of the woods, but we're relieved. We have a more normal weather sitution today," said Department of Forestry spokeman Frank Bates.

evacuated from their homes in several communities.

Fire officials stressed that many homes were still in danger, especially in Rough and Ready, a community of 500 residents in the heavily wooded bottom of a steep canyon on the edge of the fire about seven miles west of Grass Valley.

Fire planning chief Steve Iverson said saving Rough and Ready was one of Tuesday's top priorities, but he cautioned that it was a particularly dangerous area for firefighters because of limited access via a narrow road.

There were reports people were allowed to return to the town but 'we've had a flareup and they're still evacuated there," said fire information officer Carolyn Phillips. She

Louisiana prepares for Gilbert's arrival

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Oil companies evacuated thousands of workers from rigs in the Gulf of Mexico Tuesday while residents along the Louisiana coast awaited word on whether Hurricane Gilbert would become the second cyclone to hit them in a week.

Hurricane Florence took a relatively weak swipe at the state Friday and Saturday. Gilbert, a much stronger storm swirling through the Caribbean, was upgraded to a cat-egory 5 hurricane Tuesday afternoon as winds reached 160 miles per hour.

The storm was moving to the northwest at about 15 miles per hour, and forecasters predicted it would enter the Gulf Wednesday.

"We began evacuating our off-shore drilling personnel yesterday and we're finishing that up today," Shell spokesman Billy Vehnekamp said Tuesday. Other companies were following suit.

Gene Graves, marketing director for Petroleum Helicopters Inc. in Lafayette, said his company's 18 bases in the Gulf Coast region were operating at full capacity evacuating the rigs. He estimated that all the 10,000 or so workers who normally work the Gulf would be evacuated by Wednesday. "I suspect that by noon to two

cleaned off everything," Graves said. "We've got to have about a 24-hour cushion to play with this one.

"I don't think anybody's going to ride this one out, that I'm sure of.

Vehnekamp said many workers had not yet returned to Gulf rigs following evacuations before Hurricane Florence hit the southeast Louisiana Gulf coast last weekend.

Tuesday afternoon forecasts indicated the storm was more likely to hit Texas than Louisiana. But Gov. Buddy Roemer said the the state would be ready for Gilbert should the hurricane head for Louisiana.

We had a trial run as it turned out last week," he said, recalling Florence. "We talked every day, coordinating national guard, the office of emergency preparedness ... called all parishes affected, parish presidents to see what we could do.

'We're doing the same thing this time around. This is a big dangerous with politics," he said. unpredictable storm. In my worst nightmare, I can see that thing turn-ing north-northwest and hitting Louisiana. I'm praying that does not

happen." While the oil industry was gearing up for the storm, residents in areas along the south Louisiana coast were

Federal fire officials have called this the worst forest fire season in the West in 30 years, especially conartment of Forestry spokeman sidering the fires in and around Yellowstone National Park. The An estimated 8,000 people were fires have charred 939,270 acres of the 2.2 million-acre park since June.

were still within a few hun Firefighters there on Tuesday took advantage of a cold spell to of the complex Tuesday, said the danger there had a make some headway against the substantially.

Republicans plan to help Hispanics

WASHINGTON (AP) - Senate Republicans proposed a series of education, employment and health initiatives Tuesday aimed at ensuring Hispanics have access to the opportunities and support systems already available to most Americans,

But the Democratic chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Albert Bustamante, said there was not really any substance to that report and that its findings were an

report and that its throngs were an election year-type of rhetoric. "They need a primer on under-standing the issues because they always vote wrong on the issues. I'm happy to see they've at least put a po-sition out there," said the San Antonio congressman, calling the 1980s a

disaster for Hispanics. But another Hispanic leader, Rita Di Martino of Staten Island, N.Y. the chairman of the board of the National Council of La Raza, said the report dealt meaningfully with the issues affecting Hispanics, the nation's fastest growing population group.

"We have some very important people on this (task force). This is a

people on this (task torce). This is a first. This is historic," said Di Mar-tino, vice chairman of the Republi-can Party in New York state and a member of the task force's biparti-san advisory committee. "I don't know if the Democrats have had one (task force), but I don't think they have. The fact is, we had the foresight to do it.'

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah and chairman of the panel, said the effort is bi-partisan

This should not be messed up

The task force's reco "I challenge everyone across the tions include expanding country to get a copy and let us know and local initiatives to red what we can do and what we can do acy and combat a high His better," Hatch said. "This (report) is dent dropout rate and to programs at the federal, st But Bustamante said "people in cal levels and in the priv

a great beginning."

guidelines, we need vote Republicans to support the grams. The Senate has no Hispani bers, while the House hass Hatch said many of the mendations could be accord with legislation while thead

tion would be encouraged to tion through executive orden He said the task force had backed efforts to provide in to fund national and local H

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literacy programs. Bustamante challenged ate Republicans to do back up their promises whit tionary funds for programs ting Hispanics, and to puth out that government contras be widely available to minor

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Ter member of the task form work was aimed more at the ministration so the new and Congress can put to initiative for the future."

nesses.

The report said educated most critical issue in the community. Unless liter drop out rates are turned young Hispanics will not find jobs as the United State from a manufacturing to ogy and service-based en reater needs for work

higher skills. Hispanics are the least a major population groupint try, the study said.

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o'clock (Wednesday) we'll have monitoring the storm's progress.

our areas don't read position papers, that provide manageral s not in the barrios and the rural tance to small minority bus

Candidates deal with questions about economics, foreign policy

Michael Dukakis questioned on Tuesday how George Bush would be able to deal with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev if he couldn't stand up to the ayatollah or Noriega. The vice presi-dent preached the gospel of Republican prosper-ity and said America is a "rising nation again."

GOP vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle announced to a Milwaukee audience that Dukakis had lost his top naval adviser. "His rubber duck drowned in his bathtub," Quayle said in another in a series of comments designed to undercut the Democratic candidate's foreign policy and defense credentials.

The Republican campaign was buffeted with more controversy when the co-chairman of "Bulgarians for Bush" resigned after being identified in a newspaper report as the former head of a Nazi-aligned group formed in Bulgaria after World War II. Radi Slavoff became the sixth person to resign from Bush ethnic organizations

over allegations of anti-Semitic activities. Top Republican National Committee official Frederic V. Malek also resigned Sunday after it

was reported that he had conducted a survey under orders from then-President Nixon of top Bureau of Labor Statistics officials to see how many of them were Jewish.

Bush offered no comment Tuesday, but President Reagan, in remarks before Slavoff's departure had been announced, said he was sure the vice president's campaign hadn't suffered from any appearance of anti-Semitism. He added he was certain "because I know (Bush) and I know the people involved, and there isn't an iota of discrimination in any of them.

The rhetoric and the resignation came as two fresh polls provided snapshots of a close presidential race with eight weeks remaining. One survey indicated Bush was leading, but by less than the poll's margin of error. The other indi-cated Dukakis led, but also by less than the margin of potential error.

The image was thus of a race still forming, with the outcome likely to be heavily influenced by two presidential debates in late September and mid-October, as well as by an early October

confrontation between Quayle and Dem vice presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen NBC executives said Tuesday the network

reversed its decision and will carry the dential debate live on Sept. 25, in prime-time coverage of the Summer (The other major networks said ear would cover the debate as it occurred.

Both Bush and Dukakis made the through large battleground states during

Dukakis, hoping to bolster his stand candidate knowledgable about foreign po fered his view of U.S.-Soviet relation Bush and Quayle and invoking the or rhetoric of John F. Kennedy.

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Civility 1s not a sign of weakness and is always subject to proof," he quoted Kenn saying. Dukakis said he would challenge chev to reach additional arms control a and to open the Eastern bloc to more freed

