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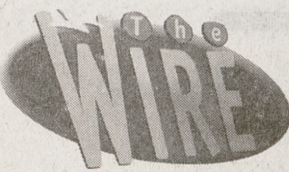
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Congress criticizes Ford

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Firestone tire recall is spurring Congress, normally reluctant to buck the auto industry, to rush ahead in its final weeks with legislation that gives federal safety regulators more power and money.

Even "an imperfect piece of legislation," as Sen. John McCain called the bill that cleared his Commerce Committee last week, has gained momentum as lawmakers — and the public — learn more about Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.'s decision to recall 6.5 million tires.

Federal safety regulators have heard from more than 2,200 people about blowouts, tread separation and other problems with Firestone tires. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating reports of 101 deaths and more than 400 injuries.

Recent hearings on Capitol Hill have focused on determining when the tire maker and Ford Motor Co., which used many of the tires as original equipment on Ford vehicles, knew there was a problem.

"I don't think anyone can support any company deliberately holding back information with knowledge that it will cause serious injury or death."

— Fred Upton
Michigan Representative

Congressional investigators have turned up Bridgestone/Firestone tests from 1996 that suggested problems. Investigators also have continued to criticize Ford for holding back information on the recall of Firestone tires in 16 foreign countries,

beginning in August 1999, without telling U.S. regulators.

"I don't think anyone can support any company deliberately holding back information with knowledge that it will cause serious injury or death," said Rep. Fred Upton, who is sponsoring legislation as a result of the tire recall.

"We have good standards on products in this country. We don't want those standards to slip," said Upton, a pro-business Republican from Michigan, home of the U.S. auto industry, which he said will have tough time fighting the legislation.

NHTSA also has been criticized for not opening its investigation of Firestone until May even though lawsuits dating back a decade include claims of tread separation on the tires.

The agency has said Bridgestone/Firestone and Ford did not report complaints regarding the tires, including overseas problems. Companies are not obligated to report foreign complaints and Ford did not alert NHTSA.

Clinton optimistic of Democrat's chances

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Clinton predicted Sunday that Democrats could win a slim majority in the House but still will have to get along with the Republicans.

"There will be an effort for bipartisan cooperation no matter what happens in the next election, because if we win the majority, it won't be so big that we won't have to work with them," Clinton said.

The president spoke at a fundraiser for Rep. Lois Capps, a Santa Barbara Democrat targeted by the GOP this year. The event was expected to raise an estimated \$200,000.

A swing of just six seats in the Republicans' current 222-211 majority could return the House to Democratic control for the first time since 1994.

Clinton was making the rounds of two swing districts in California this weekend. The Capps stop followed a Saturday visit to San Jose to help Democratic hopeful Mike Honda raise an estimated \$500,000.

At Sunday's event, Clinton offered only cautious hope for a Democratic majority in the Senate, where the Republican majority is 54-46.

"We might even win the Senate back, but if we do, it will just be by a seat or so," Clinton said.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hopes to hold on to the Democratic Senate seat now occupied by retiring New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

News in Brief

Journalist Rowan dies at age 75

WASHINGTON (AP) — Carl Thomas Rowan, a well-known commentator once called America's "most visible black journalist" for his eloquent columns exploring race relations and championing civil rights, died Saturday. He was 75.

Rowan died about 3 a.m. at Washington Hospital Center, hospital spokesman LeRoy Tillman said.

Rowan died of natural causes, said his son, Carl Rowan Jr. His father had suffered from a variety of illnesses in recent years, including diabetes and heart problems.

Still, Rowan Jr. said the ailments did not deter a man who forged an extraordinary work ethic from his humble upbringing during the Great Depression.

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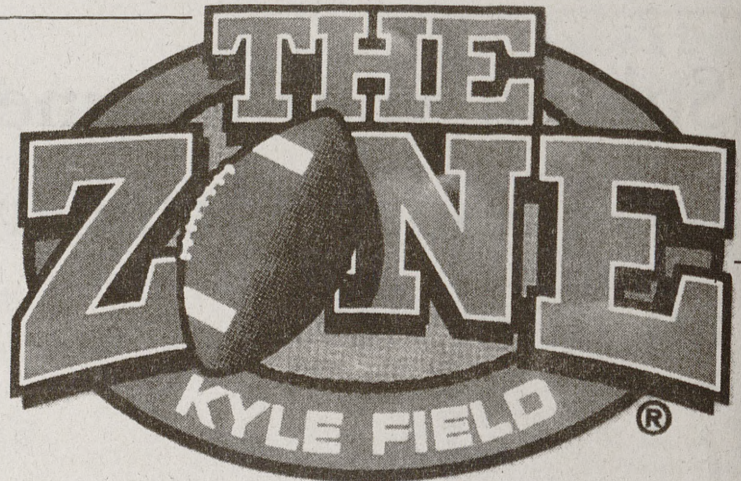
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Monday, September 25, 2000

Fo Deb

In Boston on the first of presidential between presid nominees Vice Al Gore and George W. Bush held.

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The CPD wa basis of two rep dent: A Program mission on Nat Great Debates: idential TV Del now and Cliffor

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"To achieve," urges the two p nism, such as a

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W hen ABC an- nounced the lineup for the 2000-2001 season of long-running sports broadcast "Monday Night Football," one c the jaws droppin fast tables in An

"Monday Ni beloved by spor fanatics alike, w the mold this sea dition of foul-m Dennis Miller.

Critics arou voiced their opi that Miller had n the game of foot unique form of f would have Am their heads and their ears.

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Miller is a we the world of spo and should be su quick-witted and have helped to li once a dull and d Miller first ga

Praising to breach

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