





# Bush sees national spotlight; Democrats say he sounds like candidate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Democratic Party leader says Republican Gov. George W. Bush sounded a lot like a presidential candidate in a speech where he talked about the "national spotlight" shining on him.



BUSH

In his State of the State address Wednesday, Bush asked Texas legislators to share in the national attention by showing how limited and bipartisan government solves problems.

For the first time in a major speech, Bush acknowledged that his ongoing indecision over a White House bid had taken center stage, calling the future "a question that has dominated my life in recent weeks."

"I have been asked about it. You have been asked about it," Bush told legislators. "You didn't ask for it — but it is here anyway. And we can either view it as a distraction, or seize it as an opportunity to show the world what limited and constructive government looks like."

Molly Beth Malcolm, who chairs the Texas Democratic Party, said Bush echoed some long-time Democratic themes.

"So if his agenda helps further issues that Democrats have long fought for — great public schools, a healthy economy and equal opportunity — we all win," Mrs. Malcolm said.

However, she added, "He sounded more like a candidate for president than a governor, so we'll see if Texas gets the full-time governor we deserve, or a part-time governor playing to primary voters in Iowa and New Hampshire."

The governor has said repeatedly that he is thinking — but remains undecided — about the GOP presidential nomination. He repeated that Wednesday.

"The big answer to the question is, I really don't know yet,"

he told the lawmakers. Turning to legislative matters, Bush proposed a \$2 billion school property tax cut; sales tax reductions on diapers, over-the-counter medicines and access to the Internet; plus a series of business tax breaks designed to promote research and give relief to small businesses.

He said he would follow through on a campaign pledge to end "social promotion" of school children. He called for a pilot program of vouchers that would use tax dollars to send children in poor-performing public schools to private schools.

"I know there's a huge debate

raging, but we must not trap students in low-performing schools. It is time to see if it works," he said.

He urged tougher standards against drunken driving, requiring parental involvement when minor girls get abortions, and mandatory jail time for juveniles who commit crimes with guns.

Bush, who pushed a \$3 billion property tax cut in 1997, only to see the Legislature trim it to \$1 billion, listed priorities for this year that had a familiar ring.

"We must meet basic needs, dedicate the lion's share of new money to public schools, then send money back to the hands who earned it — the taxpayers

of Texas," he said.

His speech received considerable support from fellow Republicans. "Texans agree with George Bush that a compassionate conservative Texas is what they want," said Lt. Gov. Rick Perry.

"Governor Bush is on target with his focus," added Sen. Tom Haywood, R-Wichita Falls. "Education and tax relief are two of the hottest topics we will face. Tax relief is in line with my idea to return the budget surplus to the people of Texas."

But several Democratic senators and a consumer group said Bush put too much emphasis on tax cuts over such areas as education and health care.

# Clinton proposing \$800 million in new, increased spending for job assistance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aiming to boost the skills of American workers, President Clinton is unveiling more than \$800 million in new and increased spending to retrain dislocated workers, teach illiterate adults to read and increase job opportunities for at-risk youth.



CLINTON

The latest details from the budget Clinton outlined in his

State of the Union address include increased grants for adult literacy programs, a toll-free number that connects displaced workers to unemployment and retraining resources, and \$50 million to create jobs for disadvantaged kids.

Clinton was joining Communications Workers of America President Morty Bahr and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman today at an Oakton, Va., training facility jointly operated by AT&T, Lucent Technologies and the union to unveil the proposals.

"This is an initiative by the

president to help ensure that all of our workers are prepared for the 21st century," said an administration official who asked that he not be identified.

The proposals, which must be approved by the Republican-controlled Congress, call for \$190 million in increased spending in fiscal 2000 over last year's figures for adult education and family literacy programs, \$350 million more for job retraining assistance, and \$303 million to increase youth employment.

Behind the initiatives is Clinton's conviction that the income gap in America reflects

a skills gap.

"Today, America is the most dynamic, competitive, job-creating economy in history. But we can do even better — in building a 21st century economy that embraces all Americans," Clinton said in his State of the Union speech. "Today's income gap is largely a skills gap."

The draft of the proposals shows Clinton is asking Congress to expand the Workforce Investment Act signed into law last year to streamline the job training system into grants that allow workers to choose what kind of train-

ing they need.

Clinton wants a five-year commitment to the Workforce Reinvestment Act, which was enacted last year, that would ensure "every displaced worker will receive training if they need it," according to a draft of the proposals. Among other things, the act provided for "one-stop career" centers to make it easier for those out of work to get assistance and information about where they could learn new skills for new jobs.

The administration is seeking a \$95 million increase in adult

education grants to increase the number of teachers and the resources available for adults who are learning to read. The president also proposes a 10 percent tax credit for employers who provide workplace literacy programs.

For disadvantaged youth, the package calls for a new \$100 million program promoting partnerships between schools and employers to reduce school dropout rates and a new \$50 million program that would help empowerment zone businesses increase the number of at-risk youths hired.

# White House signals it might skip witnesses

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators are struggling to reach a bipartisan timetable for the remainder of President Clinton's impeachment trial as the White House signals it may forgo defense witnesses if there's no new damaging testimony.

Senate Republican leader Trent Lott and Democratic leader Tom Daschle expressed hope they could present a proposal today to conclude the trial by Feb. 12 or sooner.

Any agreement approved in party meetings would be presented for approval in today's impeachment trial session. If a negotiated settlement for the rest of the trial eludes senators, they still would need to approve procedures for depositions of Monica Lewinsky, presidential friend Vernon Jordan and White House aide Sidney Blumenthal. These issues are expected to be the only business in the proceeding today.

White House lawyers, meanwhile, let Daschle know their views on the possibility of forgoing witnesses, according to senior presidential advisers who would not be quoted by name.

The defense team said, first,

that there would have to be no new damaging information from the three witnesses.

But the White House also wants the Senate to decide against live testimony and opposes a Republican idea that Clinton could be found guilty but not removed.

Under those conditions, one legal adviser said the White House was comfortable to just argue the facts "and bring this to a vote."

Wednesday morning, Lott had said he was seeking a conclusion of the perjury and obstruction-of-justice case by Feb. 6, but he backed off that date when negotiations picked up in the afternoon.

Between the proposal and the negotiations, the Senate took back-to-back votes that demonstrated that Democrats have the muscle to prevent the two-thirds majority needed to convict Clinton and remove him from office.

First, senators defeated a motion by Democrat Robert Byrd of West Virginia to dismiss the case.

With only 34 votes needed to block conviction, the Democrats produced 44 votes for dismissal.

# Pay increase for military sits high on GOP agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill to provide the military with an across-the-board 4.8 percent pay raise next January, with the possibility of larger increases later to reward achievement and encourage re-enlistment, is heading for early Senate action. The pay raise, if enacted, would be the largest for the military since 1982. The measure would also provide more generous retirement and GI Bill educational benefits.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, R-Va., said the legislation would contribute to the

"desperate need to stop, for the 14th year, a decline in defense spending."

"Soon the full Senate will be acting on this bill, and I expect to receive strong bipartisan support," Warner said.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., meanwhile, put the bill high on a list of measures on which he said he expected quick action — once the Senate impeachment trial of President Clinton has ended.

"We've got to do something quickly about the military," Lott told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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For more information call 263-7331, ext]. 235.

Pictures of one person who may be speaking at a club or church can also be submitted.

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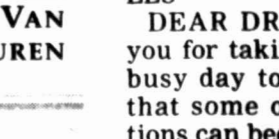
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Younger woman seeks older man for friendship and maybe more

DEAR ABBY: I am 34 and divorced for three years. I met a very nice man I'll call Jim at my boss's Christmas party. We hit it off very well (at least I thought we did). He is about 20 years older than I and in the process of getting a divorce.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR DR. MAUER: Thank you for taking time from your busy day to alert my readers that some outdated prescriptions can become toxic. I would warn readers who are discarding old medications to carefully dispose of them so they're out of the reach of children and pets.

JAN 28 1999

THURSDAY JAN. 28. Table listing TV programs for various channels including KIMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DBC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, and BET.

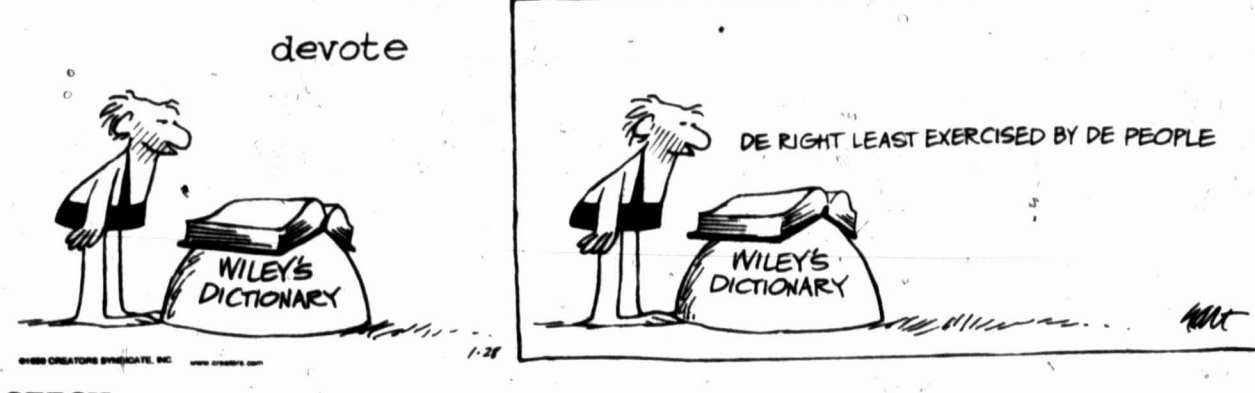
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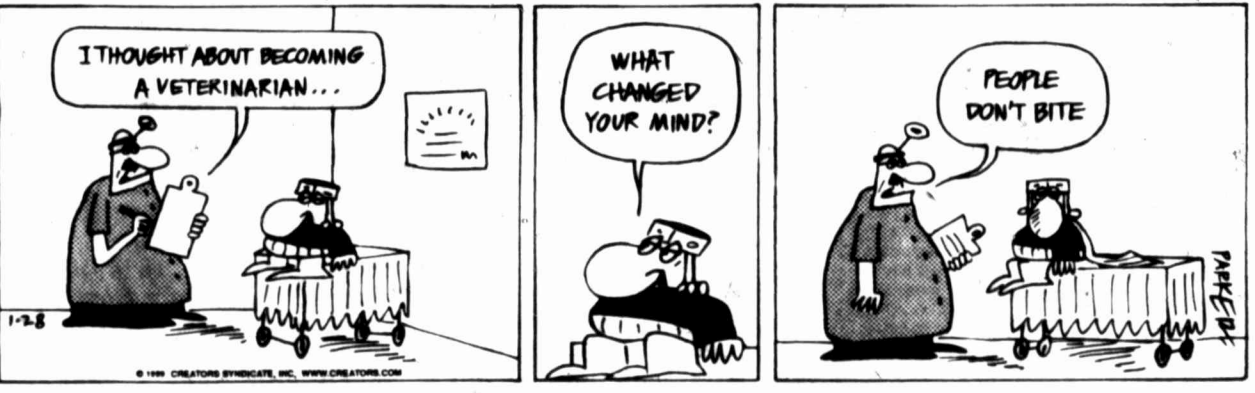
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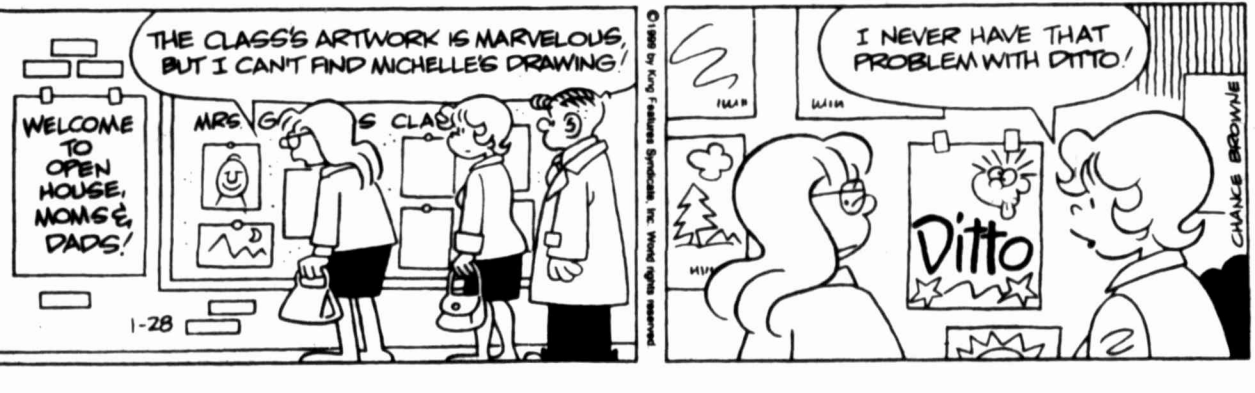
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

337 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members. On this date:

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid and word list. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' sections with clues and answers. Edited by Wayne Robert Williams.

1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI. In 1596, English navigator Sir Francis Drake died off the coast of Panama; he was buried at sea. In 1853, Cuban revolutionary Jose Marti was born in Havana. In 1871, France surrendered in the Franco-Prussian War. In 1902, the Carnegie Institute was established in Washington D.C. In 1909, the United States ended direct control over Cuba. In 1915, the Coast Guard was created by an act of Congress. In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was appointed by President Wilson to the Supreme Court, becoming its first Jewish member. In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road. In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats. In 1982, Italian anti-terrorism forces rescued U.S. Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier, 42 days after he had been kidnapped by the Red Brigades. Ten years ago: In Hungary, official Imre Pozsgay described the 1956 Hungarian Revolution as a popular uprising — a startling contradiction of the official Communist view that the revolt was a counter-revolution. Five years ago: In Los Angeles, Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg declared a mistrial in the case of Lyle Menendez, just over two weeks after a mistrial was declared in the case of Lyle's brother Erik; both juries deadlocked over whether the brothers were guilty of murder in the shooting deaths of their wealthy parents. They were later retried, convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. One year ago: The day after his State of the Union address, President Clinton's heartland in the nation's heartland, where he was warmly received; accompanying him was Vice President Al Gore, who urged Americans to "Join me in supporting him and standing by his side." Today's Birthdays: Musician-composer Acker Blik is 70. Author Susan Sontag is 66. Actor Nicholas Pryor is 64. Actor Alan Alda is 63. Actress Marthe Keller is 54. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 49. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 40. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 37. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 34. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 31.