

Clinton keeps lead while Dole targets toss-up

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton entered the campaign's final weekend leading in more than enough states to win a second term, but locked in a tight race with Bob Dole in the Mountain West and across the South, according to a 50-state Associated Press survey.

Benefiting from leads in Pacific states and the industrial belt stretching from New Jersey to Illinois, Clinton was clearly leading in 25 states and the District of Columbia with a combined 314 electoral votes.

Dole could bank on fewer than a dozen states and 100 electoral votes.

"Bob Dole is the underdog," GOP Chairman Haley Barbour said Thursday in a considerable understatement. "But he can still win."

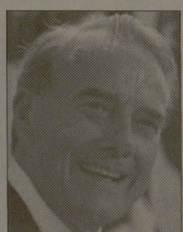
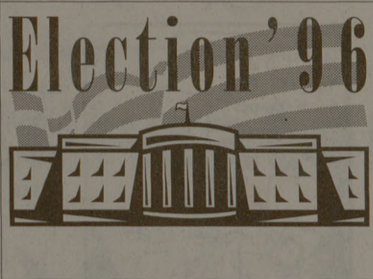
As Dole sought a dramatic comeback and Clinton bid for an Electoral College landslide, the key in the closing days was a dozen tossup states in which neither candidate could claim a comfortable lead.

This group included several tra-

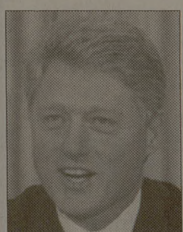
ditional Republican strongholds that have eluded Dole throughout the fall: Florida, Arizona, Indiana, Virginia and South Dakota. Other battlegrounds included Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Nevada, Montana and Colorado.

Republicans put Louisiana on this list, too, though Democrats said Clinton's lead is comfortable there and nationally. "I cannot remember approaching Election Day with a map that has been so positive and so truly national for a Democratic presidential campaign," said Clinton's deputy campaign manager, Ann Lewis.

Dole vowed to prove the skeptics wrong, and said that beginning at noon Friday he would campaign virtually non-stop for 96 hours in pursuit of 270 electoral votes. "I will give it all I've



Dole



Clinton

got," he vowed at a Miami event.

It will take quite a bit. Even if Dole won every tossup state, he would still be short of victory. Aides said their long shot strategy for getting to 270 counted on winning all the toss ups and one of two scenarios: defeating Clinton in California, or in all of three Midwest battlegrounds — Ohio, Michigan and Missouri. Clinton held sizeable leads in each state.

Most Republicans were showing a loyal front. Still, there was evidence in states where Dole trailed badly that GOP officials were worried about the impact further down the ballot.

Clinton's electoral strategy is

anchored on the coasts: He leads comfortably from Maine to Maryland in the East and in Washington, Oregon and California to the West. Most remarkable, however,

has been his consistent lead in the industrial states. Dole has conceded New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois and trails by eight points or more in Missouri, Michigan and Ohio, depending on whose polls are to be believed.

On the other hand, Dole leads mostly in smaller, traditionally Republican states: Oklahoma, Idaho, Utah, Mississippi, South Carolina, Nebraska and his native Kansas. A handful of other states appeared to be trending Dole's way in the final days, including North Carolina, Alabama and, most importantly, Texas, according to officials in both campaigns.

SCHWARZKOPF

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Schwarzkopf, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and spent his life as a public servant.

"When the man died, his total estate was \$3,000," he said, "and yet by every measure he was a great success in life."

The leadership his father lived by is still present in the military, Schwarzkopf said, and respect for military leadership is on the rise since Desert Storm.

"Everywhere I go I see a renewed respect for military leaders, and also for the people in the ranks," he said. "I see a great respect for anyone who serves the country in the armed forces today, and that's good news."

For A&M graduates planning a career in the military, more good news is that Schwarzkopf said there is a tremendous amount of respect for the officers A&M

produces. "I've always been very impressed throughout my military career with the Texas A&M graduates that I've run into," he

"Stay focused on doing your duty, and don't worry about who gets the credit," he said.

Young people should not take for granted the opportunities they have living in the United States, he said.

"In most countries you live in in the world today, by this time, your future has already been predetermined for you," he said. "But that's not the case in the United States of America. You can literally be anything you want to be. And because of that, people can dare to live their dream."

Saying that he is honored to have such captive audiences among young people, Schwarzkopf emphatically rejects the suggestion that he might enter politics in the twilight of his career as a public servant.

"Given the state of government in Washington, D.C., I'm personally convinced that I can continue to serve my country and probably serve it more effectively out of politics than in politics," he said. "I've served my country all my life, and I'm going to continue serving my country for the rest of my life."

"I see a great respect for anyone who serves the country in the armed forces today, and that's good news."

Norman Schwarzkopf
Retired Army general

said. "One of the finer schools, I think, that produces officers for the United States Army is Texas A&M."

And Schwarzkopf said he has one major piece of advice for future Army officers.

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