House GOP say Perot can help



WASHINGTON (AP) **Texas billionaire Ross Perot** can play an important role rallying public support for the kind of sweeping congres-sional reforms advocated by

Republican freshmen in the House, Rep. Jennifer Dunn said Wednesday.

'He represents a very important group of people who can help us with these reforms," said Dunn. R-Wash., who was among the freshmen who met with Perot Wednesday at the Capitol.

Dunn, former chairwoman of the Washington state GOP, said Perot attracts attention wherever, he goes

'I find him a very charismatic leader," she said. 'He describes himself as a white giraffe at the zoo. People come to see what he looks like."

Dunn is among Republican freshmen pushing a host of reforms, ranging from a presidential lineitem veto and balanced budget amendment to requiring that all congressional committee meetings be open to the public.

She has been especially visible in past weeks protesting the closed meetings of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Perot told reporters after the meeting that the Republican freshmen advocate "real reforms" not 'sham reforms," which is how he described Clinton's tax proposal.

'The ordinary person understands that the tax bill is tax and spend, not balanced budget." Perot said. "It's tax and spend. That's not what the American people want." He said he has a lot in common with the Republican reformers.

'They are people who want to put their country ahead of their political career. They are more setting re-elected. ... They are dead interested in period interested in period.

Perot said he especially likes the proposal to prohibit closed congressional committee meetings.

The Republicans are dead set to re-establish a policy of open meetings in government. This is like the world turned upside down," he said.

Perot also said freshmen members should not be relegated to second-class status.

"I didn't understand freshmen have no voice. They are told they are supposed to stand in the corner and wait two or three years," he said. "People expect their elected officials to have a voice s soon as they arrive.

What advice would Perot give Clinton today?

"Step one, get organized. Fill the slots so your government can function," Perot said. "Number two, focus. Do a few things well. Number three ... don't fall into the old Washington trap of watering down everything, like the campaign reform bill.

"We want real government reform. We want real campaign reform," he said.

Dunn said she was among seven freshmen Republican who had breakfast with Perot before the hour-long meeting at the Capitol. The others were Reps. Peter Hoekstra of Michigan, Howard McKeon of California, Tillie Fowler of Florida, Peter Torkildsen of Massachusetts, Y. Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas and Ed Royce of Califor-

Gulls to be sacrificed for planes

NEW YORK (AP) - Marksmen will shoot sea gulls that stray across runways at John F. Kennedy International Airport, despite protests from animal rights activists.

The airport says it has tried everything to scare away laughing gulls, which live at a nearby wildlife sanctuary. The birds sometimes get sucked into jet engines, threat-ening takeoffs and landings.

'We don't want to kill any living species," Port Authori-ty spokesman Tom Middlemiss said Wednesday. "But people are more important than birds."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture did not say when marksmen would start shooting. It is the third straight summer the gulls will be killed.

The department had sought the emergency permit at the urging of the Port Authority. which runs the airport. The permit, issued Tuesday night, allows shooting until Aug. 31.

In response, the Fund for Animals wrote a letter to the state attorney general's office protesting what it called "the wholesale slaughter of birds."

We're not saying that one gull is worth an airplane full of people," said Fund for Animals founder Cleveland Amory. "But we do not believe that the answer to bird problems is always to shoot them.'

The New York City Audubon Society also opposes the shootings.



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NANJEMOY, Md. (AP) - A military helicopter used in the presidential fleet crashed Wednesday, killing all four crewmen aboard.

The bodies of the crewmen were found inside the heli-

"They were all in the main fuselage, which was bent out of shape and mangled," said Mur-

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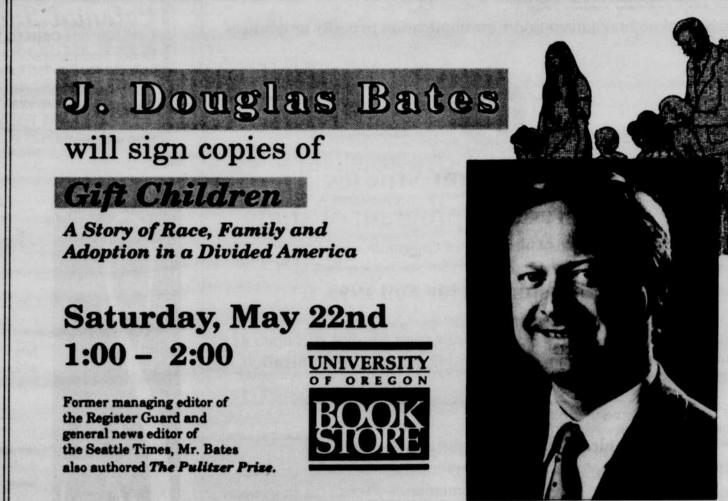
the crash scene. The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known.

Presidential helicopter crashes

The VH-60N Black Hawk helicopter was on an inspection flight after undergoing maintenance when it crashed in a heavily wooded area across the Potomac River from the Marine base in Quantico, Va., said Capt. Steve Manuel, spokesman at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington. "The entire area reeks of aircraft fuel," Murphy said. "It is over your shoe tops.

The helicopter is used to ferry the president and other dignitaries throughout the Washington area, but all those aboard were Marines, Manuel said.

The names of the dead were withheld pending notification of relatives. An investigation of the crash was under way.



copter, said Lt. Patrick Murphy, spokesman for the Charles County Sheriff's Dept

phy. Debris was strewn around





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