Clinton Continues His Campaign For Congress' Support of NAFTA

By Ann Devery and Peter Beltr
The Washington Post

President Clinton Monday predicted that the United States' international competitors will themselves forge free trade agreements with Mexico if Congress fails to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement, giving nations such as Japan an economic advantage at U.S. expense.

Clinton stepped up the effort to more directly lay out what the administration describes as "the real costs" of passing up the trade pact. "If we walk away from this, it will cost us..."

Clinton said, Mexico will likely "make the same deal with Europe or Japan" to eliminate all tariffs between their nations.

"If Congress does this down on the 17th of November, I would, if I were the prime minister of Japan, have the finance minister of my country to see the president of Mexico on the 18th of November," Clinton said.

In the final weeks before the House votes on NAFTA, the White House will try to lay out the benefits and the drawbacks of its trade pact, the disadvantages of rejecting it and the theme that policy-makers across seven presidencies and both parties endorse the pact as good as for the nation.

Tuesday, six former secretaries of the treasury, five former secretaries of state, eight Nobel Prize winners in economics, several former trade representatives and national security advisers and dozens of others will appear in the White House to add their votes of support.

Opponents, however, do not claim the pact lacks establishment or business support. What they claim is that thousands of U.S. workers will lose their jobs across the border to Mexico as corporations locate there to make products that can be shipped to the United States with no market restraints. The opposition includes major labor unions and a large chunk of Democratic members of Congress.

But they aren't sure how the nation should respond. America's leaders have named their most immediate priority in foreign policy, most name a domestic issue: getting the U.S. economy going again. Beyond that, there is little agreement on America's role in the world.

Not since the 1960s have American politicians, business chiefs and other leaders been so uncertain about the nation's international goals.

"With the end of the Cold War, there is no longer a consensus among the American people around why -- and even whether -- our nation should remain actively engaged in the world," Anthony Lake, Clinton's national security adviser, said in a recent speech.

About two-thirds of America's senior officials of state, eight Nobel Prize winners in economics, several former trade representatives and national security advisers and dozens of others will appear in the White House to add their votes of support.

A huge majority of opinion leaders agree on one thing: The nation's top priority in foreign affairs should be a domestic issue, rebuilding the economy. Among business leaders, 90 percent cited this as their top priority, a trend of more can politicians, business chiefs and other leaders be so uncertain about the nation's international goals.

"The untimely death of actor River Phoenix remained cloaked in mystery Monday, as an autopsy failed to address an anguished statement by the young star's brother that drugs may have contributed to his sudden collapse, authorities said.

Phoenix, who rose to fame as a teen-aged actor in the 1986 coming-of-age film, "Stand By Me," fell into a violent seizure and died early Sunday outside a Sunset Strip nightclub where a Hollister party was in full swing. Officials at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center said he arrived in full cardiac arrest, with no pulse or blood pressure.

In a flimsy call to paramedics, Phoenix's brother, who had helped him out of the club only to watch him collapse on the sidewalk, said a dispatcher that the 33-year-old actor was "Valium or something," according to a tape of the 911 call that was played.

A TV newsmagazine, quoting an anonymous hospital source, also reported that cocaine and barbiturates were found in a routine blood workup done at the Cedars-Sinai emergency room.

But official at the hospital refused to confirm the report, and those who knew Phoenix said the reports were difficult to reconcile with his reputation for clean living and dedicated professionalism.

Los Angeles County Coroner's spokesman Scott Carrer said an autopsy performed Monday was "inconclusive as to the cause of death," and offered no clue except for a lack of blockage of major arteries, which would indicate that he did not die of heart disease or massive stroke. Carrier said further toxicological tests would better address the drug question, but those tests will not be available for at least another week to 10 days.

More Hot, Dry Winds Put Southern California on Fire Alert

Los Angeles Times

Hot, dry winds are expected to return Tuesday, and police and firefighters will be on special patrol across Southern California to detour arsonists who might attempt to take advantage of the dangerous fire conditions.

Alerts were blamed for at least six of last week's devastating brush fires. No suspects have been arrested yet in any of those blazes, and investigators fear that some may attempt to strike again Tuesday.

Volunteer citizen groups, equipped with portable radios, were stationed along highways and along fire-prone roads to warn residents in areas where brush is thickest and fire danger is the greatest. Fire units were being placed on "red-flag" alert.

Forecasters said the winds should gust at up to 50 mph over some areas of Southern California Tuesday and Wednesday, accompanied by warm temperatures and low humidity -- conditions similar to those that whipped last week's brush fires into destructive firestorms that destroyed 815 buildings, including 685 homes.

With the area under 13 blazes that started as 1,699 acres fully contained and largely extinguished by Monday night, the main work of the hundreds of firefighters still manning the lines was to prepare for Tuesday's winds and to ready the land for winter rains.

WORLD & NATION

Brother Says Phoenix May Have Taken Drugs before Death

Los Angeles Times

The untimely death of actor River Phoenix remained cloaked in mystery Monday, as an autopsy failed to address an anguished statement by the young star's brother that drugs may have contributed to his sudden collapse, authorities said.

Phoenix, who rose to fame as a teen-aged actor in the 1986 coming-of-age film, "Stand By Me," fell into a violent seizure and died early Sunday outside a Sunset Strip nightclub where a Hollister party was in full swing. Officials at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center said he arrived in full cardiac arrest, with no pulse or blood pressure.

In a flimsy call to paramedics, Phoenix's brother, who had helped him out of the club only to watch him collapse on the sidewalk, said a dispatcher that the 33-year-old actor was "Valium or something," according to a tape of the 911 call that was played.

A TV newsmagazine, quoting an anonymous hospital source, also reported that cocaine and barbiturates were found in a routine blood workup done at the Cedars-Sinai emergency room.

But official at the hospital refused to confirm the report, and those who knew Phoenix said the reports were difficult to reconcile with his reputation for clean living and dedicated professionalism.

Los Angeles County Coroner's spokesman Scott Carrer said an autopsy performed Monday was "inconclusive as to the cause of death," and offered no clue except for a lack of blockage of major arteries, which would indicate that he did not die of heart disease or massive stroke. Carrier said further toxicological tests would better address the drug question, but those tests will not be available for at least another week to 10 days.

More Hot, Dry Winds Put Southern California on Fire Alert

Los Angeles Times

Hot, dry winds are expected to return Tuesday, and police and firefighters will be on special patrol across Southern California to detour arsonists who might attempt to take advantage of the dangerous fire conditions.

Alerts were blamed for at least six of last week's devastating brush fires. No suspects have been arrested yet in any of those blazes, and investigators fear that some may attempt to strike again Tuesday.

Volunteer citizen groups, equipped with portable radios, were stationed along highways and along fire-prone roads to warn residents in areas where brush is thickest and fire danger is the greatest. Fire units were being placed on "red-flag" alert.

Forecasters said the winds should gust at up to 50 mph over some areas of Southern California Tuesday and Wednesday, accompanied by warm temperatures and low humidity -- conditions similar to those that whipped last week's brush fires into destructive firestorms that destroyed 815 buildings, including 685 homes.

With the area under 13 blazes that started as 1,699 acres fully contained and largely extinguished by Monday night, the main work of the hundreds of firefighters still manning the lines was to prepare for Tuesday's winds and to ready the land for winter rains.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING, Wed. November 3 at 17:30, Walker Memorial 50-222.

If you enjoy planning activities such as BSO nights, basketball competitions, and ski trips, come along and find out more about these and other upcoming events. Any queries? Please contact Activities co-chairs Chris Dolan (cris@media, x-3041) or Roger Kermode (woja@media, x-3041). Free pizza will be served at the meeting.

GSC Ice Skating, Friday November 5, at Johnson Athletic Center after 23:00. More fun than the Ice Capades and more exciting than Nuclear Physics. Free.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MEETING, Monday November 8 at 17:30 in 5-220. Safety, health care, housing, transportation, and dinner, but no pizza! Contact co-chairs Jonathan Baker (jonbaker@ai, x-8837) or Emily Tan (chtan athe, x-8516) for more information.

GSC Ice Skating, Friday November 5, at Johnson Athletic Center after 23:00. More fun than the Ice Capades and more exciting than Nuclear Physics. Free.

STUDENT ESCORT AND PATROL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 18:00 in 50-220. Come to this meeting to learn how you can help to make this campus a safer place.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Sunday November 14 at 19:00 in the Wang Center. For more information, contact the GSC office at x-2195.