itie Air crashes prompt questions on chatter

liner accidents have prompted quesons about idle chatter in the cockpit and ised concerns by some safety officials at pilots may not always be focusing on nesting near airports. siness when they should be.

Federal investigators at the National ransportation Safety Board are closely xamining the tape covering nearly 30 inutes in the cockpit of Delta Air Lines light 1141 last August before the Boe-727 crashed seconds after takeoff, illing 14 of the 108 people aboard.

More than half of the tape, covering a

engthy taxi period at the huge Dallas-orth Worth International Airport, in-

Associated Press

George Bush and Michael Dukakis

th laid claim Sunday to precious, last-

inute momentum in their campaign

arathon, the vice president declaring the tide was "moving in our direction" and the combative underdog insisting he

as "rocking and rolling" to an election

The political equivalent of a nuclear

change occurred on television, where e Republicans and Democrats spent

nillions of dollars in advertising for the raning hours of the campaign. The two andidates bought time for 30-minute

mmercials on all three major networks

ndidates battled the clock and physical

xhaustion in a final drive to snare unde-

ded voters and nail down the presi-

NBC News said Bush led nationally

five percentage points, and that one of

ery five voters were undecided or

'We can't turn the White House over

the people who claim to be on our side

who left the country on its back,"

relection eve on Monday

set Tuesday

rings, Colo.

the pilots and two flight attendants on in the newspapers, too. subjects ranging from the recent purchase of a house to the habit of birds

Nearly 11 minutes of the tape were omitted from the transcript because they were considered irrelevant, including a reference, according to sources, of the disclosure in news reports a few days before the crash of idle chatter aboard a Continental Airlines that crashed in Denver 10 months earlier.

If there is an accident, one participant in the Delta cockpit reportedly reminded

ast-minute race momentum

sought to raise fears over the possibility that Bush — if elected — might put vice

presidential running mate Dan Quayle in

charge of the White House crisis man-

"Gives you the chills, doesn't it?"
Dukakis asked. "Think about it — the

Cuban missile crisis, with Dan Quayle in

Democrats voiced confidence they

would retain or perhaps widen their ma-

jorities in the House and Senate in Tues-

day's balloting, and they got little dissent

One of the tightest Senate races was in

from Republicans on that score.

Bush, Dukakis both claim

agement team.

Later, the plane's captain told investigators he did not care for the lengthy presence of the flight attendants in the cockpit, but that it was not his nature to order them from the cockpit during the long takeoff delay.

Investigators emphasized that so far there has been no clear evidence linking these conversations - some of which was technically legal because the plane was not moving with the possible cause of the crash.

But investigators are trying to determine whether the flight crew forgot to

ported gaining on Bush in the latest sur-

vey in Colorado, and holding an eight-

NBC News said its nationwide survey

vice president with a lead of 48 percent

to 43 percent, down from two weeks ear-

which help it gain lift, and whether the the cockpit of flight attendants conversations distracted them from preparing the plane for flight.

An exchange lasting 7 minutes and 42 seconds between co-pilot Carey Kirkland and a senior flight attendant began as the crew was going through one of the preflight check lists. Finally, the exchange was cut short by Capt. Larry Davis, prompting an apology from Kirkland about "sitting here talking to the flight attendant," according to the transcript.

Later flight engineer Steven Judd told investigators he had been uneasy about the attendant's lengthy presence

While there is no link established between these discussions and the accident, some NTSB investigators are uneasy about the casual and relaxed demeanor the exchanges reflect.

Furthermore, several aviation safety officials not involved with the Delta investigation suggested such extraneous discussions before takeoff are common.

Bush a 17-point lead in Texas, with its 29 electoral votes. But Dukakis was repeople interacting in a job situation, "It's very difficult to legislate against says Clay Foushee, an aviation safety researcher at NASA's Ames Research Center in California.

Foushee said while some casual excompleted Saturday night showed the changes may help a flight crew feel at ease and work together, there also have been numerous pilot complaints received lier, and that a very high 21 percent of the voters are undecided or may still through NASA's anonymous aviation reporting system over the years about pilot distractions, including inappropriate

Earlier this year, the NTSB in its final report on the Nov. 15, 1987, crash of the Continental Airlines jetliner in Denver also raised concerns about idle chatter in the cockpit. That crash, which killed 28 people, was attributed to the pilot taking off in snow with ice on the wings.

Four minutes before takeoff, the two Continental pilots engaged in almost three minutes of nonpertinent social conversation - reportedly involving a flight attendant - which would suggest inattention to more important details such as the weather and its effects on icing, the safety board said.

Since 1981, the Federal Aviation Administration has had a sterile cockpit rule that prohibits any conversation among flight crews not related to the operation of the aircraft when the plane is taxiing and in motion, and when flying below 10,000 feet in an approach or departure.

Flight attendants also are specifically prohibited from entering the cockpit during those periods.

The requirement was prompted by concerns at the FAA about an unusually high number of cases in the late 1970s. including several accidents, in which pilots were distracted from their duties by idle chatter and other requirements such as making cabin announcements during 'critical phases of flight."

FAA and other aviation officials concede they have no idea how often the rule

Israelis bomb Lebanon business

Florida, where a late-hour poll showed a virtual dead heat between Democratic Rep. Buddy MacKay and Republican Rep. Connie Mack for the seat being vacopter gunships rocketed the shop of a boat dealer suspected of links with PLO cated by Democratic Sen. Lawton guerrillas Sunday, demolishing the business and wounding five people, two of

point lead in Iowa.

Democrats also hoped for modest gains among the 12 statehouse races on them seriously, police said. The Israeli army said its warplanes destroyed a Palestinian guerrilla base in It was the costliest campaign in American history, and just one piece of it, a series of California ballot initiatives, had south Lebanon. It did not mention cas-

a price tag of more than \$100 million. Lebanese police said four Israeli Co-Bush aide Alixe Glen described the and a nearby citrus grove with eight vice president's rapidly changing itine-rary as a "Magical Mystery Tour." Durockets in two raids. The shop in the southern port of Sidon was closed at the kakis tried to defy the clock and was flying overnight from Spokane to Cleveland A police spokesman, who cannot be

and then St. Louis — and then back to Countered Dukakis, also beginning his ay in Colorado: "He's slipping and liding, we're rocking and rolling." He ture of several close races. One poll gave SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli heli- PLO guerrillas and selling the guerrillas spare parts.

It was the sixth Israeli air strike against guerrilla targets in south Lebanon in three weeks and the 21st this year. By police count, 108 people were killed and 204 wounded in raids since Jan. 3.

Hijazi's motorboats, anchored off the beach about 600 yards from his shop, were not hit in the raid, police said.

Earlier police reports said aircraft atbra helicopter gunships blasted the shop tacked guerrilla bases in the teeming Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp on Sidon's southern outskirts. Police said the guerrillas in the camp opened up with antiaircraft fire but were not targeted. Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen

also killed three guerrillas who apparnamed under standing regulations, said the shop owner, Mahmoud Hijazi, was ently landed in a boat on the Medittera-nean coast just north of Israel, the army suspected of renting two motorboats to command said.

An Israeli army announcement said the base attacked Sunday was used for launching attacks and ammunition storage. It said all planes that took part in the raid returned safely.

The brief announcement gave no further details. The attack followed mock raids by six

Israeli jets against the Palestinian guerrilla strongholds at midmorning. Palestinian camps south of Sidon have

taken the brunt of the stepped-up Israeli raids, which have by police count have killed 40 people and wounded 91 in the past three weeks

The blitz is in apparent retaliation for a suicide car-bombing that killed eight Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon on Oct. 19 and a firebomb attack that killed an Israeli mother and her three children in the Israeli-occupied West Bank Oct. 30

Voter turnout major issue for Nov. 8

Associated Press

Democrats and Republicans are both concerned with voter turnout in the Nov. 8 election

Only half of eligible voters are expected to turn out for Tuesday's balloting, when a president, vice president, 33 senators and 435 House members will be chosen.

Republicans and Democrats alike are keenly aware that getting people to vote will be their No. 1 challenge

Political parties, unions and other groups are running phone banks to reach swing voters as well as party faithful.

As usual, workers will hand out leaflets, arrange for baby-sitters and escort people to the polls. But there are also some more unusual strate-

In Arkansas, where the deer-hunting season opened Saturday, Republicans mounted a direct-mail campaign encouraging hunters to get an absen-tee ballot if they won't be back from hunting in time for the election.

Coalition '88, a group of homosex uals and others who want two California AIDS initiatives defeated, will have hundreds of volunteers on Election Day erecting "human bill-boards" at 70 major intersections in Los Angeles urging voters to get out

and turn down the two propositions. Both parties are conducting massive drives for the state's 13.5 million registered voters but worry about the dampening effect of a ballot with nine state initiatives and possibly hundreds of local measures.

State GOP chairman Bob Naylor says: "I'm very concerned that peo-ple will be confronted with long lines at the polls, get early results from the East Coast and absentee ballots and say, 'What the heck. I won't vote."

Nationwide, public-interest groups predict that only 50 percent or fewer of the eligible voters will turn out, one of the lowest percentages this century and down from the 1984 figure of 53 percent.
The AFL-CIO will have 500,000

volunteers out on Election Day, a majority of them in states with the most union members, which also happen to be states with big electoral votes

DON'T STOP AT THE TOP

VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS ALL THE WAY DOWN THE BALLOT WOULD YOU RATHER SUPPORT SOMEONE FROM THE PARTY OF:

Jimmy Carter Walter Mondale

Mike Dukakis **Teddy Kennedy**

Jim Wright

OR WOULD YOU RATHER SUPPORT SOMEONE FROM THE

PARTY OF:

Abraham Lincoln **Ronald Reagan** George Bush

HELP THE AGGIE GOP TONIGHT TO HELP:

George Bush **Beau Boulter** Joe Barton **Ed Emmett Kent Hance Tom Phillips**

Gary Norton Randy Sims Hub Kennedy (Write-in) Wes Peyton Nathan Hecht Paul Murphy

We will meet at 7:00 in 701 Rudder Then get to work for the Ticket of the 90's. Lets Have A Victory As Big As Texas In 1988.

Although national polls pointed to a cictory by GOP nominee Bush, both to by Kathy Haven Cronauer said. ic attitude — if

my name on it, ight switch allegiance. on it — I am i "There ain't no stopping us now un-ss we stop ourselves," the vice presievery one came ent said at a breakfast rally in Colorado

ed home to ac hem, and that ey like the movie other side of the is happiest exper nen he left.

or radio and televi

ed his own adv

1970's he co-w nam — and it w tering the Air F io and television oversees, Cron 1 credit hours s when someo contacted the

nd try