

Vice presidential rivals stoke campaign fire

PHILADELPHIA — Vice Pres. George Bush, stoutly defending the Reagan administration during a debate of campaign understudies, said Thursday night that Pres. Ronald Reagan's economic program "brought America back."

Geraldine Ferraro retorted that Reagan's tax cuts "darned near destroyed this country" by leading to record budget deficits.

Ferraro, who told Bush not to be patronizing during one heated exchange, reminded the vice president that he once called the Reagan program "voodoo economics — and it was and it is."

Bush said there was little difference between himself and Reagan on most issues, and said "the president turned it (the nation) around and I've been with him every step of the way."

"I believe firmly in his leadership," Bush said. Bush said Ferraro disagreed with Mondale in several issues, including tax breaks for parents of private school students and school busing.

Ferraro, asked about her relative inexperience, declared in the opening moments of the 90-minute televised confrontation that, "I can make the hard decisions" required in high political office.

"I have enough experience to see the problems, address them," said Ferraro, the first woman to run for national office on a major party ticket.

Bush attacked Mondale repeatedly in the opening moments of the debate, at one point holding his arms aloft as he said, "Contrary to Mr. Mondale's — I'd better be careful — contrary to Mr. Mondale's just saying everything's bad."

"I mean, somebody says there's a silver lining, he sees a big black cloud out there," Bush said. "Whine on, harvest moon."

Ferraro criticized Bush for claiming credit for legislation

on civil rights that the president signed. The bill "passed despite his opposition," she said. And he signed it because "he had to."

Bush and Ferraro clashed sharply on the question of why terrorists were able to strike three times in 17 months at U.S. facilities in Lebanon, claiming more than 300 lives.

"Terrorism is very, very difficult to stop," said Bush, who drew a distinction between the hostage crisis in Iran, where a hostile government was at fault, and the Beirut bombings caused by "shadowy" terrorists. He said no one should be blamed, but Reagan has been "wonderful" in accepting responsibility.

"I'd like to know what that means," replied Ferraro. "Are we going to take proper precautions before we put Americans

in situations where they are in danger... Is this president going to take some action?"

Ferraro said she supports the CIA in its intelligence-gathering role, but not in waging a covert war in Central America or trying to overthrow governments.

Bush said doing away with covert action "has very serious ramifications." He accused Mondale and Ferraro of suggesting that the Marines in Lebanon "died in shame."

That drew an angry response from Ferraro, who said, "I almost resent your patronizing attitude that you have to teach me about foreign policy."

"I have seen what's happened in the last 17 months," she said, adding that no one had said the Marines "died in shame." No parent would ever say that, she said.

Area hospitals donate supplies

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

A representative of a Nicaraguan ecumenical group was in Eugene Thursday to accept about \$20,000 worth of medical equipment and supplies donated by Northwest hospitals.

Miriam Escorcía received the supplies at a press conference at the Council for Human Rights in Latin America. Escorcía represents CEPAD, a Nicaraguan organization involved in giving medical aid to peasants in that country.

"I want to thank all of the people who have made this possible," Escorcía said through an interpreter. "We will save a place in our hearts for you."

Americans have a special responsibility to help the Nicaraguans because the U.S. government is partly to blame for the situation there, said Ana Kimball of the council. The United States government supports the contra rebels attempting to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

"Advocating human rights is

not an abstract act," Kimball said. "It requires some action."

The shipment includes surgical instruments, bone plates, a respirator and other surplus supplies from area hospitals. This is the eighth major shipment of medical supplies the council has sent to Central America in five years, totaling \$150,000 worth, Kimball said.

"The true value of these supplies is in the countless hundreds of lives they can save," she said.

The supplies were donated by Providence Hospital in Seattle, St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland and Eugene's Sacred Heart Hospital. The supplies will mostly be used in rural areas where the Nicaraguan government has no medical programs, Escorcía said.

CEPAD is an ecumenical service group that represents all of Nicaragua's Protestant denominations, she said.

Despite conflicts between the Sandinista government and the Catholic Church, Escorcía said there is religious freedom in the country and there is no repression of religion by the government.

"We have not felt any anti-church or anti-religion sentiments of the part of the government," she said.



Photo by Michael Clapp

Council for Human Rights in Latin America representative Miriam Escorcía (second from left) was on hand Thursday to accept \$20,000 of medical supplies to be shipped to Nicaragua.

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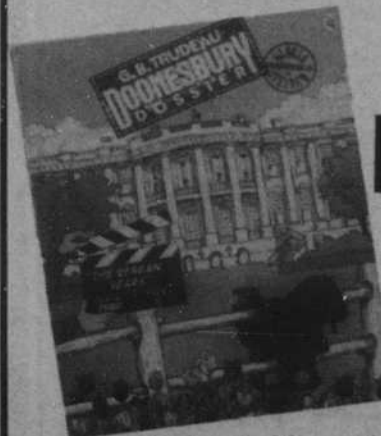
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