

# AuCoin has high hopes for today's rally with Clinton

SALEM (AP) — Democrat Les AuCoin is hoping his campaign for the U.S. Senate will get a boost when presidential front-runner Bill Clinton visits Oregon today.

"There's no question it's a plus," AuCoin press secretary Rachel Gorlin said Wednesday. "Les is delighted to be appearing with Gov. Clinton."

But a spokeswoman for Republican Sen. Bob Packwood said she doubts AuCoin's appearance with Clinton at a rally in Eugene will do much to erase the lead Packwood has built in the polls.

"It's interesting that as Bill Clinton goes up in the polls, Les AuCoin goes down," Julia Brim-Edwards said. "Bill Clinton isn't going to help him."

Clinton is to speak at 1 p.m. at a rally at McArthur Court as part of a "Winning the West" tour that includes stops in nine states.

Clinton campaign spokeswoman Amy Weiss-Tobe said plans call for AuCoin to introduce Clinton at the rally in an effort to give AuCoin maximum exposure.

"Gov. Clinton wants to see Les AuCoin as Oregon's new

U.S. senator," Weiss-Tobe said.

Gorlin said the AuCoin campaign hopes that having AuCoin appear with Clinton will create a link between the two in the minds of Oregon voters.

"There's no question that folks nationwide have gotten the message that Bill Clinton stands for economic change," she said. "Having him do an event with Les fits perfectly with what we need to do to make a case that Les should be our next senator."

Clinton's visit, his sixth to Oregon in the past 18 months, comes amid indications that he

is continuing to hold a solid lead among voters in Oregon.

Veteran pollster Tim Hibbitts of Portland says Clinton "is well ahead" of President Bush and independent Ross Perot.

"He has Oregon as close to being locked up as there is such a thing this year," Hibbitts said.

But Oregon Republican Chairman Craig Berkman said he believes 20 percent to 30 percent of Oregon voters "are not entrenched" for any candidate.

Berkman said Bush still might have some hope in Oregon.



Les AuCoin

## Democrats accuse Robertson's group

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic Party filed a complaint Wednesday accusing a group founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson of engaging in illegal political activity.

The complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission accused the Christian Coalition of raising money as a tax-exempt group but spending it on pro-Republican activities without registering as a political group.

The coalition denied the allegations. It insisted it does not need to register because it does not endorse parties or candidates but merely educates its members about issues.

The coalition, which has applied for tax-exempt status, was founded in 1989 by Robertson, an unsuccessful Republican presidential candidate four years ago, and has a budget this year of about \$7 million, executive director Ralph Reed Jr. said.

The Democratic National Committee complaint accused the coalition of working with Republican candidates and the Republican Party to produce heavy voter turnout by evangelical Christians, widely viewed as pro-Republican, on Election Day.

As evidence of partisan activities, the Democrats said:

- The coalition's meetings have been addressed exclusively by Republicans, including President Bush, during the last year.

- Robertson has been quoted as saying he wanted "working" control of the GOP party by 1996.

A *Washington Post* article last month also noted the group had received \$64,000 from the Republican National Senatorial Committee and had donated \$25,000 to a Virginia GOP committee.

The Democrats said they also are urging the Internal Revenue Service to reject the Christian Coalition's request for tax-exempt status on the ground that it engages in political activity.

"These activities have allowed the Christian Coalition to exercise hidden influence," Democratic National Committee chairman, Ron Brown, said in a statement.

Reed, however, said his group has not coordinated efforts with GOP officials or candidates even though the coalition has been involved in crafting this year's Republican platform and has been addressed by Republicans.

"We do not engage in political activity. We do not endorse candidates. We do not advocate the election or defeat of candidates," Reed said.

Reed said his group's large and widely publicized presence at the Republican convention in August was not intended to support GOP candidates, even though Robertson has publicly endorsed Bush.

Rather, Reed said, the group was concerned about fighting to maintain the strict anti-abortion plank in the GOP platform. "It was issue-driven, not partisan," he said.

Reed said his group has urged members to get involved in

## Bush says others worse than U.S.

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Struggling to catch up in traditionally Republican strongholds, President Bush tried to revive memories of Harry Truman's comeback Wednesday and argued that America's ailing economy is not as bad as that in other countries.

"We are going to do what Truman did and show these pollsters don't know what they are talking about," said Bush, trailing Bill Clinton in the polls with just 13 days before the election. "The American people will give us this victory."

At the same time he voiced confidence, he suggested the difficulties he's faced. "We're in a real fight, let's put it that way," he told *ABC News*. "Nobody ever said it would be easy, and it isn't, but it's worth the fight."

On the second day of a whistle stop train trip, Bush rode through hamlets in North Carolina, stopping for trackside rallies before cheering crowds of thousands of people. "Four more years," supporters shouted.

The trip, with earlier stops in Georgia and South Carolina, underscored Bush's vulnerability in states he easily carried four years ago. Bush's advisers acknowledge he's behind in Georgia and North Carolina, while slightly ahead in South Carolina.

Running out of time, Bush tried to saturate tele-

vision airways in the South with 12 interviews with local media, ABC and CNN.

The pace of campaign travel went into overdrive.

Bush said he plans to spend only two nights - and no days - at the White House between now and Election Day. Campaign strategists also were scrambling Bush's schedule, dropping stops Saturday in Maine and Connecticut and substituting Alabama and Louisiana - two Southern states on Bush's must-win list.

Bush also was heading Sunday to Michigan, a key battleground, and then on to South Dakota and Montana, two traditionally GOP states in danger of slipping to Clinton.

Despite the glum news in the polls, Bush was determinedly upbeat, imploring voters, "Do not listen to the pessimists."

Bush acknowledged that America is gripped in tough economic times but said things aren't all that bad.

"We're caught up in an international economic slowdown and, some places, a recession," Bush said. "But our economy - you'd never get this from the media - our economy is doing better than Canada and Germany and England and Japan and France."

## Perot attempts to persuade pessimists

DALLAS (AP) — Ross Perot sought on Wednesday to counter arguments that votes for him are wasted, releasing new ads that say instead, "This is no time to waste our votes on politics as usual."

Meanwhile, aides said they hoped he would be on the stump soon. And they said the campaign had begun putting together plans for a Perot administration.

The 60-second commercials are aimed at voters who Perot supporters fear will shun him on Election Day because they view his chance of winning as slim - even though they were impressed by his debate performance.

The four separate ads focus on trickle-down economics, health care reform, urban problems and government waste.

Each ends by saying, "This is no time to waste our votes on

**'This is no time to waste our votes on politics as usual.'**

— An ad for Ross Perot

politics as usual. It is time for a candidate who will get down to business."

In Monday's final presidential debate, Perot himself said voters should "stop letting these folks in the press tell you you're throwing your vote away."

Despite Perot's third-place standing, general counsel Clay Mulford said the campaign was encouraged by independent polls after the debates that showed 60 percent of those surveyed viewed Perot more favorably and overall support had doubled to the mid- to high-teens.

"We think, with that 60 percent more favorably disposed for us, that we can capture only a third of that, coupled with the amount we've already increased in the polls, and prevail," Mulford said.

Perot has not decided where to personally campaign, if at all, aides said. But they also said they hoped to announce a schedule Thursday.

"Perhaps some rallies, perhaps some visits to particularly interesting facilities, perhaps some town halls," said Orson Swindle, leader of the Perot supporters' organization. "All over America, we're looking at it."

Perot's running mate, retired Adm. James Stockdale, would likely join him on the stump, Swindle said. Stockdale has met with editorial boards of several California newspapers in recent days.

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