

Trump stands up for backers even as rally scuffle breaks out

BALTIMORE (AP) — Donald Trump stood up for his supporters Monday against Hillary Clinton's remark that half of his supporters belonged in "a basket of deplorables," denouncing the comment as "an explicit attack on the American voter" and suggesting that it makes her unfit for the presidency.

But even as Trump defended his backers, one lashed out at protesters in the hall by appearing to punch and slap them. Trump talked through the scuffle.

"While my opponent calls you deplorable and irredeemable," he said in Asheville, North Carolina, "I call you hard-working American patriots who love their country and want a better future for all our people."

But his rally was interrupted several times by demonstrators and, at one moment, brief violence. As several protesters were being escorted out by security, a man in the crowd grabbed a male protester around the neck and then punched him. He then slapped a woman being led out. The Trump supporter was not ejected by security.

The celebrity businessman



AP Photo/Evan Vucci
Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump cheer as he speaks during a rally, Monday in Asheville, N.C.

talked through the scuffle but cracked after the disturbance, "Is there any place more fun than a Trump rally?"

No stranger to making his own sweeping negative characterizations of large groups of people, Trump nonetheless deployed Clinton's remark as the foundation for a new campaign theme. The message: Clinton is divisive, while Trump is the only candidate representing "all Americans."

"You cannot run for president if you have such contempt in your heart for the American voter," Trump said.

"You can't lead this nation if you have such a low opinion of its citizens."

In a speech earlier Monday to the National Guard Association conference in Baltimore, Trump said Clinton's comments were aimed at those in uniform, whether in the military or in law enforcement.

"These were the people Hillary Clinton so viciously demonized," said Trump, who demanded that Clinton issue a full apology. "She divides people into baskets as though they were objects not human beings."

Clinton feels good, says she didn't pass out during stumble

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Monday that she's feeling better since falling ill at a 9/11 memorial ceremony, but she never lost consciousness and didn't think her pneumonia diagnosis was significant enough to disclose beforehand.

"I just didn't think it was going to be that big a deal," she said of the pneumonia diagnosis she received Friday. She told CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" that despite doctor's orders to rest for five days, she thought she could "just keep going forward and power through it and that didn't work out so well."

Clinton abruptly left the ceremony and appeared to stumble while she was waiting for her motorcade. Asked whether she fainted, Clinton replied: "No, I didn't. I felt dizzy and I did lose my balance for a minute. But I got in, once I could sit down, once I could cool off, once I got some water, I immediately started feeling better."

Later Tuesday, Clinton told supporters via text message and Facebook, "I'm feeling fine and getting better," adding, "Like anyone who's ever been home sick from work, I'm just anxious to get back out there."



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik
Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton arrives to attend a ceremony at the National September 11 Memorial, in New York, Sunday on the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Clinton's evening interview, in which she promised to release more information at some point, came as her campaign scrambled to head off lasting damage from a difficult weekend. Aides are promising to release more of her medical records following her bout of pneumonia and conceding they were too slow in providing information about her condition.

An outbreak of respiratory illness swept through Hillary Clinton's campaign in the weeks before she was diagnosed with pneumonia, campaign aides said Monday.

The Democratic presidential candidate abruptly left

Sunday's event after feeling "overheated." A video later posted on Twitter showed her staggering and eventually slumping forward before being held up by three people as she was helped into a van.

On Sunday, her campaign answered questions about Clinton's health and whereabouts with two short statements, both issued hours after she left the memorial in lower Manhattan. More than 20 hours later, her campaign gave a fuller accounting of the episode, which sparked a wave of bipartisan concern about her health and questions about her political transparency.

In historic move, California expands overtime to farmworkers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Farmworkers in the nation's largest agricultural state will be entitled to the same overtime pay as most other hourly workers under a law that California Gov. Jerry Brown said Monday that he had signed.

The new law, which will be phased in beginning in 2019, is the first of its kind in the nation to end the 80-year-old practice of applying separate labor rules to agricultural laborers.

In the state where Cesar Chavez successfully rallied farmworkers to demand union rights and more dignified working conditions, the legislation, AB1066, will gradually lower the number of hours that ranch hands and people who tend crops must work before accruing additional compensation.

Farmworkers will be entitled to time-and-a-half pay after eight hours in a day or 40 hours in a week, up from 10 hours a day or 60 a week. The new rules will take full effect in 2022 for most businesses and in 2025 for farms with 25 or fewer employees.

"The hundreds of thousands of men and women who work in California's fields, dairies and ranches feed the world and anchor our economy," Assembly-

woman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, the bill's author, said in a statement. "They will finally be treated equally under the law."

The measure passed after a strong push by the politically powerful United Farm Workers. Farming groups warned it will cause severe hardships for one of California's largest industries.

Farm work, marked by crushing workloads during specific periods, has long been exempted from some of the labor standards enacted by the federal government beginning in the 1930s, including overtime pay.

Beginning in the 1960s, Chavez brought laborers together and formed the United Farm Workers in California's Central Valley, making California the epicenter of their struggle. He used the rallying cry "si se puede," or "yes we can," and became a celebrated civil rights leader, particularly among Latinos.

Brown, a Democrat, signed the historic bill granting farmworkers the right to unionize when he was governor in 1975. He has declined to comment on the overtime legislation all year and declined again Monday through spokeswoman Deborah Hoffman.

California was the first

state to give farmworkers collective bargaining rights, workers compensation and unemployment service. The state also requires that employers provide rest breaks and access to water and shade.

However, farmworkers were again exempted when the state guaranteed overtime pay after eight hours in a day, not just 40 hours in a week, in 1999.

Opponents argued the seasonal nature of farm labor, with long hours crucial to sow and harvest during specific weather and growing periods, does not lend itself to overtime.

They said the legislation would raise costs for farmers and make it more difficult for them to compete with rivals in other states and countries.

The obligation to care for animals "doesn't always adhere to an eight-hour day, 40-hour work week," said Justin Oldfield, vice president of government relations for the California Cattlemen's Association.

Producers can't afford to pay workers overtime for 60-hour weeks and stay competitive, he said.

They are likely to hire more employees rather than pay overtime, he said, resulting in a pay cut for existing employees.

Syria cease-fire goes into effect, but rebels don't commit

BEIRUT (AP) — A cease-fire came into effect in Syria at sunset Monday in the latest attempt led by the United States and Russia to bring some quiet in the 5 1/2-year civil war.

Residents and observers reported quiet in most of the country hours after the truce came into effect, though activists said airstrikes took place on contested areas around the northern city of Aleppo.

But the most powerful rebel groups have shown deep misgivings over the

cease-fire deal, which was crafted without their input last weekend in Geneva between the top U.S. and Russian diplomats. Hours after it came into force, a coalition of rebel factions put out a statement that stopped short of committing to the cease-fire, a reflection of their distrust of the government.

The first week of the truce will be crucial. During that time, all fighting between the military of President Bashar Assad and rebels is to stop. But, Assad's forces can

continue air strikes against the Islamic State group and al-Qaida-linked insurgents from the group once known as the Nusra Front.

However, the al-Qaida linked insurgents are closely allied to many rebel factions and are a powerful force in the defense of Aleppo in particular. That raises the danger that continued airstrikes will draw rebels into retaliation, eventually leading to the cease-fire's collapse, much as previous attempts earlier this year fell apart.

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