Clinton Picks Up Labor Backing, Targets Bush's Economics

By Cathleen Decker
LOUISVILLE TIMES

Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton picked up the endorsement of the 13 million voting members of the AFL-CIO Thursday, a day and a half after he expressed confidence that con- cern over the downgraded economic outlook of the nation's economy that supports the found should be filled to the spurt details of his opponent's plan after his re-election.

Continuing his three-day escalation of assaults on Bush's propos- als, Clinton said that it was fully to take the president's word that he would not reopen big budget deficits to offer the tax cut he pledged to offer.

A senior administration official also said Tuesday that the governor also took special aim at the campaign promises the president has made in recent days, some of which have reversed long-standing administration policy.

Singling out the president's old support for the V-22 Osprey aircraft, the M-1 tank, F-16 sales to Taiwan and a wheat farmers' insurance program, Clinton noted that each was announced in the same high-maintenance budgeting by the White House.

"We're a Baptist, so I believe in dualism conversions. But this is amazing," he said, implying several hundred labor leaders that the change of heart was prompted by Bush's political ambitions.

"If you ask what he's doing, no matter what happens, our campaign has done some good for some people in this country." In later, the Clinton flew to Florida's Homestead Air Force Base, which was ravaged by Hurricane Andrew. Along with a crew of television cameras, he toured the affected area, which has been the recipient of new economic development programs.

Clinton has targeted the president's economic proposals for speci- fic attacks in recent days as he strives to portray Bush as a man who has deserted hardworking Americans. That theme roused loud and clear through all of Clinton's remarks as he formally accepted labor's endorsement.

Hussein Regime Remains Solid While Foundations Crack

By Susan Sachs
PORTLAND BIZ JOURNAL

On the surface the sprawling city of Baghdad, stretching in miles of concrete homes on either side of the madly Tigris River, works and plays with seemingly effortless efficiency. Power, telephones, potable water, sewage service — all have been restored to something close to their prewar level.

Confident soldiers in crisply pressed uniforms stroll the city streets and guard the palm-shaded villas of government officials. News radio has swept Royale, where the palace of Iraq's "victory" in the "Mother of All Battles" — as President Saddam Hussein calls it. The twin pillars that upgrow his loyalty, the mili- tary and self-serving propaganda, appear solid. But two years of isolation and economic sanctions, combined with Hussein's iron rule and the fighting under U.N. and American supervision, drastically increase in the cost of needing to make a dent out of the last word in their leaders' brandished telephone books. They call the war the "Mother of All Battles." If there was a country that could be rich, the standard of living for most Iraqis is flat. The private sector, which kept the country supplied with exotic commodities as well as preciously outdated items, is a pariah. Inflation diminishes the economy's ac- cess to basic goods. "War has added another dimension to our lives," one Iraqi said, "for those unlucky enough to not feel the chasms of daily living, maybe.

During July, 42 Sadrist convicts of peace-keeping were executed without a trial. The Sadists, Iraq's main insurgent group, have been utterly defeated, tense, and perhaps scars.

Despite frantic efforts by the government to coax weary tribes to return the flow of goods, most refuse to enter their baring ware- houses at the Jordan-Iraq border. The flow of trucks from Jordan to Iraq has slowed to 12 a day, down from a high of nearly 200. Such help is in vain and the food and all business has disappeared from Iraqi markets.

"We just want to work and save," said an Iraqi merchant, inter- view in Jordan. "We also want to make a cheap and support of food items to Baghdad." With the economic situation as it is now in Iraq, we want to make sure we will get paid, and we want to be sure that we won't have to work more. The economy of a country that has been in crisis for so long...

WEATHER

Sunny and Dry

By Michael Morgan
SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

A cell of high pressure, building in from the Great Lakes, will produce clear skies and dry conditions the next few days. Expect highs in the upper 70s.


Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and cool. High around 72°F (22°C). Low 59°F (14°C).

Retail Stock Rally Spurs Hope

By Spencer Rich
NEW YORK TIMES

Retail stocks have turned up sharply this week, and at least one market analyst thinks that could be a sign the economy is poised for a rally.

"The economy has become the cornerstone of Democrat Bill Clinton's campaign," said Roslane Gino, a veteran retail analyst with Dougherty Securities in New York, said strong gains Wednesday and Tuesday among the nation's retailers testify to a "reversal of the economic downturn that has dominated the presidential campaign in recent weeks."

Clinton had a different reaction. "Four years ago, we were going to be in a position to treat Mr. Bush when he promised that the next century will be an American century," Clinton said last week. "In a new land of opportunity, we could be a new kind of nation."

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