

Perot to work against wasted-vote concept

DALLAS (AP) — Ross Perot's campaign, encouraged by his feisty performance in the final presidential debate, is gearing for a stretch run designed to convince supporters their votes won't be wasted on Election Day.

Still, Perot had no appearances scheduled except for three 30-minute television commercials later in the week, and several loyalists called for him to return to live campaigning if he expects to gain ground from his third-place showing in the polls.

Perot himself expressed concern, at the end of Monday's debate, that voters might turn away from him simply because they view the odds as unsurmountable.

"You've got to stop letting these folks in the press tell you you're throwing your vote away," Perot said. "You've got to start using your own head."

In his stiffest attacks to date on his opponents, he chided Bush for contributing to the savings and loan crisis and helping build the regimes of Panama's Manuel Noriega and Iraq's Saddam Hussein before tearing them down. And he equated Clinton's 12 years as governor of Arkansas to the job of running a corner drug store, saying it was "irrelevant" to the qualifications needed from a presidential candidate.

Perot said neither of his opponents' economic plans added up and blamed both for having foreign lobbyists in their campaigns.

"I guess my principal memory of tonight's debate is the things they ducked and the fact that they sure don't want to discuss the lobbyist situation because that's where they get all their money," he said afterward.

Supporters reported a surge of callers to phone banks at his Dallas headquarters and state offices across the nation. The headquarters phone bank was increased from 48 to 72 lines late Tuesday.

Bush says pollsters are 'nutty'

NORCROSS, Ga. (AP) — President Bush whistle-stopped through the Southeast Tuesday, identifying himself with Atlanta's comeback Braves and telling supporters to "forget about all these polls" that show him trailing badly with two weeks until the election.

"Forget people telling you how you think," Bush told the crowd in Norcross. "On Election Day we're going to show America that it ain't over until Cabrera swings it" — a reference to the game-winning hit by Francisco Cabrera last week that put the Atlanta Braves in the World Series against Toronto.

The baseball symbolism continued at Gainesville, Ga., where rally organizer Dow Williams introduced him this way: "Ladies and gentlemen, bottom of the ninth, two outs, the president of the United States."

At his final Georgia stop, in Cornelia, Bush said, "I am absolutely confident in my heart of hearts. Don't believe these crazy pollsters."

Taking a combative stance the day after the final presidential debate, Bush accused rival Bill Clinton of deliberately de-

ceiving voters and ridiculed the Democratic governor's stewardship of Arkansas.

"You cannot lead by misleading," Bush shouted to several thousand supporters here during the first of four scheduled stops. People waving American flags and Bush-Quayle campaign posters crowded around the wood-frowed rail depot where Bush, accompanied by his wife Barbara, stopped briefly.

He was stopping later at towns in South Carolina and North Carolina, states that in recently presidential elections have been strongly Republican but now are up for grabs.

Aides said he would campaign non-stop until Election Day, hitting at least three cities each day.

Before stepping onto his shiny blue "Spirit of America" locomotive at the rear of the 18-car train, Bush told a television audience in Atlanta that he felt it necessary to apologize for a Marine Corps color guard having paraded the Canadian flag upside down during ceremonies before Sunday's World Series game in Atlanta.

"I wanted to apologize to the people of Canada and suggest we try to keep this, from now on, out of the marvelous baseball rivalry," Bush said in the TV appearance.

Bush slammed Clinton on his Arkansas record as well as his economic plan, and he mockingly called Clinton's running mate, Sen. Al Gore, "Mr. Ozone" in reference to his environmental stances.

He referred to independent rival Ross Perot as "the feisty little guy from Dallas."

Attempting to stir up doubts about Clinton's character, the president accused the Democratic challenger of "waffling" on important issues such as the Persian Gulf War and of having a "sorry draft record."

"It is his pattern of trying to be all things to all people," Bush said. "You simply cannot have a pattern of deception. You cannot separate the character of the presidency from the character of the president."

As he has done through much of the campaign, Bush attempted to spell out differences between his and Clinton's plans for reviving the economy.

Clinton compares Bush tactics to 'Peanuts' character Lucy

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Bill Clinton defended himself from President Bush's tax-and-spend charges on Tuesday by counterattacking Bush on the issue of trust.

In a speech to Democratic party faithful gathered at a sports arena, Clinton compared Bush to a Peanuts comic strip he remembered in which Lucy said, "If you can't be right, be wrong as loud as you can."

The Arkansas governor asserted that Bush's claim that he would raise taxes on the middle class was wrong, just as wrong as the president's contention in Monday night's debate that the Arkansas economy was trailing the nation in growth, Clinton said.

He then recited a list of Bush reversals over the past several years — hitting back with a charge Bush often hurls at Clinton.

Clinton listed Bush's well-known re-

versal of his "read-my-lips" pledge not to raise taxes and several others, including election-year support of arms sales and farm subsidies that Bush had opposed earlier.

"And he wants you to trust him," Clinton said after each item.

Campaign aides said Clinton intended to remain aggressive through the last two weeks of the campaign and refused to sit on the lead national polls say he holds. Part of his speech also echoed a new campaign commercial of his, which asks voters whether they're doing better now than four years ago.

"How ya doin'?" Clinton asked.

As for his own tax record, Clinton said the president's charges that he would tax the middle class were exactly opposite what he had said.

"What I've said is 'here are my programs and here's how I'm going to pay for them, and if I can't raise the money

through the revenues (from higher taxes) on the wealthy and foreign corporations, then we will either slow-walk the programs or cut more spending elsewhere,'" he told reporters.

"No one should make a 'read-my-lips' promise," he said. "I have no intention of doing that, and I have a record of keeping taxes low and spending down in my state."

Clinton was animated — pointing his finger and using a stern tone — as he worked to make sure that Bush's strident tax attack in the final debate on Monday night didn't take hold.

Clinton said he was confident of his performance in the final television matchup. "I felt good about the debate last night, and the popular results afterward — the instantaneous polls," he said. Asked whether now that the debates were over, if he were a sure thing, he said: "No, two weeks from now is two

weeks from now."

Both he and running mate Al Gore warned a huge crowd at a get-out-the-vote rally, filling several city blocks in downtown Chicago, not to be complacent.

"Fight on for two more weeks. Fight on to end trickle down economics," Clinton said. "Fight for... a future worthy of our past."

"There are two weeks remaining and we can't let down," said Gore. "We have got to keep our eyes on the ball, and we have got to keep our energies focused on the 14 days that are left in the campaign."

Pop star Michael Bolton serenaded the rally with the song "Back On My Feet Again," and Clinton was hailed by local officials, Senate candidate Carol Moseley Braun and comedian Jim Belushi.



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