

World/Nation

Quayle's qualifications still questioned by both parties

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dan Quayle was supposed to show the country last week that he "has no horns," as one adviser said. Instead, the Republican vice presidential nominee remains the most controversial candidate on either party's ticket.

He admitted as much when he observed Friday that he had become "the lightning rod for the campaign."

Aides say Quayle's debate with Democratic rival Lloyd Bentsen, a confrontation many voters seem to think Quayle lost, has not affected the campaign strat-

egy for the Indiana senator or his relationship with GOP nominee George Bush.

But some Bush aides have been quoted as saying privately that his debate performance was assessed as a negative. Bush himself rarely mentions Quayle during campaign appearances unless he is responding to reporters' questions.

Republican pollster Kevin Phillips, interviewed Sunday in NBC's "Meet the Press," said there is no doubt that voters, including many Republicans, are nervous about Quayle.

"It's very clear that the Democrats did get a dynamic out of the Bentsen-Quayle debate," Phillips said. "The question is how much the Democrats, whose campaign strategy so far this year has often been somewhat inept, can take advantage of that opening."

Democratic pollster Peter Hart, interviewed on the same show, said comparisons of public and private polls before and after the debate show a nationwide switch of 2 or 3 percentage points in favor of the Democratic ticket.

During an impromptu news conference on his campaign plane late Friday, Quayle rejected suggestions that he is viewed as a liability by the Bush camp.

"I'd like to find out who did say that," he said. "I think I might have some influence on their job security."

Believes that. . . I don't know how he could be any more vigorous in his support."

Some GOP officials have seen Quayle, 41, as a liability almost from the moment he was selected by Bush at the party convention in New Orleans in mid-August.

Intense media focus on his military service, academic record and personal life, combined with his youth and his tendency to misspeak, created the image of a lightweight candidate, especially when compared with the patrician, 67-year-old Bentsen.

Bush campaign chairman James A. Baker III told reporters before the Oct. 5 debate in Omaha, Neb., that Quayle would have to show millions of television viewers that he has no horns and was steady, serious and substantive.

Quayle generally performed well, although he seemed stumbling and hesitant when asked repeatedly what he would do if he had to assume the presidency.

Filmmaker says TV fails Dukakis

WASHINGTON (AP) — When political filmmaker Charles Guggenheim was asked to list the qualities that Democrat Michael Dukakis projects in this presidential campaign, he responded with this: "controlled, efficient, knowledgeable, predictable, humorless."

What about likable?

"No, I don't think likable is one of them," he said.

Is that a problem?

"Oh, it's a serious problem."

to people who watch Dukakis debating or see him campaigning on TV news broadcasts?

"Dukakis comes across like your accountant or, God forbid, your dentist," said New York media consultant David Garth. "You know you have to see him, but you don't look forward to it."

"He is a very, very conservative guy and he is a very deliberate guy and he has no natural sense of humor," said Garth, noting that Republican nominee George Bush doesn't display much more appeal.

"I don't think there's any warmth or depth of feeling for either one of these guys," Garth said.

Guggenheim, whose career dates back to his service as Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson's television consultant in the 1950s, expresses a widespread view that Dukakis has a serious image problem which his TV campaign commercials are doing very little to dispel.

Judy Pearson, a professor of interpersonal communication at Ohio University who has written extensively on how women react to presidential candidates, said Dukakis' manner doesn't blend with his message.

"He tends to be very stiff, cold," she said. "He doesn't have warmth, even though the message tends to be one of caring for people, for the hungry and homeless."

She said his delivery of the words contradicts what he's saying.

What she called his non-verbal message is cold, short phrases being thrown out like bullets.

"The smartest clerk in the world," was how ABC's Peter Jennings, a panelist for the first presidential debate last month, described the Massachusetts governor to preface a question about his passionless, technocratic governing style.

"Passionless?" responded the Democratic nominee with a smile. "I care deeply about people, all people: working people, working families, people all over this country."

But does that concern come across

crimes committed, said Joseph Bessette, acting director of the bureau, a Justice Department agency.

Administration officials have suggested that the decline in crime was due to sterner law enforcement and a more cooperative public. Some academic experts analyzing the data have stressed that the size of the most crime-prone age group, those in their mid to late teens, has shrunk in the 1980s.

The crime-prone age group will continue to decline in size until the early 1990s, demographers say, when it is anticipated by many experts that crime levels will take a decisive turn upward once again.

Last year's slight crime increases probably suggest a greater concentration of low-income groups at the young age levels where crime goes on, said Alfred Blumstein, dean of the school of urban and public affairs at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Crime levels rise, end five-year fall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Crime levels rose 1.8 percent last year, the government reported Sunday, ending a five-year decline the Reagan administration had attributed partly to vigorous law enforcement and tougher treatment of criminals.

People living in the West were the most likely to have been victims of crime last year, while residents in the Northeast were the least likely to be victimized, the study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics said.

Nationally, the number of personal and household crimes rose about 613,000 in 1987 to more than 34.7 million.

In 1986, the number of crimes hit the lowest level in the 15-year history of the government's national crime survey, 34.1 million.

Even with the increase, crime levels last year were 16 percent lower than in 1981, the peak year with 41.5 million

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Last year, the number of personal crimes rose nearly 250,000 or 1.4 percent from 1986 to more than 19 million, with increases in all four categories of rape, robbery, theft and assault, which includes murder.

The amount of household crime rose by nearly 360,000 or 2.3 percent to 15.7 million, with increases in burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

In 1987, the number of personal crimes per 1,000 people was 125 in the West, 101 in the Midwest, 91 in the South and 71 in the Northeast. The number of household crimes were 223 in the West, 166 in the Midwest, 179 in the South and 116 in the Northeast.

The West was the only region to show an increase in personal crime last year compared with 1986, up 8.6 percent.

Waste crew explodes tank thought to hold poison gas

NITRO, W.Va. (AP) — More than 3,000 people left their homes Sunday while a hazardous waste crew blew up a corroded tank believed to hold up to 30 pounds of deadly hydrogen cyanide.

The 4-foot-long cylinder was abandoned at the site of the defunct Artel Chemical Co. plant, now a federal Superfund cleanup site, with 3,400 other drums and barrels of hazardous materials, many of them unidentified and most of them rusting.

As little as 50 milligrams — a size less than one-sixth the average aspirin — of the hydrogen cyanide can kill.

The explosion occurred at 1:54 p.m. and a fire was started to burn off the tank's contents. Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Harold Yates said that at 2:01 p.m. "no air readings indicated any hydrogen cyanide down wind."

There, the aging metal tank was ripped open by explosives and its contents consumed in a gasoline-and-diesel oil fire before fumes could drift away. Yates said the contents would be allowed to burn off for 30 to 60 minutes.

Wind socks pointed northeastward toward the more heavily industrialized area of Nitro. The wind was estimated at 10 to 15 mph.

There was a possibility that the aging chemical in the tank was unstable, so

EPA officials had not been certain of the tank's contents, so analysts will examine a videotape of the explosion to look for a telltale purplish corona, an indication of the presence of hydrogen cyanide, surrounding the main body of the flame, Yates said.

He said the fire would have to be out and the wreckage of the cylinder would have to be inspected before anyone would be allowed back into the evacuated area.

Ambulances arrived shortly after dawn to begin taking the elderly and handicapped to evacuation centers, but city buses from nearby Charleston that rolled through the town were relatively empty as most people chose to go to relatives' homes and local shopping malls.

"This is going to be the best thing that's happened for the Charleston Town Center and the Huntington Mall. These people are going shopping," Nitro Mayor Don Karnes said.

Just before police sealed off the town, Karnes toured the city to make sure everyone had left the evacuation area.

After the area within 1,000 yards of the plant was evacuated, three men who work for a disposal company hired by the federal Environmental Protection Agency carried the cylinder 100 feet to a bunker.

while the disposal crew carried the cylinder, one member kept a hand on it to feel for heat that would indicate a chemical reaction. Any reaction could have increased pressure inside the more-than-20-year-old tank and cause a premature blast.

The dirt and sandbag bunker, 12 feet high with a 12-foot by 12-foot base, had a metal lid to prevent shrapnel from flying away and puncturing any of the other dozens of rusted containers of dangerous chemicals.

Quigg is deputy director of the central design group, a team of about 40 scientists and engineers planning and developing the SSC.

Since 1984, the group has been located at California's Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, but once President Reagan announces next month where the SSC will be built, the team will move there.

The Arizona site is in the Maricopa

Scientist: Missed findings hamper collider progress

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Discoveries in particle acceleration, which may help unlock the secrets of the universe, sometimes slip past both laymen and scientists, says one of the physicists planning the proposed "Super Collider" project.

The dearth of interest makes it difficult to convince taxpayers that the proposed giant atom smasher will be worth its \$4.4 billion price tag, Chris Quigg told a high-energy-physics conference called by the University of Arizona on Friday.

As an example, he cited the superconducting magnets that would fire protons through the super collider's 52-mile-long, underground oval.

Improvements in the magnets, he said, would permit slimmer and more powerful proton beams to be fired more efficiently and economically, cutting the need for refrigeration to chill the magnets and allow them to carry electricity, with little loss.

Indeed, he said, the refrigeration for the new proton smasher would be about the same size as that used for a present collider at Fermilab near Chicago, which is less than a fifth the size of the proposed super collider.

But, although eight of the 55-foot-long magnets have been manufactured and tested, Quigg said, there is so little coordinated information out that he doesn't know who improved them.

Mountains between Phoenix and Gila Bend.

Six other states are still in the competition. They are Colorado, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Quigg compared the new collider technologies to those developed as astronomical tools.

But he said the collider improvements remain unknown.

Pemex on Friday announced price reductions for the United States and said Saudi Arabia had displaced Mexico, Canada and Venezuela as the United States' No. 1 oil supplier.

The monopoly said as a result of the changing marketplace for crude that it will earn less this year than the \$7.9 billion generated by oil exports in 1987.

Mexico's U.S. market threatened by OPEC

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico says an OPEC price war is crowding it out of its No. 1 market — the United States.

Beginning this month, OPEC governments have offered extra price concessions to customers and moved to undercut non-OPEC competitors, including Mexico, the government oil monopoly Pemex said Friday.

Coupled with overproduction, the concessions "have initiated an undeclared, intense competition in prices among countries in the Persian Gulf that decided to maintain or increase their

market participation, searching for new clients and seeking to displace established commercial flows," Pemex said in a statement.

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