

Campaign Briefing

Issue 94 • Monday, June 22, 1992

BUSH
QUAYLE
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TODAY:

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE UP

HEADLINES

- Perot comes up empty (Page 2)
- President sends strong message to Texans, opponents (Page 1)

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

President Bush meets with House GOP Members.

In California, Vice President Quayle addresses National Sheriff's Association; participates in roundtable with a "Weed and Seed" executive committee; attends Bush/Quayle fundraising events.

NEWS IN BRIEF

"TOO MUCH AT STAKE...TO BUY A PIG IN A

POKE" President Bush directly challenged his two presidential opponents during a fiery speech in Dallas on Saturday. Without mentioning Ross Perot by name, Bush told a crowd of 10,000 at the Texas Republican Convention, *"There's too much at stake for America to forget about trust and judgment and values -- too much at stake, as we say here, to buy a pig in a poke."* (Con't, page 2)

TODAY'S TALKING POINTS

AMERICA'S ECONOMY: IT'S LOOKING UP

America's economy is rebounding. President Bush will not be satisfied until all Americans feel the impact of the recovery. We have good reason to feel confident about the economy.

- Statistics tell the story: The University of Michigan's Index of consumer sentiment climbed to 80.6 percent in mid-June, up from 79.2 percent at the end of May. The Conference Board's index of consumer sentiment also rose in May for the third consecutive month.
- Real Gross Domestic Product rose an annualized 2.4 percent rate during the first quarter of 1992. Industrial production registered gains for four months in a row, and housing starts rebounded 11 percent in May. Inflation is being controlled, rising only 0.1 percent in May.

Pessimists have been counting on America's decline. Talking about decline helps academics and journalists sell books and newspapers. Promoters of pessimism get regular invitations to appear on TV and radio "talk" shows. But the pessimists ignore one thing -- reality.

Economy Surges

AMERICAN CONSUMERS FEELING CONFIDENT AGAIN

Signs continue that American consumers are feeling more confident about the nation's economy.

The University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment rose to 80.6 in mid-June, an improvement of 1.4 points from the end of May.

Statistics compiled by the Conference Board also confirm the continued upward trend of America's economy. This consumer confidence index rose in May for the third consecutive month.

"The United States is still the largest, the most productive economy in the entire world," the President said during a speech at Saturday's Texas Republican State Convention. *"America will always be a rising nation, and we can and we will make this country better."*

Bush said America and its allies were able to quickly remove Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces from Kuwait because there was no opportunity for second-guessing by the Democrat Congress.

"We must break this gridlock and recapture the trust of the American people," Bush said. *"And the way to do that is Republican control of the House [and] Republican control of the Senate."* [6/22]

- America remains the leading exporter of aircraft and aerospace equipment, computers, microelectronics, and scientific and precision equipment.
- America's output per employee, when adjusted for purchasing power, is 15 percent greater than either Japan or Germany. Our total output is more than twice that of Japan and over four times Germany's.

President Bush has the solutions to sustain our economic growth. It starts with retaining confidence in America and our workers. We can outcompete anyone, anytime, anywhere.

- President Bush's Economic Growth Package calls for cutting the capital gains tax to stimulate investment, which in turn creates jobs. Also, first-time homebuyers will receive a \$5,000 tax credit.
- Entering into the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada will increase economic opportunity. Merchandise exports increased \$195 billion during the last five years, when export expansion represented almost half of our Gross Domestic Product. In 1990, on average, every \$1 billion in exports sustained almost 20,000 jobs.

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(Bush, con't) Bush rejected Perot's suggestion that a president should take a nationwide poll before making a decision on a major issue or tax increase, calling that *"just plain irresponsible."* *"What the people want is leadership,"* the President told the crowd.

Bush then blasted Clinton's recent remark that the only way to solve the budget deficit is a *"massive tax increase."* *"Unlike one of my opponents for president, I don't believe that the only way to ever balance the budget is, quote, a massive tax increase, unquote,"* Bush said.

The President did not mince words about the Democratic-controlled Congress either. *"Some people say, why can't you bring the same kind of purpose and success to the domestic scene as you did in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. And the answer is, I didn't have to get permission from some old goat in the United States Congress to kick Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait. That's the reason,"* Bush told the screaming crowd, who jumped to their feet and chanted, *"Four more years."* (Dallas Morning News, Washington Post, 6/21)

U.S.-RUSSIA SUMMIT: HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES

The arms agreement President Bush and Russian President Yeltsin signed last week *"is the most significant arms reduction agreement ever negotiated,"* Secretary James Baker said during an interview on ABC This Week with David Brinkley. *"It is a good agreement for the United States, a good agreement for Russia, and a very good agreement for the world."*

Regarding the Russian foreign aid bill now before the Congress, Baker said on CNN Newsmaker Saturday that *"anybody who seeks to block or obstruct this effort...will be treated very, very harshly by history because this is a once-in-a-century opportunity."* Baker warned, *"It's not beyond the realm of possibility that we might be forced to have to spend trillions of dollars to win another Cold War if the effort at reform and democracy and free markets does not succeed over there."* (CNN Newsmaker Saturday, 6/20, ABC This Week with David Brinkley, 6/21)

RESULTS OF SUMMIT "BEYOND ANY IMAGINATION"

President Bush and President Yeltsin reached *"a very significant arms control agreement, one that was beyond any imagination two or three years ago,"* Senator Sam Nunn [D-GA] said Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press. *"That arms control agreement reduced greatly the risk to the United States of a first strike."*

Nunn urged the leaders in Congress *"to get behind"* the Russian foreign aid bill, saying it is *"clearly in our national interest."* *"We need to get it passed,"* Nunn added.

Commenting on the presidential race, Nunn called Perot's deficit reduction plan *"bizarre."* He also said that Perot's plan to balance the budget by having people voluntarily give up Social Security and Medicare is unrealistic, bizarre, and simplistic. (NBC Meet the Press, 6/21)

For draft new releases, new conference statements, letters to the editor, op-eds, and talking points, please call the State Press Operations Desk @ (202) 336-7294.

PEROT COMES UP EMPTY The Washington Post yesterday reported that in 1987 Ross Perot launched a series of investigations in pursuit of information that might uncover improper conduct by then-Vice President Bush. After an extensive investigation into Perot's allegations, the Washington Post found no evidence of impropriety. When asked about Perot's investigative nature, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, *"It seems to fit a pattern of Perot thinking he can investigate, harass and intimidate people."*

"If you look at what he did as an individual, the amount of time and energy and resources he spent on hiring investigators and sleuths and secret agents, what would he do if he has the FBI, and the IRS and the CIA?...The country does not need [a] big brother as president," added Bush/Quayle '92 Press Secretary Torie Clarke. (AP, Washington Post, 6/21)

EDITORIALS

QUAYLE IS RIGHT *"Quayle was right about family values and the absence thereof in the ghetto community. A discussion of the problem is long overdue. And on Father's Day, let us acknowledge that he is right about fathers too.... And while we are on the subject, let's admit that Quayle was right about Murphy Brown. The last thing we need in this country and at this time is promotion of single-motherhood."* (Columnist Mary McGrory, Washington Post, 6/21)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT'S THE MEDIA GOT AGAINST THE

FAMILY? *"The knee-jerk editorials and columnists attacking Dan Quayle for his family values/Murphy Brown speech are an unfortunate attempt at trying to shoot the messenger rather than examining the message.... To his credit, the vice president stated the welfare system in this country needs to stop subsidizing family breakup and reward families to stay together.... The Bush Administration (has) proposed dramatic changes in the welfare system.... These programs have not even been brought up for public debate by the Democratic Congress. I'm disappointed that so many newspapers and commentators routinely jeer at the importance of moral values."* (John G. Eckert, Chatham, N.J., 6/16)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

COULD YOU REPEAT THAT? *"What made me a success in business would make me a failure as a politician."* Ross Perot to the Washington Post, 1969 (Time, June 29, 1992)

TIME-WARNER SHIRKING RESPONSIBILITY *"They are making money off a record that is suggesting it's OK to kill cops, and that is wrong. Where is the corporate responsibility here?"* Vice President Dan Quayle (Washington Times, 6/20)

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