

Campaign Briefing

Issue 92 • Thursday, June 18, 1992



TODAY: KENNEDY/DUKAKIS ADVISOR SIGNS WITH CLINTON

HEADLINES

- Perot begins to fall in the polls (Page 2)
- Vice President wants Perot to come forward with POW/MIA Information (Page 1)

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

President Bush attends ceremony for Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week before he leaves for California. In California, the President will tour an oil recycling facility and attend a dinner in his honor.

Vice President Quayle meets with Joseph Alibrandi, founder of the California School of Choice Ballot Initiative; hosts the RNC Chairman's Advisory Board Reception.

NEWS IN BRIEF

QUAYLE ASKS IF PEROT IS WITHHOLDING

POW/MIA INFORMATION President Bush has pledged to the American people he will leave no stone unturned in investigating any information he receives about Vietnam POWs-MIAs, Vice President Quayle said during interviews with California television stations on Wednesday. "Ross Perot has made many allegations on this issue. He needs to come forward and share that information with us," Quayle said. (con't, page 2)

TODAY'S TALKING POINTS

HISTORIC ARMS AGREEMENT ENDS NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE

President Bush's leadership resulted in the arms control accord of the century. The accord drives the final nail into the Cold War's coffin.

- President Bush called for drastically reducing both countries' nuclear arsenals in his State of the Union speech on January 28. By the next day, President Yeltsin made his own counteroffer.

Carter administration arms negotiator Paul Warnke credits the accord's provisions with representing "a very substantial cut." What presidents from Nixon to Reagan began, President Bush has completed.

- Only this arms control pact achieves drastic reductions in the ability of each side to destroy each other. Neither the 1972 SALT I treaty, the 1979 SALT II treaty nor the proposed 1991 START treaty substantially reduced the nuclear arsenals of the former Soviet Union and the United States.

Bush, Yeltsin Sign Accords

SUMMIT MAKES HISTORY, US AND RUSSIA PARTNERS

The world changed for the better yesterday as President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed history-making accords. "We've indeed formed a truly new relationship," President Bush proclaimed after the signing ceremony.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Yeltsin, Bush emphasized, "The collapse of the U.S.S.R. and the emergence of a democratic Russia provides us with the greatest opportunity in our lifetime to win the permanent democratic peace that has eluded us through two world wars and the long Cold War that followed."

The accord includes the precedent-shattering joint understanding that will achieve drastic reductions in nuclear warheads by the year 2003. Another agreement will make it easier for United States businesses to invest in Russia.

"It is now within our power," President Bush said, "to alter forever our relationship so that it becomes the greatest force for world peace, a democratic peace, that the world has ever known. Let that be our vision for the future." (6/18)

President Bush knows we must remain strong. We still have the weapons needed to repel any foe, but our most dangerous enemy has become a friend.

- The accord has two phases. By 1999, the United States is scheduled to have 4,250 strategic warheads. Russia will have 3,800. Four years later, the U.S. will pare down its warheads to 3,500 while Russia reduces its nuclear warheads to 3,000.
- The agreement calls for sharp reductions of 1,870 U.S. land-based missiles; 8,695 land-based Russian missiles. The threat of nuclear annihilation is becoming a thing of the past.

A new era of cooperation is dawning between the United States and Russia. Now, our children can sleep more soundly thanks to President Bush.

- President Bush is absolutely committed to learning the whereabouts of any American POWs sent to the Soviet Union. He has ordered former ambassador to the Soviet Union, Malcolm Toon, the U.S. Co-chairman of the Russian-U.S. Commission on POWs, to "return immediately to Moscow to work on this issue."
- Russia and the United States will work out an agreement to protect against limited nuclear attack by sharing warning data on missile launches.

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(Quayle, Con't) Quayle blasted Ross Perot for choosing to withhold information from the U.S. government and the American people on this very critical issue.

Perot was scheduled to testify before the Senate Committee on the POW/MIA issue next week, but "now he's backed down," Quayle said. "He owes it to the families of the POWs and MIAs to give us that information. He owes it to the country to give us that information." (6/17)

PEROT TOPPED OUT A new USA Today/CNN/Gallup nationwide poll indicates that support for unannounced presidential candidate Ross Perot may be starting to decline. Perot leads the poll with 34 percent, Bush with 32, followed by Clinton at 24 percent. Perot's vote has fallen five points since early June. Given the margin of statistical error, Bush and Perot are tied in this poll, according to Frank Newport, the Editor of Gallup Poll.

"The bottom line is that things have stabilized," said Newport. "I think there is a good chance that [Perot] has topped out." (NBC Today Show, 6/18)

AMERICA SHOULD NOT GAMBLE WITH

CLINTON Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich [R-NV] took Clinton to task on Wednesday, saying Clinton's alliance with Democrat congressional leaders is killing the Balanced Budget Amendment. His call for a new "massive tax increase," and his record in Arkansas of doubling both the state debt and state spending during his tenure "serves as a big red flag" to America's taxpayers.

"President Bush is the only person standing in the way of the 'tax now and ask questions later' crowd running Congress," said Vucanovich, "and Nevada's working families strongly support George Bush's effort to enact a Balanced Budget Amendment. America cannot afford to roll the dice on another big-spending liberal Democrat presidential candidate," Vucanovich concluded. (6/17)

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KENNEDY/DUKAKIS ADVISOR SIGNS WITH

CLINTON Bill Clinton has hired Nancy E. Soderberg, the foreign policy advisor to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, to be his campaign's director of foreign policy, according to the Boston Globe. Soderberg was a foreign policy advisor to Democrat Michael Dukakis' campaign four years ago. Soderberg said yesterday that she will work from Clinton's headquarters in Little Rock, and her job will include coordinating foreign policy issues for the candidate. (The Boston Globe, 6/17)

EDITORIALS

SENIOR CITIZENS BEWARE "Senior citizens take warning! Be wary of Bill Clinton and Ross Perot. They've got their greedy eyes on your Social Security benefits....No matter what the candidates say, they are proposing tax increases for a specific segment of our society....This is nothing short of class warfare against people who have spent most of their lives in pursuit of financial success and security...and it would be an out and out ripoff of the Social Security taxes those individuals have paid for a lifetime with a government promise of benefits when they retire....The injustice is clear. It is nothing more or less than robbery." Ralph Looney, former editor Rocky Mountain News, Albuquerque Tribune (Washington Times, 6/17)

VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE HITS POLITICAL

DYNAMITE "How about the obvious conclusion that we have a moral crisis in this country? We are raising so many children without parents, without communities, without religion and without socially enforced standards of behavior that any excuse for a riot will do....Our elites are so sophisticated that they are stumped by ordinary questions of right and wrong....That's why Vice President Dan Quayle has hit upon political dynamite with broad majorities of the American people, because he is telling the truth." Mona Charen, syndicated columnist (Washington Times, 6/17)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

CLINTON OVEREXPOSED "...Eyes begin to glaze over when [Bill Clinton] appears on still another talk show to reel off still more political minutiae. His may be the earliest case of overexposure in the annals of presidential contests. Even now the sound of his voice is enough to switch television channels across the country." Paul Greenberg, Arkansas Democrat Gazette (Washington Times, 6/17)

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