state/nation/world

Presidential candidates dominate Pa. primary

State nominees to get votes also

By LEE LINDER
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Three Democratic presidential candidates dominate tomorrow's Pennsylvania primary, but voters bombarded by TV and radio commercials and door-to-door politicking must also choose statewide nominees for attorney general, treasurer and auditor general and consider a $190 million bond issue.

And locally, they'll nominate party candidates in 23 Congressional districts, 25 state Senate seats and all 203 state House slots.

Edward Mezvinsky, Democratic state chairman, said he is "delighted" about the presidential battle because it "has increased interest in our election and will mobilize our voters to turn out in bigger numbers."

"In the long run this primary will help the Democratic Party in November," said Mezvinsky, noting Democrats have increased their registration lead and now outnumber Republicans by nearly a million. "That is going to help us from the grass roots up," he said.

Statewide, there are 5,661,444 registered voters, of whom 3,176,515 are Democrats and 2,230,588 Republicans.

"Whoever wins Pennsylvania will wind up in the White House," Mezvinsky predicted.

In 1980, despite the Democratic edge, President Reagan won Pennsylvania, and in the past two gubernatorial elections voters elected a Republican. It is this ballot box independence and volatility that has politicians uncertain and disturbed.

Republicans, without any major contests in their primary, were sitting back, enjoying all the action on the Democratic side, and taking note of what the opposition was saying for possible use in the fall election.

The state's 9,560 polling places open at 7 a.m. for 13 hours tomorrow with the two-tier presidential contest heading the ballot.

Part 1 is the non-binding popularity vote with 10 candidates on the Democratic side headed by former Vice President Walter Mondale, U.S. Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado and the Rev. Jesse Jackson of Chicago. Reagan is the unopposed Republican.

Most reported polls have Mondale, fresh from substantial victories in New York and Wisconsin, ahead bolstered by a massive mobilization effort by the state's labor unions.

Some politicians hint Jackson will energize a massive turnout of blacks in Philadelphia, where they comprise 43 per cent of the 909,000 registered Democrats, and perhaps even carry the state's biggest city. Coupled with a strong showing among blacks in the Pittsburgh area Jackson could surprise and finish second statewide ahead of Hart.

Part 2 is for presidential delegates. Voters will elect 117 Democrats to go to the party's national convention in San Francisco next July. Another 55 will be chosen in June, apportioned to the delegate election results, and 23 elected and party leaders will fill uncommitted seats for a total of 195.

Only Mondale has fielded a full slate of 117 committed on the ballot to him. Hart has 47 pledged but has recruited 70 others from candidates who have quit the presidential race. Jackson has 45 pledged delegates.

Labor leaders, almost solidly committed to Mondale, "are really working," said state Sen. William Lincoln of Fayette County. "They are putting their mouths and money into it" — but not only for president.

"I've never seen so much cooperation between unions, and on so many races," said Ted Hirsh, legislative director for the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers.

The $190 million bond issue has bipartisan support with Gov. Dick Thornburgh leading the effort for money to stimulate the state's lagging economy and create more jobs.

The money would pay for improved roads, upgrade recreational facilities, provide assistance to small businesses and farmers, and create a Conservation Corps program.

Democrats face slugfests in all the statewide races, while the GOP has a contest only for auditor general. Some fear these may be overlooked because of the presidential free-for-all.

"Not many people are paying much attention," said Allen Ertel, a former Congressman from Williamsport who is the Democratic endorsed candidate for attorney general battling Allgheny County District Attorney Robert Colville for the right to meet incumbent, and unopposed, Republican LeRoy Zimmerman in the general election this fall.

The most controversial fight is for treasurer on the Democratic ticket where Al Benedict, the state auditor general unable by law to seek a third straight term, is opposed by Arline Lotman of Montgomery County, Catherine Baker Knoll of Pittsburgh, Michael Jackson of Beaver County annd Al Smith of York County.

Benedict won state party endorsement but Lotman, his most serious opponent, is backed by Democratic organizations in Philadelphia and the surburbs and has sought to link him to a job-selling scheme for which some former Benedict aides are now facing trial.

AP Laserphoto

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Democratic presidential hopeful, prepares to kiss Tamara Bryant during a Jackson-for-President rally in Harrisburg over the weekend.

Bell companies dial up trouble with new investments

By NORMAN BLACK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Pacific Telesis and Bell Atlantic are interested in building cable TV systems. US West wants to provide real estate management services. Nynex is exploring bill collection services. And Ameritech has acquired an interest in a firm developing equipment for transmitting pictures via phone lines.

The regional Bell companies created by the breakup of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. don't see themselves as just local telephone companies anymore. And that's creating a legal controversy that will soon come to a head.

Later this week, the jurist who turned the communications industry upside down by approving the split of AT&T will hold a hearing that could produce an equally landmark ruling. The question before U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene: To what extent may the seven new Bell companies venture into new businesses?

The answer will have wide ramifications not only for the Bell companies and the industry but also for consumers.

Although the new Bell companies are required to isolate competitive ventures from their regulated phone operations, unsuccessful outside ventures could clearly weaken a company.

Alternatively, state regulators and others say, phone revenues generated by consumers could be used to subsidize competitive ventures unless proper safeguards are erected.

The Bell companies claim the current dispute is much ado about nothing.

They contend they would never do anything to jeopardize the health of the local operating companies, that the Justice Department is trying to impose restrictions that were never contained in the antitrust pact that broke up AT&T and that their outside ventures will make them stronger financially.

Diversification, they say, is going to be essential.

"Communications technology is experiencing an explosive development that is radically altering the way in which customers . . . receive telecommunications services," BellSouth argued. "The (Bell) companies must be permitted to react to these changes if they are to be viable participants."

Regardless of how Greene rules, one thing is already clear: The antitrust settlement that was supposed to stabilize the telephone industry is showing signs of wear just four months after the breakup.

Under the antitrust agreement, AT&T was to keep its long-distance and equipment businesses and gain the freedom to enter any unregulated field it wished. The Bell companies could market — but not manufacture — telephone equipment, and otherwise were restricted to providing local regulated phone services.

But the settlement also contains a waiver provision that Greene must now begin to interpret: A Bell company may enter unregulated businesses if it can convince the court "there is no substantial possibility that it could use its monopoly power to impede competition . . ."

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state news briefs

Pennsylvania man convicted in scam

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A federal court jury deliberated three hours before convicting a Beaver County man of cheating 118 people out of $71,000 in a gun-selling scheme.

Evidence during the trial showed that in March 1982, Lewis Bedillion Jr., 33, of Aliquippa, advertised collector guns in a national magazine under the fictitious name Sportsmen's Buyers Club. Testimony revealed he pocketed the money he received and never mailed the guns.

Bedillion first came to public attention in December 1982 when he went to police claiming a Pennsylvania Lotto ticket worth $5.5 million was stolen from a safe in his house.

The rightful holder of the ticket later surfaced and Bedillion finally admitted nine months later his tale had been a hoax.

In addition to admitting he filed a false report over the lottery ticket, Bedillion pleaded guilty to charges of theft by deception for writing bad checks through his now defunct sporting goods business. He was sentenced then to one month in jail, fined $1,500 and placed on five years' probation.

'Joker's Wild' winner to quit his job

GRANTVILLE, Pa. (AP) — A 59-year-old Schuylkill County man said he will quit his job and retire after winning $1,000 a week for life in the Pennsylvania Lottery's "Joker's Wild" game yesterday.

"I didn't expect to get any money out of that deal, except $5,000," Basil Goida said in a telephone interview from his home in Andreas. "As far as spending the money, I guess I'll just put it on the side to see what I'll do with it."

The game's winner was determined by the third race at the Penn National Race Track yesterday. Each of the game's ten finalists drew numbers corresponding to horses in the race. Goida's nephew drew the number four horse, "Flying L," which won.

"He wasn't that excited. He really wasn't," said Michael Goida, who represented his uncle at the track. "He just told me that when I was coming home I should drive carefully."

nation news briefs

CIA directing mining in Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA is directing the mining of ports in leftist-controlled Nicaragua, according to newspaper and broadcast reports.

CBS News on Friday night quoted an unidentified U.S. government source in Washington as saying the CIA has a freighter off Nicaragua's coast and that boats are lowered from it to place the mines.

It had been thought that anti-Sandinista rebels were responsible for laying the mines, but CBS said the guerrillas are not doing any of the mine laying.

The Washington Post, in Saturday editions, quoted unidentified congressional and administration sources as saying that the mines were laid by guerrillas but also by more highly trained Latin American employees of the CIA operating from CIA-owned speedboats. The Post quoted the sources as saying that the mining operation was part of a CIA effort that began late last year to redirect the guerrillas away from attempts to seize territory and toward hit-and-run economic sabotage.

The New York Times in Saturday editions quoted an administration official as saying that Americans had made and deployed the mines, but that it was unclear whether Americans were overseeing an operation carried out by Central Americans or were actually involved in planting mines.

Deficit-cutting proposals being made

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of loud complaints about federal budget deficits, politicians are rolling up their sleeves and seeing what they can do to wash away some of the $200 billion worth of red ink.

With an eye on the jittery financial markets and an ear tuned to worried constituents, Congress and the Reagan administration are working with unanticipated speed to fashion a range of deficit-cutting proposals.

Even so, some analysts are pessimistic any concrete action will be taken this year because of differences over where to make the trims. President Reagan does not want a smaller defense budget or tax hikes unaccompanied by an equal amount of spending cuts. Democrats believe domestic spending already has been sliced enough and are looking at military accounts for savings.

Quadriplegic with death wish leaves

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A cerebral palsy victim who was thwarted in her attempt to starve to death under hospital care has quietly checked out of Riverside General Hospital, leaving no clues as to where she was going.

Elizabeth Bouvia, 26, left the hospital at 6 a.m. Saturday in a van equipped with a hydraulic wheelchair lift, hospital administrator Neil Asay said.

He said the quadriplegic woman was helped into the van by two unidentified friends and three hospital nurses. Her attorney, Andrew Roth of Riverside, was present when she was discharged but did not get into the van, Asay said.

Bouvia did not say where she was going or what her plans were, nursing supervisor Ruth Anderson said.

Roth did not immediately return reporters' calls yesterday.

The departure came 217 days after Bouvia admitted herself to the hospital, asking that the hospital staff give her painkillers and hygienic care but no food while she wasted away.

Bouvia, who also suffers from arthritis and has only limited use of her right hand, said she wanted to die so she could leave her "useless body."

world news briefs

IRA kills woman, injures her father

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Gunmen ambushed a Roman Catholic magistrate and his family as they walked home from church yesterday, killing his daughter and leaving him critically wounded, police said.

The Irish Republican Army said it carried out the attack, near St. Bridget's Catholic Church, scene of a similar IRA shooting last year in which a judge was killed.

The IRA gave no reason for Sunday's shooting.

Police detained an unidentified woman for questioning.

Magistrate Tom Travers, 56, suffered six gunshot wounds, in the chest, back and lower body. He was under intensive care after surgery at a Belfast hospital, a police spokesman said.

His daughter, Mary, a 22-year-old school teacher, died in an ambulance on the way to the hospital, the spokesman said. Travers' wife, Joan, escaped injury and was reported to be at her husband's bedside.

China buying more wheat from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — China has bought an additional 200,000 metric tons of wheat — about 7.34 million bushels — under the terms of a four-year agreement with the United States, the Agriculture Department said Friday.

The pact calls for China to buy a minimum of six million tons of wheat and corn annually. However, according to USDA's latest accounting, sales totaled only 3.83 million tons in 1983. The shortfall was a result of a trade dispute over U.S. import restrictions on Chinese textiles.

So far in 1984, including the latest sales, a total of 2.26 million tons, all wheat, have been purchased. China, however, has indicated to U.S. officials that it would live up to the agreement by making up for last year's shortfall.

A metric ton is about 2,205 pounds and is equal to 36.7 bushels of wheat or 39.4 bushels of corn.

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