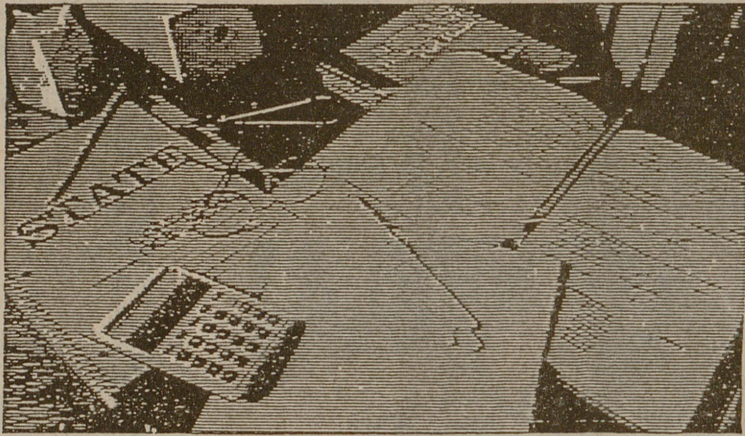


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South African hopes rise with presidential choice

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The selection of a shrewd, affable pragmatist as President P.W. Botha's successor is contributing to a surge of hope for a peaceful breakthrough in South Africa's political stalemate.

So far, however, the optimistic musings are coming almost exclusively from whites.

Black leaders make clear they will be relieved when Botha steps down. But they suspect his heir apparent, F.W. de Klerk, will preside over changes more cosmetic than substantive.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu political leader denounced by many black activists as too conservative, says he will oppose de Klerk until the government gives blacks full voting rights. There is no sign de Klerk contemplates such action.

At the other end of the black political spectrum, the African National Congress guerrilla movement says changes under de Klerk will be in personal style, not National Party policy.

De Klerk and Botha "are pieces of the same carcass," spokesman Tom Sebina said from the outlawed movement's exile headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia. "If the meat is bad, the meat is bad."

Botha, 73, resumed his presidential duties last week after an eight-week convalescence from a stroke. In the interim, he resigned as National Party leader and was replaced by de Klerk, the minister of national education.

In a dramatic chain of events, Nationalist newspapers and politicians began suggesting that Botha should re-

viewed as liberal. But supporters and skeptics alike resolved that it wanted de Klerk to be president.

However, the party has neither the constitutional power nor the appetite to force Botha from office, Klerk said Friday he will seek cordial coexistence with the president while urging his party to "break ground" in pursuing political reform.

De Klerk, who turned 53 Saturday, has never been viewed as liberal. But supporters and skeptics alike resolved that it wanted de Klerk to be president.

After becoming party leader, de Klerk called for South Africa "free of domination and oppression." Other party officials say at least some remaining apartheid laws — those segregating residential areas and public facilities — may be modified.

Helen Suzman, long-serving legislator for the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party, said of de Klerk: "People are being too optimistic if they think he's going to throw fundamental policy overboard."

"But I think he's pragmatic and intelligent. He realizes that change is absolutely inevitable, that the sooner we get on with it, the more chance there is that change and reform will be accomplished peacefully."

De Klerk does not have the same close ties to the military and police that Botha nurtured. But he is committed firmly to segregating neighborhoods and schools for whites who want them, and his proposal for "genuine power sharing" with blacks as yet has no response.

Proposed \$4.65 minimum wage gets mixed reactions in House

WASHINGTON (AP) — As business and labor argue over raising the minimum wage, the potential impact on the federal budget and major jobs programs has been virtually lost in the debate.

That changes this week when the bitterly partisan debate reaches the House floor.

Some say raising the minimum wage from its current \$3.35 an hour to \$4.65 as proposed would have virtually no impact on the federal budget. Others argue it would cost the budget, and taxpayers, as much as \$5 billion.

Although most Democrats have downplayed any budget impact, an analysis prepared last week by the Congressional Budget Office for the Democratic sponsors of the legislation conceded that raising the minimum wage could cost the government money and possibly force cuts in at least four jobs programs.

The nonpartisan CBO said it could not estimate the potential cost because of insufficient data.

But a House Republican analysis estimates that if the Democrats' bill becomes law it would cost \$570 million a year by 1992 to maintain current staffing levels in just those four programs — College Work Study, Head Start, Community Service for Older Americans and the federal government's summer youth employment program.

Without that money, those programs will be forced to cut more than 435,000 jobs, with work study — the campus jobs often awarded as part of a student's financial aid package — accounting for half the total, according to the Republicans.

"Somebody must speak out on behalf of the victims of this legislation," Rep. Dick Army, R-Texas, said in an interview. "The Democrats like to talk about these programs, but compassion without understanding can be cruel and wasteful."

Army tried unsuccessfully to amend the Democratic bill in committee last week to exempt the four programs from having to pay their workers any increase in the minimum wage.

Only four fellow Republicans sided with Army as the amendment was trowled.

He promised to try again during floor debate.

Jay Butler, an aide to Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., sponsor of the House legislation, said Hawkins would support increased spending on the programs to save the jobs but opposes paying their workers less than the minimum wage.

The prospects of getting more money for the programs to offset the added payroll costs "are between zero and none," countered Army, also a member of the House Budget Committee.

Republicans are supporting President Bush's proposal for a more modest increase, to \$4.25 an hour by 1992, provided employers are allowed to pay new workers \$3.35 an hour for six months.

That would alleviate some of the cost to the government, the Republicans say. Their analysis did not include data on the Bush plan.

White House estimates of the impact the Democratic minimum wage bill would have on the budget range up to \$5 billion.

That figure came from Bush Council of Economic Advisors, which in a report to the Labor Department said a higher minimum wage would cause an inflationary spiral in all wages and a subsequent hike in interest rates.

It estimated those higher wages would result in the government having to pay from \$2 billion to \$5 billion in higher interest for the money it borrows.

Poll shows Americans prefer organic foods

WASHINGTON (AP) — An overwhelming majority of Americans say they would buy organically grown food if it cost the same as fruits and vegetables treated with pesticides or synthetic fertilizers and nearly half would pay more, according to a survey released Sunday.

The strong preference for chemical-free fruits and vegetables showed up in a survey conducted even before the recent scare over poisoned grapes and apples treated with Alar.

The Louis Harris Poll conducted for Organic Gardening magazine found that 84.2 percent of those surveyed would choose organically grown food if given the choice, 11.6 percent would not and 4.2 percent were not sure.

Perhaps more surprisingly, 49 percent said they would pay more for organic food, the poll showed.

People with college degrees and those earning a household income of more than \$35,000 are more likely to have eaten organic produce than those with less education or a lower income, the poll showed.

Men under 50 who live in the West and have managerial or professional jobs are the most likely to have eaten organic food, according to the survey. People in the South are the least likely.

The reason almost 60 percent of those surveyed gave for choosing organic was long-term health effects.

The majority of those who have eaten organically grown fruits and vegetables said their taste better, have more nutritional value and are better for health.

But while consumers may want to switch to organics, the problem is finding organically grown food. "On the West Coast and a few places on the East Coast there are some supermarkets that have organic sections within their stores," said Stevie O. Daniels, executive editor of Organic Gardening magazine. "But usually you have to go to specialty stores."

She said her magazine's research shows the organic farmers' share of the \$36 billion fruit and vegetable market is about \$5 billion.

Three states — Washington, Minnesota and Texas — have organic-certification programs through which consumers are assured the grower does not use synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, Daniels said.

Organic food usually costs 5 percent to 15 percent more and sometimes doesn't look as picture perfect as other fruits and vegetables, she said.

"From my point of view it is a more realistic looking product," she said. "Nature is not perfect."

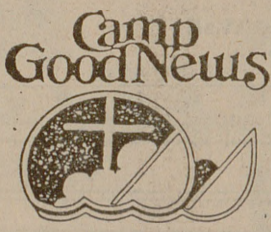
"Organic produce got a bad reputation because the people growing it tried to do the marketing and they didn't know how to market it."

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