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The White House NEWS SUMMARY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1984 -- 6 a.m. EDT Edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

DEBATE NEWS

Both Sides Claim Win In Veep Debate -- Democrats said Ferraro was not subdued, but "calm and presidential" and the head Republican said he had never seen Vice President Bush any better as both sides predictably claimed victory. Sen. Laxalt described Bush's performance: "Superb." (AP, UPI, Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, Washington Times)

NATIONAL NEWS

Laxalt Criticizes Reagan Briefing for First Debate -- Sen. Laxalt said President Reagan fared poorly in his debate because he had been "brutalized by a briefing process" that overloaded him with statistics. (Washington Post, Washington Times)

Anti-Crime Reforms End Parole, Alter Bail Rules -- The Senate voted final passage of sweeping criminal-law reforms. (Washington Post, Washington Times)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S.-Nicaraguan Agreement Likely -- Secretary Shultz will sign a four-part agreement with Nicaragua intended to ease tensions between that country and its neighbors, according to a highly placed congressional source. (Washington Times)

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY (Thursday Evening)

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE -- The first concession by President Reagan that he indeed lost last Sunday's debate.

TRAIN TRIP -- President Reagan will be in the same special train car that carried Harry Truman, FDR and Eisenhower.

NATO -- A meeting of NATO defense ministers was told that the Soviet Union has increased substantially the number of its SS-20 nuclear missiles.

EL SALVADOR -- Duarte turned down a rebel demand that the talks be mediated by the President of Columbia.

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This Summary is prepared Monday through Friday by the White House News Summary Staff. For complete stories or information, please call ext. 2950

DEBATE NEWS

PRESIDENT'S POLICIES FOCUS OF HOT DEBATE

Bush and Ferraro Clash in Debate

PHILADELPHIA -- Vice President Bush and Geraldine Ferraro clashed in a high-stakes debate here in which Bush called President Reagan a force for peace and prosperity while Ferraro painted him as the architect of insensitive and dangerous politics. The sharp differences between the Italian immigrant's daughter and the reason of a patrician New England senator were most evident in their statements closing the debate. "It's the clearest choice in some 50 years," Bush said. "The choice is to move forward with strength and prosperity, or do we go back to weakness and despair?" Invoking "the values of fairness and equal opportunity," Ferraro vowed, in her closing statement, "This campaign is not over. For our country, for our future, for the principles we believe in. Walter Mondale and I have just begun to fight."

(Rick Atkinson and Dale Russakoff, Washington Post, A1)

Bush vs. Ferraro

Much as we like to spot outright winners and losers, this one seemed to us a "muller." It will be much mulled over by the public before a winner proclaimed.

(Editorial, Washington Post, A22)

Bush Claims Country is Recovering

Mr. Bush, saying Mr. Reagan has "turned the country around," pledged to continue his policies if he became president. But Ferraro said "things aren't as great as the Administration would like you to believe in their television commercials."

(Ron Cordray, Washington Times, A1)

Mrs. Ferraro Plays To Twin Constituency

If she set out to show that she isn't necessarily shrill, Ferraro succeeded. If she set out to reassure the nation that she has the right stuff to step into the presidency, George Bush blew her away. Ferraro played almost solely to her twin constituency, the feminists and the peace movement. She came close to swearing off covert CIA operations in all circumstances -- she would get an argument even from her running mate on that -- and in a testy exchange over who was at fault for the Soviet walkout of the arms talks she made much the same defense of the Soviet Union that the Soviets make themselves. Most of all, it was difficult to see how she could have reassured those who worry that she might not be tough enough to be president.

(News Analysis by Wesley Pruden, Washington Times, A1)

Bush-Ferraro Debate: How To Be Just Tough Enough

At the end, it was Ferraro who -- despite a strong closing statement -- who seemed out of her depth.

(AP, Washington Times)

Bush, Ferraro Spar on Taxes, Foreign Policy

Vice President Bush and Geraldine Ferraro flared at each other as they defended their running mates in an 85-minute debate that covered issues across the range of foreign and domestic policy. Both were tense -- the congresswoman clearly restraining her usual spontaneous speaking style and Mr. Bush taking on more forcefulness after a stiff start. He repeatedly tied his opposition to the "Carter-Mondale Administration" and "failed policies of the past." (Ernest Furgurson, Baltimore Sun, A1)

Bush Gets Style Edge Over Constrained Rival

An odd transformation came over the candidates in their debate. Vice President Bush tried to act like Walter Mondale did in Sunday's debate -- antiquated, smiling, humorous. He didn't quite carry off the role, but he seemed to come reasonably close, all the while saying things that President Reagan never got around to. In contrast, Geraldine Ferraro seemed almost as constrained as Mr. Reagan was in the debate. Rather than give her normally ebullient personality full reign, she clamped down tightly on it, speaking calmly and avoiding mistakes but coming off as slightly brittle.

(News Analysis by Fred Barnes, Baltimore Sun, A1)

George Bush and Geraldine Ferraro clashed sharply, with Ferraro chastising her opponent's "patronizing attitude," and Bush backing President Reagan's policies "every step of the way." Bush pressed President Reagan's case forcefully, particularly in asserting the President's leadership and the importance of the economic recovery to all Americans. Bush concentrated on shoring up Reagan, who lost ground to Mondale after they debated Sunday. On top of the issues, Ferraro said she would resign any public office if she found her Catholic religion prevented her from acting in the best interest of the nation; promised the Soviets would not "take advantage" of her if she became president, and said despite her former ideas about busing and tuition tax credits, she now supports Mondale's views.

(Clay Richards, UPI)

Ferraro said the Soviet Union wouldn't get away with any attempt to push her around because she is a woman, declaring, "I will be a leader." George Bush said the Democrats offer only "weakness, despair, disrespect." While she attacked Reagan and praised Mondale, Ferraro sought to portray herself as duly prepared to take on the responsibilities of the vice presidency, and the presidency if that should be necessary.

(Donald Rothberg, AP)

Both Candidates Did Well

The v.p. candidates did a better job stating the election merits of their respective tickets than the presidential candidates did on Sunday. Both Bush and Ferraro did themselves and their causes credit. Bush made none of the sexist flubs that men of his generation often do, even by accident. Ferraro showed a country that might have been wondering that she was able to swim quite well, thank you, in the deep water of big time politics. Bush was an avid booster of the Reagan Administration's record and, unlike the President, sketched a vision of the future in his closing statement. Ferraro spoke more dramatically about the plight of those left behind by the recovery and of the yearning for peace than Mondale and wound up with an even more stirring summation than his. Both seemed more comfortable than the presidential candidates. Neither dominated the stage and both avoided the mistake of becoming bogged down in deadening statistics.

(Arnold Sawislak, UPI)

Ferraro Declared Winner By Debate Experts

Ferraro won the debate, although the contest was very close, with Ferraro emerging as knowledgeable, strong and sincere, debate experts said. University debate coaches and philosophers said both Bush and Ferraro succeeded in communicating their parties' ideas. But they said Bush's style was, at times, somewhat out of control -- "like a used car salesman," said Mike Weiler, debate coach and professor of communications at the University of Pittsburgh. Debate experts said the turning point in the session came when Ferraro objected to Bush's "patronizing manner." "She turned it around without being nasty," agreed Melissa Wade of Emory University in Atlanta. "Both seemed to calm down after that. I thought it was a close match." They noted, however, that Ferraro's "all business" stance was almost too serious and Penny Swisher, director of forensics and debate at William Jewell College (Mo.), said although Ferraro showed she could lead the country, Bush won the debate. "He was witty, charming, very much to the point. Ferraro came across as we expected Mondale to come across last week," Swisher said. "She was unsure of herself, very dependent on her notes, lacking in self confidence." She was the only coach who declared Bush the winner. (Sydney Shaw, UPI)

AP Panel Calls Bush Narrow Winner

Vice President Bush, scoring points on foreign policy, won his debate with Ferraro by a 178-170 margin, an AP panel of debate experts said. Four of the judges called Bush an outright winner; two viewed the debate as a tie, and one gave Ferraro a one-point edge. The same panel had called Mondale a clear winner Sunday night. Several of the judges praised the quality of the encounter. "I thought this was a world class presidential debate, the very best one since the series began between Nixon and Kennedy," said James Copeland, president of the National Forensic League. "It seemed to me a rather distinct role reversal. It was George Bush who was forceful, committed, a more distinct personality. His enthusiastic defenses of Republican policies contrasted strikingly with Ferraro's sometimes bland approach," said Dr. James Unger, director of the National Forensics Institute. Professor Robert Rowland, director of debate at Baylor University, said of Bush: "This was the best job of a television debate I've seen of any candidate...."

(Christopher Connell, AP)

Gloves Come Off Quickly

Vice President Bush received a sharply worded etiquette lesson from his opponent during the history-making debate. The rivals smiled, shook hands and chatted briefly before the debate began -- but shed the gloves quickly. Bush, 60, seemed punch, his face reddening to match his tie as he spoke. He threw out a few of his trademark choppy phrases -- "Whine on, harvest moon," he said of Mondale. Bush's patented casual phrasing reached its height in his description of what Gromyko must have told his Soviet colleagues after meeting with Ronald Reagan. Bush said Gromyko likely said, "Hey, listen, this President is calling the shots. We better move." Ferraro -- warned by her advisers not to appear too shrill -- spoke more quietly, using fewer gestures, and wore a gray-and-white jacket that contrasted with the bright colors she often sports. But Ferraro snapped out quick answers when she thought sexism was in the air. When Bush told her, "Let me tell you the difference between Iran and Lebanon," she reported: "I almost resent, Mr. Bush, your patronizing attitude that you have to teach me about foreign policy." (UPI)

Both Sides Claim Win In Veep Debate

Democrats said Ferraro was not subdued, but "calm and presidential" and the head Republican said he had never seen Vice President Bush any better as both sides predictably claimed victory. Sen. Laxalt described Bush's performance: "Superb. Ten-plus. I've never seen him better." Gov. Cuomo said he saw nothing "subdued" in the low-keyed answers Ferraro gave to many questions. "Her case and Walter Mondale's case is an intellectual one...not histrionic," Cuomo said. (Mike Robinson, AP)

Republicans praised Vice President Bush for a "superb" performance while Democrats, some elated, others lukewarm, said Ferraro held her own against a seasoned opponent. Speaker O'Neill said Ferraro won the contest and "stood toe-to-toe with the incumbent in her first debate in a national campaign." But Sen. Bumpers said Bush handled himself "more aggressively" and was "perhaps slightly better informed on foreign policy." (Mike Robinson, AP)

Bush Reaction

A jubilant Vice President Bush, likening his debate to a prize fight, said "I never felt so great in my life." Bush took a one-minute phone call from President Reagan immediately after the debate and told his press secretary, "The President said he thought the debate went very well." Aides immediately claimed victory for Bush. (Ira Allen, UPI)

Vice President Bush, bouyant after his debate, says he put the brakes on the Democrats' momentum and predicted President Reagan "is going to blow Fritz Mondale away" in their faceoff on foreign policy in 10 days. Pointing with his finger and gesturing with his arms, Bush was more animated and aggressive throughout the debate than he has been at most campaign stops. (Terrence Hunt, AP)

Ferraro Claims Victory Against Bush

Ferraro says she and Mondale are on a winning streak in debates, proclaiming "Two out of two ain't bad." The candidate quickly claimed victory, although many in her own campaign said the outcome was a draw. (Evans Witt, AP)

Mondale Reaction

MIAMI BEACH -- Walter Mondale said Ferraro "kept her dignity" and "had the facts" in the debate and demonstrated the difference between "a cheerleader and a leader." Mondale aides disputed a statement by Bush that he couldn't find a copy of Mondale's 1981 income tax returns in the public record. He also released a rundown of Mondale's tax payments during the last three years, showing that considering state, local and federal taxes, he and his wife paid 50% of their adjusted gross income in 1981 in taxes, 49% in 1982 and 43% in 1983. (Matthew Quinn, UPI)

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NATIONAL NEWS

LAXALT CRITICIZES REAGAN BRIEFING FOR FIRST DEBATE

Sen. Laxalt said President Reagan fared poorly in his debate because he had been "brutalized by a briefing process" that overloaded him with statistics. Reagan, without conceding he lost the debate, was more subdued about what happened, saying he had done "a lot of homework myself, probably too much of it, without sitting back and relaxing." Laxalt's sharp-tongued criticism brought into the open private soul-searching in the Reagan campaign since the debate.

(Lou Cannon, Washington Post, A1)

Laxalt: 'Over-briefing' Won't Be Repeated

President Reagan lost the debate with Mondale because he had been "brutalized" by the briefing process, but a new Reagan will appear at the next meeting, Sen. Laxalt said. Sen. Laxalt and six other senators supporting the President called a news conference to criticize campaign comments by Mondale, but the conference quickly turned into a defense of Mr. Reagan's age, an issue that emerged from the debate.

(Don McLeod, Washington Times, A2)

AS UNDERDOG, REAGAN SEEN MORE COMFORTABLE IN REMATCH

President Reagan's senior advisers professed to be feeling pretty good about Mr. Reagan's return match with Mondale because he no longer is burdened with the great expectations existing before the first debate. Mr. Reagan himself was clearly in a lighthearted mood in the face of the nearly universal judgment that he had lost to Mondale. When reporters asked what went wrong in the Louisville encounter, Mr. Reagan grinned. "Well, it doesn't seem to me as if an awful lot went wrong," Mr. Reagan said. "I think the incumbent, unless he drops a bomb on the other fellow, is going to be automatically tagged as not having done well because he didn't destroy somebody." (Jeremiah O'Leary, Washington Times, A2)

MONDALE AIMS PITCH AT PARTY'S UNFAITHFUL

COLUMBUS -- Walter Mondale intensified his call for wayward Democrats to come home, saying of President Reagan's planned whistle-stop tour aboard Harry Truman's old railway car in Ohio Friday, "he may be on the right car, but he's on the wrong track." The Democratic nominee decried what he termed Republican "grave-robbing" that he said was most recently symbolized by a White House ceremony honoring Eleanor Roosevelt.

(Milton Coleman, Washington Post, A20)

Rail Car Campaign Won't Fool Democrats: Mondale

COLUMBUS -- Walter Mondale, to crowd chants of "it just ain't so," said President Reagan "won't fool Democrats by riding in Harry Truman's railroad car." In a new rhetorical litany, Mondale said to Mr. Reagan, "you may think th huge national debt doesn't raise interest rates, but it just ain't so....You may think the Soviets don't depend mainly on land-based missiles, but it just ain't so...you may think the economy can just grow its way out of our huge national debt without doing anything, but it just ain't so. You may think that you didn't try to cut Social Security or Medicare, but it just ain't so...."

(Alan McConagha, Washington Times, A3)

CITY PROSECUTORS INVESTIGATE A LOAN TO ZACCARO ASSOCIATE

NEW YORK -- A \$550,000 credit union loan to an associate of John Zaccaro is under investigation by city prosecutors, but a spokesman for Ferraro says "any reports" of legal action against her husband are "totally inaccurate." A federal official said the credit union of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey made the loan a year ago to a Zaccaro business associate, although DeLorenzo was not a credit union member as required. (Washington Post, A20)

AIDE TO BUSH CALLS FERRARO 'TOO BITCHY'

Vice President Bush's spokesman, Peter Teeley, acknowledged using the word "bitchy" in reference to Geraldine Ferraro, but said he meant only that she should avoid being "screechy or scratchy" in the debate. He denied the word had sexist implications, calling it synonymous with "crabby." (Washington Post, A15)

ECONOMISTS DON'T SEE THREATS TO ECONOMY PORTENDING DEPRESSION

Despite recent history and current worries over how long the current expansion can last, the public should have -- if anything -- more confidence than before that an economic crackup like that in the 1930s won't happen again. That, at least is the judgment of 10 eminent analysts interviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The group, which includes three Nobel laureates and two former Federal Reserve chairmen, and which seems reasonably balanced politically, has been polled from time to time by this paper since the late 1970s. Since then, those experts have always unanimously discounted the likelihood of an economic collapse and they persist in this view.

(Lindley Clark and Alfred Malabre, Wall Street Journal, A1)

PENTAGON TO ADD REPORTER FROM DAILY PAPER TO POOL

The Defense Department gave in to pressures for the media and agreed to add a daily newspaper correspondent to its proposed "pool" of 11 journalists who would accompany U.S. military forces on future "contingency operations" similar to last October's invasion of Grenada. At the same time, it was learned that the Pentagon has proposed ground rules that would expose the pool to an extraordinary degree of battlefield censorship. As currently drafted, the plan confers on the military commander broad censorship powers. Correspondents are prohibited from transmitting any military information "unless officially released by U.S. or Friendly Forces commanders or their representatives."

(Richard Harwood, Washington Post, A1)

POTENTIAL CUTS CITED IN MILITARY PARTS BILL

The Pentagon could save \$8B a year if it bought more military spare parts from small businesses instead of from major contractors, a spokesman for a small-business group, Bruce Hahn of the National Tooling and Machining Association, testified before a congressional subcommittee. But a Defense Department official, John Kendig, disputed that figure and also told a congressional panel that a Pentagon "whistle blower," had overstated potential budget savings. (Washington Post, A3)

CONGRESS FINISHING SESSION

The 98th Congress trudged wearily toward belated adjournment after giving final approval to a \$370B, long-overdue spending bill for much of the government that was stripped down to prevent a veto from President Reagan. (Helen Dewar and Margaret Shapiro, Washington Post, A1)

EXCESS U.S. HOUSING SAID MISMANAGED

The Reagan Administration's drive to sell off surplus federal housing, already the subject of a grand-jury probe in Camden, N.J., has been plagued by mismanagement across the country, according to federal auditors. HUD has short-changed the taxpayers and repeatedly violated federal regulations in its rush to sell groups of surplus properties in Las Vegas, New York and Memphis, the auditors found. The program was run so poorly in Camden that HUD gave mortgages to many welfare recipients who, it is alleged, falsified their applications, including a mortgage issued in the name of a 4-year-old girl. (Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A5)

PRESIDENT SALUTES FUND FOR BLACK SCHOLARS

President Reagan saluted the United Negro College Fund on its 40th anniversary, likening its goal of expanding educational opportunities to his own campaign vision of "a genuine opportunity society." Reagan promised to "keep supporting, at every level of government, a broad range of programs to reach out to disadvantaged sectors of the community." (Washington Post, A10)

President Hails Black Education

President Reagan quoted the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and spoke of other noted blacks in an address to the United Negro College Fund's 40th anniversary dinner in Washington. Mr. Reagan told the Fund that his Administration joined them in supporting black colleges and universities, calling attention to an executive order he signed in 1981 committing the federal government to increase its financial support to the institutions. (John McCaslin, Washington Times, A2)

CONFLICTS IN HIGHWAY BILL BLOCK CASH FLOW TO STATES

More than \$7B in accumulated federal highway money cannot be spent by the states because House-Senate conferees were unable to resolve vast differences on highway and transit legislation laden with special projects. "If the states don't get the money, interstate work does not proceed," said Francis B. Francois, executive director of the American Association of State highway and Transportation Officials.

(Douglas Feaver, Washington Post, A3)

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NADER SAYS PRESIDENT EYES BLACK LUNG CUTS

Ralph Nader accused the Reagan Administration of concealing a report that outlines a new assault on black-lung benefits, calling it a "secret plan" to resume a battle that the Administration launched three years ago and abandoned after more than 5,000 coal miners marched on the White House. The Labor Department quickly denied it had any plans to cut benefits.

(Cass Peterson, Washington Post, A21)

Administration Denies 'Secret Plan' To Slash Black Lung Payments

The Reagan Administration doesn't contemplate cuts in black lung benefits, despite an internal study that suggests the program be tightened, says Undersecretary of Labor Ford.

(Merrill Hartson, AP)

CONGRESS APPROVES MAJOR OVERHAUL OF NATION'S ANTICRIME STATUTES

The package tries to tackle some problems that have plagued the criminal justice system for more than a decade: crimes by persons on parole or free on bail, unpredictable sentencing by judges, and offenses by hardened "career" criminals. The package also takes on some new problems: the increase in terrorism, credit card fraud, narcotics trafficking and high-tech computer crimes. Attorney General Smith called the legislation "the most far-reaching and substantial reform of the criminal justice system in our history." He added, "It profoundly readjusts the balance between the forces of law and the forces of lawlessness."

(Keith Richburg, Washington Post, A21)

Anti-Crime Reforms End Parole, Alter Bail Rules

The Senate voted final passage of sweeping criminal-law reforms that abolish parole, establish uniform sentencing, deny bail to dangerous suspects, limit the insanity defense and provide weapons against drug smugglers. The ACLU criticized several provisions, particularly the authority to deny bail to dangerous suspects.

(Ed Rogers, Washington Times, A3)

HOW REAGAN STAFF MANAGES NEWS

Even partial failures are rare for Ronald Reagan's "spin controllers." They are widely acknowledged as the most successful at doing what every modern presidency has dreamed of -- manipulating reporters, and thus the news. "Their approach isn't that different from ours," says Jody Powell, "they just get away with more." No previous White House staff has had such a keen understanding of television, whose hunger for presidential pictures sometimes clouds journalistic judgment and gives the President's handlers powerful leverage over what is aired. Missing from the menu, however is any meaningful access to the President himself.

(Jane Mayer, Wall Street Journal, A64)

EDITOR'S NOTE: "To the Defense: First Lady Calls Age Issue 'Silly,'" appears on page C1 of The Washington Post (Style).

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S.-NICARAGUA AGREEMENT LIKELY

Secretary Shultz will sign a four-part agreement with Nicaragua intended to ease tensions between that country and its neighbors, according to a highly placed congressional source. The agreement would call for Nicaragua to stop exporting arms to leftist guerrillas in El Salvador, and would call for Nicaragua to establish a democratic government by 1986. The source said that their office understands that under the agreement the U.S. would stop providing assistance to the anti-Nicaraguan guerrillas and reduce the level of U.S. military training exercises in Honduras. (Washington Times, A1)

SENATE PROBE FINDS NO CIA-'DEATH SQUAD' TIE

A Senate staff investigation has produced no evidence to support allegations that elements of the U.S. government have supported or acquiesce in right-wing "death squad" activity in El Salvador. In a 36-page report resulting from the investigation, staff members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence conclude that in the course of carrying out legitimate U.S. government missions, some Americans have "unavoidably" had contact with Salvadoreans strongly suspected of being involved with death squads.

(Daniel Southerland, Christian Science Monitor, A1)

REAGAN BOMBING JOKE IS SAID TO CAUSE PARTIAL
SOVIET ALERT

Defense Department officials have told Rep. Barnes (D.-Md.) that an unauthorized Soviet army official ordered a partial military alert in August, two days after President Reagan's joke about bombing the Soviet Union, but that the order was quickly countermanded, according to an aide to Barnes. (Howard Kurtz, Washington Post, A10)

WEINBERGER ALLEGES SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET MISSILE INCREASE

STRESA, Italy -- Secretary Weinberger says the Soviet Union has deployed many more SS-20 nuclear missiles, although NATO's official tally remains at 378. But he declined to give a precise figure, saying the data was still being studied by intelligence analysts. West German Defense Minister Manfred Woerner suggested the discrepancy was due to suspicions that the Soviet Union might be deploying ICBMs at its SS-20 bases.

(Charles Aldinger, Reuter)

EDITOR'S NOTE: A full page ad by the International Progress Organization criticizing Reagan Administration foreign policy appears on page A11 of The Washington Post.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

ANTI-REAGAN PROTESTORS DROP REQUEST FOR INJUNCTION

CINCINNATI (UPI) -- Eleven people whose signs were seized at an appearance by President Reagan in Cincinnati have dropped their request for an injunction because federal officials have promised that such incidents will not occur again. The plaintiffs still are pressing the U.S. District court suit for \$20,000 each in damages, however. Robert Newman, the attorney for the plaintiffs, said the request for the injunction was dropped because he expects to receive a letter from Justice Department attorney John Seibert assuring him that no one will be denied access to future rallies and that signs will not be seized.

At least one of the plaintiffs in the case, Kay Bishop, plans to test the promise at the president's appearance in Dayton Friday.

"The Reagan people, they took our signs. They took our First Amendment rights away from us," said Bishop. "This time, they won't get it."

OHIO R-B CAMPAIGN TV ADS

OHIO (UPI) The Reagan-Bush re-election committee has fired another salvo in Ohio's campaign wars, and it's using Gary Hart's attacks on Walter Mondale during the May primary as ammunition. The 30-second spots show former Democratic presidential candidate Hart criticizing Mondale and former President Jimmy Carter for high inflation during their administration, and blaming them for the state's high unemployment.

TREASURY SECRETARY DEFENDS REAGAN

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) -- President Reagan's chief economic spokesman defended Reagan by telling reporters the nation's record deficits are not the cause of high interest rates, and reiterated the president's vow not to cut future social security benefits. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, in Des Moines on behalf of the Reagan-Bush campaign, told reporters Wednesday the federal reserve board's monetary policy is the chief cause of high interest rates. He also denied Reagan changed his position by stating Tuesday that there would be no cuts in social security benefits for any present or future retirees and said the president does not intend to ask for new taxes to finance social security. Democrats have charged Reagan left the door open during Sunday's debate to future cuts in social security programs. "He has never changed his mind on social security," Regan said. "There will be no new tax increases in social security, no cuts in what people get." However, he said there will be some cuts in medicare, which is part of the social security system.

ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERING PLANS TO REMOVE WASTES

ST. LOUIS (UPI) -- The Reagan administration reportedly is considering plans to remove radioactive wastes from a former uranium processing plant and a limestone quarry at Weldon Spring. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said today the cleanup would be conducted by the Army and the Energy Department. State officials and consumer activists have lobbied the administration for two years to begin the cleanup. Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale has tentative plans to visit Weldon Spring on Monday. President Reagan is expected to be in St. Louis either Tuesday or Wednesday.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

MONDALE CAMPAIGN REIMBURSES RESORT OWNER

(UPI) -- The campaign staff of Walter Mondale has sent a check for \$13,500 to a northern Minnesota resort owner who said he lost business when the Democratic presidential candidate switched sites for his vacation. Mondale's staff has maintained that its reservation at Pehrson's Lodge on Lake Vermilion was never confirmed, but Dave Erickson insisted it was. Erickson is part owner of the lodge. Don Foley, a spokesman for Mondale's staff, said the Mondale campaign isn't admitting anything but decided to send the money and considers the matter closed. He said the resort went to some expense over the misunderstanding, and the money is a recognition of the inconvenience that was caused. The Mondale campaign said Wednesday the money was sent to Erickson.

DEMOCRAT STATE CHAIRMAN SAYS REAGAN'S AGE IS VALID ISSUE

URBANA, Ill. (UPI) -- President Reagan's shaky debate performance has made age a valid issue and completely changed the complexion of the presidential race in Illinois, state Democratic Party Chairman Calvin Sutker says. Sutker, who attended the debate Sunday in Louisville, said he is reluctant to question the president's competence because of his age. But he said it would be unfair to the presidency and Reagan himself not to question it. He said the presidential race between Reagan and Democrat Walter Mondale is now neck-and-neck in Illinois. Recent polls taken before the debate showed Reagan with a large lead.

In other campaign news, a poll taken right before the debate by WCIA-TV, Champaign, and WMBD-TV, Peoria, showed Reagan holding a 19 percentage point lead over Mondale.

SIMON ASKS PERCY TO WITHDRAW ADS

CHICAGO (UPI) -- Rep. Paul Simon has called on Sen. Charles Percy to withdraw a television ad that Simon says misrepresents Simon's proposal to balance the federal budget. Simon's salvo Wednesday was the latest round in the tightening campaign for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Percy, a Republican. Simon, a Democrat, said Percy's commercial incorrectly claims that Simon's plan would raise taxes by \$200 billion, ignoring the fact that the plan calls for a tax cut.

SIERRA CLUB ATTACKS SECRETARY CLARK

LOS ANGELES (UPI) -- Interior Secretary William Clark has glossed over President Reagan's environmental record and has done little to change the administration's destructive policies, the Sierra Club has charged. "The American public should not be misled by Clark's superficial attempt to put a slick new face on President Reagan's environmental record," Bob Hattoy, director for the club's Southern California region, told reporters Wednesday. "Secretary Clark has managed to blur President Reagan's image as an environmental enemy by distorting reality with PR and without making any change in policy," Hattoy said.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

FIRST LADY TALKS ABOUT DRUG ABUSE

ATLANTA (UPI) -- First lady Nancy Reagan suffered a "Big Mac attack" Wednesday that took her to a McDonald's restaurant where she helped launch a corporate campaign against drug abuse. Mrs. Reagan, 61, claimed her appearance had nothing to do with President Reagan's bid for re-election, but the trip was paid for by the Reagan-Bush Re-election Committee. Earlier in the day she had lunch at an elementary school in South Carolina and visited a drug treatment facility in Tennessee. Sheila Tate, the first lady's press secretary, said the trip was paid for by the re-election campaign "because it's so hard to separate political and official events in the campaign climate, but really this is the same thing she's been doing for four years."

(UPI) -- Nancy Reagan, defending her husband against campaign charges of being too old to serve another four years as president, said today President Reagan is healthy and capable. Mrs. Reagan, 61, participated in a question-and-answer session with a panel of five students at Northside High School. None of the students asked about the president's age but at the end of the forum, the first lady was questioned briefly by reporters.

FIRST LADY SAYS SHE IN TOWN FOR DRUGS, NOT POLITICS

ATLANTA (UPI) -- Nancy Reagan says a whirlwind tour of the South three weeks before voters go to the polls to decide whether her husband will serve another term in office is not political because "I'm just here for the drugs." Mrs. Reagan, who has been conducting a nationwide anti-drug abuse campaign, was in Atlanta today to participate in a high school forum. The Reagan-Bush Re-election Committee paid for her trip Wednesday to South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, but she insisted it was not political. "I didn't intend for it to take on a political tone," she said at ceremonies launching a McDonald's Corp. campaign against drug abuse. "I'm just here for the drugs." When her audience laughed, she said, "Oh, you know what I mean."

KENNEDY TALKS WITH HISPANICS

HOUSTON (UPI) -- Ronald Reagan has led the most anti-Hispanic administration in recent history, and Hispanic Americans have been left out of his economic recovery, Sen. Edward Kennedy said today. Kennedy, in the second day of a three-day Democratic campaign swing through Texas, told an enthusiastic crowd of about 100 that they could not afford another four years of Reagan as president. He touted the Mondale-Ferraro ticket as protectors of minority rights.

MRS. MONDALE SAYS ELEANOR WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED TICKET

SPOKANE, Wash. (UPI) -- Joan Mondale told an enthusiastic Democratic breakfast rally today if Eleanor Roosevelt were alive, she would be supporting the Mondale-Ferraro ticket. "If Eleanor Roosevelt were alive today, she'd be fighting the icy indifference and huge budget cuts that have marked the present administration's education policy," she said.

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PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

CBS's Dan Rather: While George Bush and Geraldine Ferraro are feeling the pressure for tonight's vice presidential candidates' forum in Philadelphia, the first concession by President Reagan today that he indeed lost his own Sunday showdown with Walter Mondale. But in saying so, Mr. Reagan disagreed with his own campaign chairman as to why he lost.

CBS's Leslie Stahl: (Sen. Laxalt: "Yes, he had an off night. But even champions have off nights.") The Reagan campaign chairman blamed the off night on the White House staff, saying its intolerable briefing process would have been unfair for a 21-year-old. (Laxalt: "He was brutalized by a process -- a briefing process that didn't make sense. The man was absolutely smothered by extraneous material. And this time we're going to let Ronald Reagan be Ronald Reagan.") During a lunch with the Vice President, Mr. Reagan acknowledged he may have done too much homework. But he doesn't blame the White House staff. An incumbent doesn't do well, he said, unless he destroys the other fellow. (President: "I look back now at the times -- the debates when I wasn't the incumbent. I never realized how easy it was to be on the other side.") In Ohio, an energized Walter Mondale told an enthusiastic crowd that the first debate stripped away the illusion that Ronald Reagan is governing. (Mondale: "Mr. President, you may think you're going to win this election, but it just ain't so.") Despite the bickering in the Reagan camp, aides say the President will win the election. And what advice is Mr. Reagan giving the Vice President for his debate tonight? Said an aide, smiling, win one for the Gipper. (CBS-Lead)

NBC's Tom Brokaw: Before coming to Philadelphia for tonight's debate, George Bush stopped by for a chat with President Reagan at the White House. Both had debates on their minds. Analysts generally agree that Mr. Reagan lost his first debate with Walter Mondale; however, for some people it matters not if you win or lose, but how you place the blame.

NBC's Chris Wallace: Republicans today started arguing over who's to blame for the President's poor debate performance. At a news conference called to attack Walter Mondale, Paul Laxalt suddenly attacked the White House officials who prepared Mr. Reagan. (Laxalt: "It was totally unfair for the campaign to impose upon him a process that would be intolerable, I'll be frank to tell you, for a 21-year-old.") Laxalt complained that officials loaded Reagan with briefing material, piled on to his normal workload. (Laxalt: "We got a full-time working President, and it's unfair to him as a human being to subject him to a process that brutalized him.") He said Reagan will prepare differently for the next debate and be more aggressive. This was the first public split between the White House which handled the debate and the Reagan campaign. Angry White House officials accused Laxalt of "backstabbing, foaming at the mouth." The President, meeting today with George Bush before his debate, said if

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Wallace (continued): anyone's to blame, he is, for studying too much and not just relaxing. (Reporter: "Can you think of any way that your briefers are to blame for your performance on Sunday?" President: "No.") Reagan also said the incumbent is so busy defending his record in debates he has to drop a bomb on his opponent to win. The President hopes to put the debate behind him when he whistlestops through Ohio tomorrow, recreating the 1948 Truman campaign. Today, House Speaker O'Neill released a speech Reagan gave in 1948 for Truman, attacking the Republicans. (TV coverage: Still photo of President at microphone circa 1948: "Tax reduction bills have been passed to benefit the higher income brackets alone. This was the payoff of the Republicans' promises.") O'Neill said Reagan sounded like Mondale then, but sounds like Tom Dewey now. Reagan denies he'll prepare differently for the next debate, but sources say there will be changes. He'll spend less time in long rehearsals, more time organizing his answers. But I'd say the biggest change would be if the President no longer feels he must show he knows all those facts and figures. (NBC-2)

ABC's Peter Jennings: Well, as you can imagine, over at the White House tonight they will be watching this debate very closely. The Reagan camp has still not finished assessing and reassessing last Sunday's debate. Today, some of the recriminations about how well or badly the President was prepared broke out into the open.

ABC's Sam Donaldson: Sen. Paul Laxalt today publicly and heatedly blamed the team that prepared the President for Mr. Reagan's poor performance last Sunday night. (Laxalt: "The plain fact of the matter is, as I analyze it, he was brutalized by a process -- a briefing process that didn't make sense. We had six dress rehearsals last time -- 90 minutes of intensity -- plus loading him with computer statistics, briefing books. That man was absolutely smothered by extraneous material. And this time we are going to let Ronald Reagan be Ronald Reagan.") Laxalt acknowledged that he was part of the briefing team but his finger-pointing seemed to be aimed at Mr. Reagan's White House aides: Michael Deaver, Richard Darman and above all, James Baker. (TV coverage of White House aides.) The President himself continued publicly to blame no one. (Reporter's question, then President: "No....No, and the incumbent is, unless he drops a bomb on the other fellow, is going to be automatically tagged, having done that. I look back now at the time in days when I wasn't the incumbent. I never realized how easy it was to be on the other side.") If the strategy last Sunday was the wrong one, it was a strategy the President himself had clearly embraced, but it won't be repeated next time. As Sen. Laxalt said, instead of trying to cram a lot of facts and figures into the President's head, they will simply let Reagan be Reagan. (ABC-3)

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Rather: Tonight in Philadelphia, round two, the vice presidential face-off. And number two on the ticket, at least for now, becomes number one in the political spotlight. Arriving in the city of

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Rather (continued): brotherly love was Vice President Bush this afternoon and Rep. Geraldine Ferraro. After Sunday's stunner in Louisville, can the Democrats throw a one-two punch? Last week, we issued invitations to George Bush and to Geraldine Ferraro to talk with us. Vice President Bush declined. Ms. Ferraro agreed to discuss the office that is heartbeat away from the Oval Office, but one that has been ridiculed as powerless and invisible. (Cut to videotape) You've heard the jokes. Everything from -- there were two brothers. One was lost at sea, the other became vice president. Neither was heard from again, since. You must have thought about this. Even if elected, what are the chances that we just never hear from you again?

Geraldine Ferraro: The chances are very remote that you wouldn't hear from me because of what Fritz Mondale did as vice president to Jimmy Carter. He redefined the office of vice president, and I think even George Bush has said that.

George Bush (speech on tape): My office in the West Wing of the White House is where Vice President Mondale's was, just a few steps from the Oval Office. Presence in the White House, that is what the Carter-Mondale arrangement assured, and the presence assured that the Vice President would be educated not only by the President but by others who wish to influence the President.

Rather: Mondale did elevate the prestige of the vice presidency in the Carter administration, by all accounts. He did it not by expanding the power of the office -- the Constitution gives it little. He did it by becoming Jimmy Carter's friend and trusted adviser. (Cut to interview tape) Do you have any assurances from Mr. Mondale that you will have a similar kind of relationship?

Ferraro: Yes, as a matter of fact, we had a big, long discussion about what precisely the vice president would do. And Fritz Mondale described it in a way that he had experienced the office of vice president when he was in the White House. Quite frankly, you know, as a member of Congress, you don't want to give up what power you have, you know, to attend funerals.

Rather: (TV Coverage: Andropov funeral) But ask George Bush about the funerals. Though Mr. Bush is said to be a confidant of President Reagan, he could write a guide to funerals of the world.

Bush: I do go to my share of funerals, I'll admit that. (Laughter) At the Italian-American dinner, Geraldine Ferraro said to me, "George, on the Q-T, in case Fritz and I win, just what does the VP do?" I said, "Let me put it this way, Geraldine. Buy yourself a black hat with a veil."

Rather: In Philadelphia tonight, the stage is set -- or being set -- for the event Vice President Bush has played down, trying to focus attention to the top of the ticket.

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Bush (In old interview): I'm afraid we're not talking about a real debate. We're talking about a kind of a glorified Sunday news show.

Rather: Did you ever think you'd be debating for the vice presidency of the United States. Did you ever in your wildest imagination think that would happen?

Ferraro: Uh-uh. No, when I was little, you know, we didn't grow up believing we're going to be -- we didn't even grow up believing that we could be doctors. We were always told we could nurses.

Rather: You said you had a good time on the campaign.

Ferraro: I say I'm having a good time. I mean, it's a long working day. It's 15-, 16-hour working day. I'm getting to know America in a way that very few people get to do so, and that's what I'm enjoying.

Rather: Mr. Bush's press secretary today said that Ms Ferraro is -- quote -- arrogant and bitchy and that those traits could hurt her in the debate tonight. Whatever the outcome, it promises to provide more drama in a week that has already seen this campaign taking some unexpected turns.... (CBS-2)

Brokaw: All this talk about the President's age and performance has only heightened interest in tonight's one-on-one between Vice President Bush and Geraldine Ferraro. The Bush campaign managed to stir interest even more with a crack about Ferraro.

NBC's Roger Mudd: On paper, tonight's debate should be no contest -- between a sitting Vice President and a junior member of the House. But once again the Republicans have handed the Democrats a club. Peter Teeley has told the Wall Street Journal he thinks Geraldine Ferraro is "too bitchy, she's very arrogant," said Teeley. "Humility isn't on of her strong points and I think that comes through." The Democrats immediately leapt into action. (Ferraro spokesman: "They're in very poor taste and insult every woman in this country. I think Mr. Bush ought to apologize for the very poor taste and poor judgment of his campaign.") The Vice President had no comment, but undoubtedly will be asked about it tonight. George Bush, now in the middle of his second Presidential campaign, is no stranger to televised debates. He did well against Reagan in 1980. (Bush: "Your plan, in my judgment, and the judgment of many economists, would risk exacerbating that deficit. I don't believe we can take that kind of risk, governor...and I would not propose it.") Bush, in public life for almost 20 years, campaigns as "Mr. Experience." (Bush, in various film clips: "I was ambassador to the United Nations...." "From my experience in foreign affairs...." "As a member of the Ways and Means Committee and a member of the Congress....") But many remember how ineffectual he seemed compared to Reagan's outburst during the famous "I'm paying for this microphone" debate in New Hampshire. Bush, who uses more hand

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Mudd (continued): signals and finger English than an Italian policeman, has never fashioned himself as a political hatchetman or slasher, but he cannot allow Ferraro to push him around. So he's using Lynn Martin, a tough, savvy Republican congresswoman from Illinois, as a Ferraro stand-in for debate practice. The real Geraldine Ferraro is probably the least experienced national candidate since Sherman ran with Taft in 1908. She has never been in a nationally-televised debate before. So with her Bush stand-in, Washington lawyer Bob Barnett, she's been running mock debates. Her past contributions on the House floor have generally been prepared one-minute speeches. Her work running the Democratic Party platform committee was more procedural than substantial. Her staff constantly tries, but without much success, to slow down the slurred accents of her native New York. But her political style is her great strength -- free-wheeling, sharp-edged and highly combative. During her one sustained exposure to live and hostile questioning -- the two-hour press conference on her finances -- Ferraro never lost her composure. So most of the pressure will be on George Bush tonight, to help regain the momentum lost during Sunday's presidential debates, to perform well for the sake of his own political future, and to repare any damage done by this latest round of name-calling. (NBC-3)

ABC's Carole Simpson: (TV coverage of President/Vice President at lunch.) Vice President Bush had lunch with President Reagan today before leaving for the debate. Mr. Reagan was asked if he was worried. (Vice President: "If he's not, I am.") But the Vice President hasn't always been worried. (Vice President at rally: "Geraldine Ferraro, eat your heart out.") This is George Bush in Texas last week, riding high on polls showing the Reagan- Bush ticket almost unbeatable. But last Sunday night, Bush watched the Presidential Debate and what was generally perceived as President Reagan's lackluster performance. The next day, as Bush marched in New York's Columbus Day parade, it was clear the Democrats had been given a shot in the arm and there was new pressure on Bush to win his debate with Ferraro. Publicly however, Bush tried to minimize its importance. (Vice President: "No I don't think it will change many votes. I hope it will because I hope I'll do alright.") But Bush has got to do more than just alright if the Republicans want to prevent the Democrats from gaining anymore momentum....The Bush strategy is to emphasize his credentials over Ferraro, especially in the area of foreign affairs. (Vice Presidential: "I'd rather have people say, hey, if something happens, we put our trust in this man as opposed to her.) Although Bush prefers to ignore the fact that his opponent is the first women in history to run for high office for a major party, it projects a serious challenge to him. If he's too polite to her, there is a danger people may say he's weak and if he's too tough, people may say he's a bully. (Vice President: "Well, I don't know. I don't want my mother writing back in telling me I was rude.") Bush's press secretary, Peter Teeley, wasn't worried about appearing rude. He confirmed published reports today that he called Ferraro "too bitchy" and "arrogant." (TV coverage: Still picture of Teeley with words beneath.) He added "humility is not one of her strong points." When Bush came to town this afternoon, he went for a relaxing jog, perhaps hoping to distance himself from any such distractions.

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ABC's Lynn Sherr: As she left Queens this afternoon in obvious good spirits, Ferraro let her campaign manager comment on the comment. (Ferraro spokesman: "It was in very poor taste and insults every woman in this country. I think Mr. Bush ought to apologize for the very poor taste and poor judgment of his campaign.") Then it was off to the big event. From the moment she was announced as Mondale's running mate, Ferraro has relished the idea of a head-to-head confrontation with her more experienced opponent. Listen to the first question she answered as a candidate. (Ferraro: "I should think that we would have a debate or two during the course of this campaign and we'll let the people of America see whether or not I'm able to keep up with George Bush.") By the time the debate was agreed to, Ferraro took advantage of an Italian-American audience to needle her adversary. (Ferraro, speaking in Italian: "George, are you ready to debate?") And then there was that jab at his preppy manner when she joked that she had gotten hold of Bush's briefing book. (Ferraro: "The attack lines are -- gosh, gee-whiz, zippity-do-da and....") But as the candidates prepare for the debate this week, she and her staff admitted Bush was a formidable opponent. An army of advisers drilled her on the issues at a Manhattan TV studio, but they insist she already knows the material. And that just as she has been doing on the campaign, the real target will be Ronald Reagan and his policies. And they say, Ferraro will try to draw sharp contrasts between the two party's positions on the future, exactly, they believe as Mondale did in his debate.... Advisers also say the real test facing Ferraro is proving she is qualified to be president. (ABC-lead)

Jennings in Q & A with Simpson and Sherr: What does George Bush think, this is not a prediction by any means, what does he think of the consequences of losing this debate?

Simpson: Well, the consequences -- I think George Bush goes into the debate with the heavier burden of the two people. He has the fine line to walk of knowing how to treat a lady....And so he's really got to very careful not to attack her too much, for fear of being accused of beating up on her, and yet he can't be too polite to her for fear of being called patronizing. The other burden he has is that he needs to win this. With President Reagan generally being perceived as having lost the debate on Sunday, they can't afford two losses in a row. So he's really has got to win this.

Jennings: What is Ms. Ferraro most worried about?

Sherr: I think she and her staff are most worried that she make a favorable impression on the American public. This is, after all, the first time that she has done anything like this. I was told today they are extremely pleased with the way she did. You know they've had their rehearsals in a TV studio. And they believe that it was terribly important, as opposed to a living room or hotel suite, because you had to stand at a podium and there was a blue curtain behind and there were cameras rolling. So she's gotten use to it,

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Sherr (continued): never having done it before. This will also be here very first sustained appearance before the American people, obviously as opposed to the acceptance speech in San Francisco. They want the public to walk away liking and respecting Ferraro and believing she is qualified to serve as president. That's the goal they have got in mind for themselves. (ABC-2)

Brokaw: For a time this week, Vice President Bush was pushed out of the headlines by his wife Barbara. She made a comment about Geraldine Ferraro that she later had to apologize for. Still it is not her style to seek a limelight and it is not really her husband's style during campaigns as well.

NBC's John Severson: George Bush has based his career and his campaign on not upstaging his boss. (Vice President: "The thing that's going to determine the election is the top of the ticket -- absolutely, positively convinced of that.") His wife has based her marriage on never upstaging her husband. She's almost always there, looking up as though she's never heard the speech before. (Mrs. Bush: "I think George Bush and I are good friends, as close as any two people I know.") This has not been a typical week for Barbara and George. She certainly didn't want to, but she stole the spotlight when she had to apologize to Geraldine Ferraro for kidding that she was something that rhymed with rich. (Mrs. Bush: "I would never say that Congresswoman Ferraro was a witch. I don't think it and I don't feel it.") And now the Vice President is facing another dilemma -- a debate in which, if he does well, he could upstage the President -- and that's not the kind of news Bush likes to make. (Vice President: "People say, well, you're a likeable kind of guy, and I'll say, well maybe that's the way to be, but if she goes off into saying things that aren't true or a lot of demagoguery, why I'd be inclined to pull her chain a little bit.") Barbara Bush says her husband is old-fashioned -- honest, courageous and misunderstood. (Mrs Bush: "George is very loyal. I think maybe they think of that as elite, weak. I don't think those are weak qualities. I think those are good qualities.") Tonight the Vice President will have a chance to show his more aggressive qualities. He'll attack Walter Mondale, praise his boss, and say he's been a good soldier. No matter how well he does, Barbara Bush will be proud, and she won't say anything bad publicly about Geraldine Ferraro. This week they both had all the attention they'd like to have. (NBC-12)

NBC's Ken Bode reports from the Italian section of South Philadelphia that Ferraro is a name that can divide a family. Talking to an Italian shopowner, he asks if that will cause a vote for one of common ancestry. (Shopowner: "We had four years of Mondale. God forbid, we don't want four more. Gotta' go with the old man and Bush.") Another neighbor says she would vote for Ferraro -- (Woman: "But I just don't care for her running mate. In my personal opinion, he can't do the job....I would vote for her, but I can't vote for her and Reagan." Another neighbor: "I think I like Reagan all the way. I like Nancy.") (NBC-13)

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TRAIN TRIP

ABC's Steven Geer: Air Force One -- not a bad way to travel. Why in the world would a president forego all this speed and luxury to travel around on a train? Well for one thing, it's a lot easier to speak from the rear of the train. In 1948, Harry Truman traveled 21,000 miles in this special railway car. There were 50 reporters abroad and every one of them predicted that Truman would lose to Thomas Dewey....Tomorrow President Reagan will be in the same special car that carried Truman and two other presidents, FDR and Eisenhower....Since the days in which this was the only way to campaign, other presidents have given way to nostalgia for relatively brief train rides. Back in Truman's day though, boarding the train was a long-term commitment....Today it's a quick if not easy way to get the attention of the press and your opponent. (Mondale: "The President is coming here and he's going to ride through Ohio on Harry Truman's old railcar. Well, he may be on the right car, but he's on the wrong track and we know it.") Well maybe, but today, photographers were out shooting a practice run for tomorrow's Reagan trip. You can be sure that the real thing will generate hundreds of pictures, thousands of words. (ABC-11)

NATO

Rather: A meeting of NATO defense ministers in Italy was told today that the Soviet Union has increased substantially the number of its SS-20 nuclear missiles aimed at Western Europe. U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger said those Soviet missiles now number more than the 378 that NATO estimated last December. This change in numbers could affect reluctance by the Netherlands to deploy U.S. nuclear missiles on its territory. The presence of those missiles in Western Europe had rallied peace movements, but now times and sentiment have changed.

CBS's Tom Fenton reports U.S. Pershing missile deployments are going ahead without significant public protest. The European peace movement has lost public support. The peace movement seems discouraged, almost defeated. The public display of opposition to the stationing of new nuclear missiles in Europe is gone, and the intense public pressure on the United States to negotiate with the Russians is gone. Today, the peace movement is searching for a new direction. It has taken on a new target: not just the missiles, but the basic principles of Western defense itself. Attempts were made to disrupt NATO's big fall maneuvers in West Germany. The protest backfired. The public, instead of complaining about the Pershing missiles rumbling through their villages, started complaining about the peace demonstrators. There were even one or two U.S. don't go home signs. (TV Coverage: Banner hanging outside house as tanks roll by. It says, "Ami do not go home.") Analysts believe another reason the European peace movement has lost support is that Reagan has switched from Cold War rhetoric to talk of negotiations. (President, at U.N.: "There is no sane alternative.") At the same

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Fenton (continued): time, the Russians rhetoric has hardened, and they have begun deploying nuclear missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia. The Soviets have lost the propaganda initiative. (TV Coverage: Ranks and ranks of East German troops marching by.) The streets of Western Europe are relatively quiet now. There is an uneasy stalemate between the peace movement and NATO governments. But this picture could change. If the arms race accelerates and Cold War rhetoric increases, the demonstrators will be back in the streets. (CBS-12, ABC-8)

FEDERAL FARM AID

Rather: The government reports tonight that the nation's farmers got a record \$9.3 billion in direct federal subsidies last year, more than twice the previous record, paid out in 1972. What's more, \$5.2 billion of last year's aid was paid under the controversial Payment in Kind program. (CBS-8)

CYPRUS EMBASSY

Rather: A Cypriot government official said today that a state of alert had been ordered at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia. The official said police had received a report that unidentified terrorists planned to crash a small plane filled with explosives into the building. The U.S. State Department confirmed the Nicosia threat, and said there had been similar threats against other U.S. Embassies in the Middle East. (CBS-15)

Brokaw: The State Department is saying tonight that it has received a report that terrorists are threatening to crash a small plane loaded with explosives into an American embassy in the Middle East. One possible target that has been mentioned is the U.S. embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus. Officials say the report is being taken seriously and the embassy has been put on a state of full alert. (NBC-8)

EL SALVADOR

President Duarte turned down a Salvadoran rebel demand that the talks be mediated by the president of Colombia. Duarte proposed that the role be filled by El Salvador's Roman Catholic archbishop. One of the rebel leaders said that would be acceptable. (CBS-14)

SPACE SHUTTLE

Brokaw: There was another first today -- a woman's walk in space, the first by an American. Kathy Sullivan was out there 138 miles above the earth, as the space shuttle Challenger whipped around at more than 17,000 miles an hour. She was part astronaut, part mechanic and part space-age tourist. (NBC-Lead, CBS-3, ABC-5)

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EDITORIALS

BEFORE THE DEBATE

Veep Debate -- "With many Americans not yet ready to accept a woman as vice president, this process of imagining Ms. Ferraro as president must penetrate even more layers of prior conceptions about women's roles in public life that simply do not exist for a male....In an era when women's progress in legal, social, occupational, and personal terms is of major political consequence, Ms. Ferraro's appearance on the vice presidential debate platform is itself a breakthrough. Some might appreciate it and some not; but for the first time a woman will be challenged, on an equal and direct footing with a man, to articulate how her administration would confront economic, foreign, and domestic issues. Her performance, if anything, will be scrutinized even more closely than Mr. Bush's."

(Christian Science Monitor, 10/11)

VICE PRESIDENT'S TAXES

Unfair to Mr. Bush -- "The taxpayers own the Washington home, not Mr. Bush. The law should not deny to vice presidents an allowance to which every other homeowner is entitled. Mr. Bush owns only one home -- the one in Maine....Even post-Watergate morality ought not be so severe as to deny someone with a private home equal protection of the tax laws -- even someone indicted automatically as suspect by post-Watergate morality, such as a vice president."

(Miami Herald, 10/6)

Bush's Tax Disclosure -- "Mr. Bush, as well as Rep. Ferraro, might have been saved a good deal of embarrassment if the disclosure law had been more tightly drawn. We again urge that it be amended to require federal officeholders to disclose all of their assets and liabilities, along with those of their spouses and dependent children. That would put everything on the table and do away with the need for so-called blind trusts. Under the terms of such trusts, the only ones who are truly 'blind' in many cases are the voters."

(Dallas Times Herald, 10/5)

DONOVAN

The Donovan Indictment -- "Mr. Donovan's problems with the law should deliver a lesson to the next president: If you want a scandal-free administration, you don't give a sensitive job to anyone who digs subway tunnels in New York. No matter how honest Mr. Donovan may be, he had to deal with crooked politicians, crooked unions, crooked subcontractors and crooked inspectors....It is of course sad and unfair to have to say that people who follow certain trades in certain places should not be considered for Cabinet jobs. But when you breach that rule, as Mr. Reagan now knows, you may pay a price of severe embarrassment."

(Pittsburgh Press, 10/3)

CIA

The Spook Busters -- "The agency still has a long climb to make before it can provide the kind of intelligence that has become so vital to U.S. security in this age when the country's enemies operate mostly underground, dealing in arms, drugs and terror. But as these enemies become more dangerous, the agency may start to get the kind of respect and support that it needs."

(Wall Street Journal, 10/8)

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ABC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Peter Jennings: Vice President Bush and Congresswoman Ferraro are joined on the stage by their families. This is the opportunity for the press primarily to have a photograph with the two candidates for vice president together.

David Brinkley: I thought they were both very good. The arguments were familiar. They're the same arguments we have been hearing for quite a number of years, which seems to suggest that nobody is able to solve these problems, only to talk about them. They were both very good. They were familiar arguments nicely stated. Everyone kept his temper. Ms. Ferraro was a little annoyed -- and perhaps rightly -- when she thought she was being patronized by Vice President Bush. He said to her, "Let me help you a bit" on the question on covert action, since he used to run the CIA. She didn't like that. Perhaps he shouldn't have said it.

Jennings: Very high expectations for this debate, and in the first portion on domestic issues, Ms. Ferraro, showing a rather low-key, laid-back, almost courtroom coolness.

Brinkley: I think they both were. Can you imagine in the fall of 1984 an hour-and-a-half of political argument with no one arguing about the deficit. It was a pleasure. It was hardly mentioned until Ms. Ferraro's summation at the end. She referred to it off-handedly. I think everyone's sick of hearing about it.

Jennings: There are a lot of winners and losers in debates like this. Mr. Bush, at the beginning of this evening, was concerned that he make up, to some extent, for the performance by the President last Sunday that a lot of people did not think was so good.

Brinkley: I didn't see any winner or any loser. I thought they were both very articulate. Some of the facts are arguable, but that's always the case. They both had something to see, and they said it well.

Jennings: At least in the area of foreign policy, I thought Mr. Bush seemed more comfortable than Ms. Ferraro on areas with which he had a great deal more familiarity over the past number of years.

George Will: I think what they were looking for on the Republican side was for some spectacular achievement by George Bush that would stop the surge that the Mondale forces have clearly made since Sunday. I don't think that happened. On the other hand, the Democrats may have been worried that Ms. Ferraro couldn't take the heat, but if she would be shrill in some way. Clearly she has the manner to play in this league in politics, so I don't think either side gained much or lost anything.

Sam Donaldson: I think we've seen a debate between Mr. Emotional and Ms. Cool, and perhaps Ms. Cool scored some points for that because people did expect that perhaps she would be shrill, and she wasn't. George Bush was effective at times, clearly on the question of religion, I thought he was very effective in his answer there, but sometimes his

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ABC COMMENTARY (continued)

Donaldson (continued): emotion got away from him, as in the case when he did -- as David points out -- fall into sort of a trap that Ms. Ferraro then sprang by saying, "Don't interpret my answers, and I didn't say anything about shame." There might not have been clear winners and losers, but, as in the case of a presidential debate, anytime someone less well known takes the stand with someone more well known, she, in this case, makes some points.

Brinkley: Remember that both of them have since Labor Day each of them has had something like 200 press conferences or interviews. So it is simply not possible to think of a question that they haven't already answered or evaded at least 50 times.

Jennings: The other thing to remember tonight is the name of the game is try to bring back Democrats who voted for Ronald Reagan in 1980 and independents who voted for John Anderson. There's a tendency to mentally divide the audience into winning people from the opposite side. It's winning those people in the middle that the Democrats need to do to get back that 25 percent of the electorate that voted for Ronald Reagan to the Mondale Democratic ticket of registered Democrats.

Carole Simpson interviews Maureen Reagan...

Simpson: She's a woman, but she's the President's daughter. Who were you rooting for?

Maureen: I'm a very big fan of George Bush. I have been for a long time, I've known him since 1968.

Simpson: Did he win, and if so, how did he?

Maureen: These kind of debates are extremely subjective, and obviously I think the Vice President did an excellent job. I felt very comfortable with his positions and with the way he expressed himself, and I like a little emotion in my vice presidential debates. I get real bored real easy with people who just sort of lounge along...

Simpson: Are you saying Ms. Ferraro was kind of lounging?

Maureen: Well, if the shoe fits.

Simpson: You have been interested in women in politics. Do you think Ms. Ferraro served the cause of women in politics well tonight?

Maureen: I think any woman who participates certainly helps the cause of women along. The fact is this race is not between men and women. It's between Republicans and Democrats, between people who want government to take care of everything for us and people who want us as people to do more for ourselves. Those are the issues, and that's what the American people are going to have to judge. I've been very concerned all through this the last couple of months of all the talk as those this was a race between men and women, because if we cause that kind of division, then we have really divided this political system for many years to come.

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ABC COMMENTARY (continued)

Jennings: Is there anything you thought Ms. Ferraro did wrong?

Maureen: Yes, I thought she was sitting with a very contrived statement about being patronized and it was very evident to me, because any of us who have ever been in the political arena and have been patronized know exactly what it's like and he was not being patronizing, and I felt that she, by doing that, was very patronizing, not only to him, but to the American public.

Simpson: Do you think this is going have any impact on the election? There was evidence that your father's performance may have done some damage to his cause. Do you think this has helped?

Maureen: I think that this conversation and certainly much more conversation yet to come as well as the next debate. I think this was an excellent display of two people who want to be a heartbeat away from the presidency of the United States, and I'll put my faith in George Bush.

Sander Vanocur: The only thing I came away with in terms of observation was that George Bush put on his glasses about ten minutes into the debate. I don't know why he did it. Looking at in a political perspective each came in with a task tonight. Bush's was to help President Reagan after the President's showing in Louisville the other night. Ferraro's was also to help Walter Mondale and I think she did that tonight. But on the other level, I think they were both coming to the aid of themselves in terms of their political futures and I think Ferraro did very well for herself, whatever that's going to be, whether it's going to be elected vice president, or if the tickets defeated, run against Senator D'Amato in New York in 1986. George Bush has a special problem, though. I think he has to carry too much of Ronald Reagan's baggage in these affairs, and I think he did that manfully tonight. He also has to try to get in the good graces of a party that, I must say, wants to leave behind people who came out of World War II. There's a new generation waiting in the wings.

Jennings: Vice President Bush never referred to her as Congresswoman Ferraro and hardly referred to the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, but always to the Carter-Mondale ticket. I know that's calculated. Were you surprised?

Vanocur: No, because in drafting the platform committee in Dallas, I counted up how many references there were to the Carter-Mondale ticket and I think the figure was 53, so they're still going to try to do it. I'm not sure that works anymore. I think we have a whole new ballgame now because the Mondale-Ferraro ticket has shown that it's very tough and that it has a very rough edge and if it's scratched, it's going to scratch back.

Brinkley: What did you think of the quality of the discussion as opposed to the nuts and bolts of it?

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ABC COMMENTARY (continued)

Vanocur: In both the debate tonight and last week, I think the quality is very high. I go back to the 1960 debate and that was a great campaign that was distinguished by such fervent discussion of foreign policy such as Quemoy and Matsu, the off-shore islands off the coast of China. I think the questions were quite well done tonight and on Sunday. This isn't a debater format but I think we got an approximation of a debate kind of material. I think Geraldine Ferraro did pretty well tonight. She laid out that agenda of the Democratic Party that up 'til now the Democratic Party had not been responding to. I think that after tonight the troops will rally and Lord knows, they have an uphill battle at this stage of the campaign.

Jennings: One of the things that the Mondale campaign wanted was to keep the momentum rolling. (to Brit Hume) Were the Mondale people pleased?

Hume: I just got off the phone with Jim Johnson, the Mondale campaign chairman. He was in a very good mood, indeed. The first word out of his mouth was "terrific" and he said that Mondale, himself, sitting there watching the debate, at the moment Ms. Ferraro rounded on Vice President Bush, accusing him of patronizing her, turned to him and said, "I guess we've seen who's got it." The words that Johnson used in summing up Geraldine Ferraro's performance were "clear," "substantive," "authoritative," and "concise," while President Bush, he said, was all over the place. He said he thought this would be another major step forward for the ticket. It would be seen as a clear victory for Mr. Mondale and Ms. Ferraro.

Jennings: It's interesting that the Mondale people are saying publicly, right off the mark, that they are very happy. Larry Speakes, the acting press secretary for the President -- the debated hadn't even finished in Louisville last week, when he was depicting the President as the champion so this partisanship is pretty natural.

Lynn Sherr: Gloria Steinem, why do you Ferraro won this one?

Steinem: Because she was calm and presidential and in command of the facts and Bush was shrill and hysterical. Very interesting to see the images reversed. He was condescending to her. He never addressed her as she had wished to be addressed, as Congressman Ferraro, but only Mrs. Ferraro. He attempted to misconstrue what she had said about covert action, to make a very cheap shot about the parents of the Marines who had been killed. I think all together that her victory was absolutely definitive if not as great as the victory of Mondale over Reagan, it was because Reagan was so much more clearly -- I'm sorry to say this -- but incompetent, whereas Bush had some degree of competence.

Sherr: Did you see this as a debate between two equal candidates or were there things that came up that brought in sexism on the other side.

ABC COMMENTARY (continued)

Steinem: The condescension on his part was very clearly there and that I hope, I believe, will backfire against him since the majority of the country now supports equality. I do think also there was some supposition that she couldn't handle foreign policy questions in quite the same way, but she did. She clearly showed herself to be knowledgeable.

Sherr: If there were another debate, what would you advise her to do differently?

Steinem: She might make a bit more of the clear differences between Bush and Reagan because he comes to the debate a compromised man because he has already given up very basic positions, like the Equal Rights Amendment, whereas the differences between Ferraro and Mondale were extremely slender. They never ended up opposed to each other. Bush and Reagan clearly represent very different strands within the Republican Party. He is a compromised man and she was kind to him in that regard.

Jennings: We have some polling results. We've talked to 504 people around the country. I'm going to use the word scientific, that means we polled using the same procedures we use when we do a national poll. Of the 504 people we talked to -- plus or minus 5 percent error, 43 percent of the people think Bush won the debate, 32 percent think Ferraro won the debate and 25 percent either think it was a tie, or they don't know.

Will: I think both of them were rather poor. Politics is 95 percent talk. The politics of being President or Vice President is 98 percent talk. I don't think either of the candidates tonight coherently presented positions, even given the restrictions imposed by the format. On Beirut, Ms. Ferraro could have hit harder and was not very coherent on Grenada. George Bush had a strong case, given the politics of the country, and I thought blew it entirely. But, the question is, what's it matter. I have been looking all over the country for 20 years for one American citizen who would admit to pulling the lever in a presidential election because of the vice presidential candidate, and I've not yet found one.

Donaldson: George, it does matter tonight -- not so much on the positions they enunciated. I happen to think they enunciated their own ticket's positions fairly well, although I agree in the spots they fell dead. But because of the quotient of how it looked, that's what people looked at last Sunday night. They decided the President was fumbling and he didn't have the ringing voice that he usually had, he had too many figures rather than his figures were wrong or right. Tonight, I think what we saw was Geraldine Ferraro sort of seized the moment on two or three occasions, certainly when she took the Vice President to task and said I didn't say that they died in shame. Secondly, when she looked in that camera with steel and said there would be swift, sure retaliation if I were president against the Russians. And finally, when she said that if there was conflict between her faith and her oath of office she would resign her office, and Vice President Bush said, "I respect you for that statement." On the other hand, what people saw in the Vice President was, I think, on occasion, also a very fine presentation. But then he would giggle, or he would say "whine on Harvest Moon," which is one of his stump lines

ABC COMMENTARY (continued)

Donaldson (continued): against Mr. Mondale. Or his going "Nyet, nyet, nyet," and it detracted to some extent, I imagine, from the way people viewed him. There is no test to be vice presidential, but there is a presidential test.

Jennings: I detect in what you are saying a slight presumption that the enthusiasm which Mr. Bush expressed tonight is not going to play too well in the country.

Donaldson: I think people think that emotion is just fine, but the test in these debates seems to have been over the few times that we've had them that the candidate who gets too emotional at the wrong times or for no apparent reason loses points. You get emotional for the right reason -- meaning you're responding very fervently to an attack or you feel very deeply -- you get points.

Jennings: We heard about failures. We heard very little of a positive nature, of optimism and hope for the future.

Will: That's true, but it's in part because of the questions tonight which had nothing to do with the debating format. We're putting this under much too powerful a microscope. The fact is that unless someone made a big blunder tonight, it isn't going to matter.

Donaldson: I do want to pick up on something Sandy said earlier. I want to compliment the Vice President on have to have the albatross of slavish devotion to the President -- I am not speaking ad hominem of Mr. Reagan -- but any president, and coming through it all right. He had to say it, as he did, that he agreed with the President on everything and the President had been excellent with Gromyko. For him to be able to say that and present it in a straight forward manner, I think he gets an A-plus on that score.

-end of ABC commentary-

CBS COMMENTARY FOLLOWING VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Dan Rather: ...The first ever vice presidential debate with a women representing one of the two major parties. Vice President George Bush and Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, standing side-by-side and sometimes face-to-face, for 90 minutes....On stage in Philadelphia, the two families exchanging handshakes and greetings. By the Vice President's side in the red dress, Barbara Bush, chatting now with Congresswoman Ferraro. And on the floor, a glimpse of Vice President Ferraro's husband, John Zaccaro.

Recapping briefly, the sparks flew, still in polite terms, but flew on foreign policy subjects -- on covert U.S. actions in Central America, on terror bombings against Americans in Lebanon. Geraldine Ferraro bristled at Vice President Bush's suggestion that she opposed all U.S. covert actions anywhere, anytime. A lot of undercurrent tensions came out in her reply that she "almost resented this patronizing attitude." For his part, the Vice President seems to bristled at the suggestion President Reagan was all talk and no action when it came to responding to or preventing the terrorist attacks against Americans in Lebanon. Beyond that on subject after subject, Bush seemed to be punching up his delivery; Ferraro toning her's down a bit. And answer and answer, mainly attacking each other as surrogates. Bush really attacking, for the most part, Mondale and often Carter-Mondale; Ferraro mainly attacking Reagan Administration policies.... Bruce Morton, your first impressions on the debate?

Bruce Morton: One of the curious things about these things is you tend to believe your guy won. I think it was easy for both sides to do that tonight. Bush gave a...presentation, stressing over and over again the principal Administration themes -- that it brought inflation down, we're at peace, we're prosperous. Ferraro did the same thing to the Democrats, outlining the principal themes of the Mondale Administration -- we've got to work for the future, we've got to be fairer, we've got to worry about the world our children will inherit. I would think that each side would come away saying, "Hey, we did well."

Rather: Mark Shields, your first impressions and conclusions?

Mark Shields: Total role reversal. George Bush, the preppy from Conn., came on like gang-busters at the outset. He was pleased as punch with the President. Geraldine Ferraro, the feisty, zesty Queens congresswoman, was more factual, like she was taking her graduate oral exams. I thought they both got better as the evening went on, and both closed strong.

Rather: Would you give a slight edge to Bush, I understand you to say?

Shields: I would say that for the first time, Ronald Reagan needed George Bush and he didn't let him down tonight.

Kevin Phillips: Bush won, I think largely because of his expertise in foreign policy. I think he did the ticket a lot of good for November 1984 -- himself a lot of good for 1988.

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Rather: Bruce Morton, you said a few moments ago that each side got something to cheer about here. Let's talk about the high point and low point for each of the candidates.

Morton: I don't know that there were a lot of low points. I might start with the Republicans, a lot of people were worried about George Bush. They remembered his disastrous debate as a presidential candidate against Ronald Reagan in New Hampshire in 1980. None of that happened this time. Bush hit the Republican themes well and repeatedly; he started briskly, had a good closing statement and I thought handled himself very well. As for Ms. Ferraro, she may have had the most genuinely emotional moments when she unwounded on Bush and said nobody with a young son would say those Marines in Lebanon died in shame. There was a little genuine electricity involved and again when she said...saying you have to be in a war to want peace. So I thought perhaps she had the most emotional moments, but I thought they were both strong and as Mark Phillips said a moment ago, I thought both closing statements were strong. I think each side is going to come out of here feeling good about this.

Rather: The thought occurred to me Vice President Bush may have scored fairly when he fairly early on jumped on something Congresswoman Ferraro had said -- covert actions -- she wants to wipe out all U.S. covert actions and if she wants to do that, that would indeed not be a very good thing. Do you think he scored there and did Ferraro score when she talked about the abortion issue? She seemed to be extremely well-prepared on that; also on the church-state issue. Anything else occur to you, whether each one scored particularly well?

Morton: No, I think Bush had been coached to be lively and he was -- and that was good. I think Ferraro may -- rather like the President Sunday -- had a few too many statistics. She did bobble them as badly as he. He had some, I thought, really uncomfortable moments. She was not that bad.

Rather: You're speaking President Reagan had uncomfortable moments?

Morton: ...I thought Ms. Ferraro maybe was a little too factual and left out some of the liveliness she has in her speeches sometimes. But again, I think they both did well.

Rather: These things are so subjective and it's early, was this a better, livelier 90-minutes than the one between the two presidential candidates?

Morton: Well, I think anytime you have people fighting for the heavyweight championship, there's a little built-in interest. And I think last Sunday it gained interest as it went along because Mr. Mondale was doing better than a lot of people thought he would; Mr. Reagan was doing worse than a lot of people thought he would. But this was interesting -- a lot of personality and however this election comes out, these are two political figures we're going to be hearing from.

Rather: Do you think it changed any votes tonight?

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CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Morton: I doubt it. I think people vote for the top of the ticket. I think whatever momentum Mr. Mondale had out of Sunday won't be affected much....I do think that if George Bush had been terrible tonight, it would have been two bad evenings in a row for the Reagan-Bush ticket and that might really have mattered. But he wasn't. He was just fine.

Rather, with Rep. Lynn Martin and Ferraro staffer Anne Wexler: Rep. Martin, how well did you stand in? How close did Congresswoman Ferraro come to what you had hoped?

Rep. Martin: Well, I think having worked with Gerry, she's made no secret of her beliefs. She's an able, bright woman, liberal Democrat and I think I portrayed her views fairly well....I think the Vice President was quite good -- frankly he has the better message. Ferraro, although she tries to stay away from it, has to talk about more taxes, more taxes, more taxes. Both of them can be proud of themselves....I'm glad my candidate won.

Rather: Do you think he clearly won?

Martin: Yes...the only thing that I must say surprised me a little -- and as I say I do respect the ability of Rep. Ferraro -- was her answer concerning nuclear weapons. I had almost the feeling sometimes that if President Reagan had said the same things, she would be accusing him of being almost a warmonger, all of a sudden I think in an effort to prove she was tough....The refusal to answer the question about what is verification -- how do you do that? -- I think got me frankly a little nervous in that area. But she was good in a lot of it. And I do believe two good candidates but the Vice President is clearly better.

Rather: Lynn Wexler, do you think Ferraro hurt herself a bit when she got into sessions about nuclear weapons, a freeze and arms control?

Lynn Wexler: No, I don't think she hurt herself at all. I think she was accurate on those questions; she articulated them very well. I think what we saw here tonight was Bush talking about the past and Ferraro talking about the future....I think that what we saw on both domestic and foreign policy was Gerry Ferraro demonstrating without any shadow of a doubt that she's qualified to be both vice president and president.

Rather: What was in your judgment Ferraro's worst moment in the debate?

Wexler: Well, I have to think for a little bit about that. I don't think there are any worst moments. I think she thought a little bit longer about some of her answers towards the end, but I think that may have been more a function of being tired, under the strain a little bit than anything else. I think she did a marvelous job from beginning to end.

Rather: Rep. Martin, do you think your man won? What was his worst moment?

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Rep. Martin: I glad to hear Anne (Wexler) talk about Gerry being tired and say that that's alright. The Democrats have been yelling about the President on that....It was George Bush talking about future and quite understandably, Gerry not wanting to talk about tax increases, but he talked about opportunity. I thought that's what it is all about.

Rather, with Phil Jones & David Dow: ...Best and worst moments for Ferraro?

Phil Jones: I think that on some of the foreign policy areas, she probably wasn't as quick in her answers as Anne Wexler has indicated she has been on the campaign trail. But I think they both did very well, but I think you could say Ferraro really won here tonight because she didn't lose. And that is she was able to establish her game plan and that was to be able to discuss domestic and foreign policy issues in a way that indicated that she would be capable. She has done this out on the campaign trail, but yet in all of the polls on the leadership question, it shows that she does not rank as high as the Vice President....I think you saw a very pleasant Ferraro here tonight. There have been some who have tried to portray her as being a little brassy, but it seemed to me she almost went overboard in trying to be nice tonight, even though she had one moment...of toughness when she attacked the Vice President for his little lecture he had given her on foreign policy.

Rather: David Dow, highs and lows for George Bush?

David Dow: I think his high was the second half, the foreign policy part of the debate. To nobody's surprise that was suppose to be his strength. I think in the beginning, he seemed almost too eager to go on the attack, maybe to avenge some of the problems that President Reagan had on Sunday -- too eager to jump in with still just another attack on Mondale -- almost where it didn't belong....However, by the time they worked into the second half of the debate, I thought that what was supposed to be his strength -- foreign policy -- began to come through. He began to show signs of being relaxed and working right up to what I think all of his advisers will consider a very credible closing statement.

Rather: Phil, did Ferraro have help-cards with her up there?

Jones: I wasn't standing up there so I can't really tell you. I think that in many instances, she was looking down and it's just her style....I was not up there, I frankly can not tell you whether or not she had note-cards.

Rather: Does she frequently operate off note-cards?

Jones: No, seldom does and she's very good in news conferences over the past few weeks. She started out, I thought, very shaky, and in the last few weeks she has gotten her speech down, she has gotten all the punch lines that she wants to use in her speeches and in news conferences, she's very confident. She's very quick.

Rather: Did the Vice President stick by his game-plan?

CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Dow: Well, he didn't break any new ground. There were no headlines springing out of this. A lot of it, particularly early in the speech, could have been lifted out of any of his campaign speeches. His closing statement was in large measure a composite of the sorts of speeches he's been making all along. I think if there was any surprise, it was his tendency early on in the debate to go on the attack almost gratuitous which was a little surprising in that one of the concerns had been he might come off heavy-handed in this first debate against a woman....Still, the nature, the texture of them seemed a little out of character, even for a man who at times has been characterized as a hatchet man on the campaign trail.

Rather, with Mark Shields and Kevin Phillips: How will this play now in the next few days? Kevin?

Phillips: I think that the Republicans have reestablished their themes about talking about how far the country has come in the last four years, which the President really did get to the forefront. And I think they're going to pick up on that and I think that Bush has reestablished the momentum and reestablished expertise -- having headed off what could have been problems if he hadn't done as well as he did....

Shields: The President's had an awful week; he had a terrible performance because of expectations. Mondale was supposed to be hamburger; he turned out to be forceful and articulate. The President was, by his own words, confused -- a term frequently associated with people in the advance stages of senility. He has followed up all week long by keeping that issue alive, as recently as yesterday saying it was a matter of make-up that caused the difference....So I think this is an interruption in what has been a Democratic week perhaps. It's a standoff. I think Ferraro established the fact that she's not a token -- she's not simply a symbol. She came out there tonight; she went toe-to-toe with the guy with the longest resume in the western world, George Bush, and handled herself very well.

Rather: Kevin...you think the momentum has been stopped?

Phillips: Well I think it's going to be hard to shift the thing back to the sense that people have that the Republicans were coming unraveled. Because George Bush clearly did not come unraveled and dominated the debate in the areas, I think, where people are the most concerned -- on foreign policy....I think the President got everything off-track and that's absolutely clear, but I think it's getting back on-track.

Shields: For years now, I've been hearing let Reagan be Reagan. After tonight I guess it's going to be let Bush be Reagan.

Rather: ...There were periods during this debate where each of the two candidates, Bush and Ferraro, had to think for an answer, stumbled a little bit, their sentences didn't quite come together. When President Reagan did that, it's supposed to be his age and that he was somehow losing it. When Bush and Ferraro does it, well it's just a natural mistake.

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CBS COMMENTARY (continued)

Shields: Ronald Reagan is a man of exceptional, political instincts.... Now what we saw last Sunday night was the first time that his instincts were faulty....(Aides) told him don't use that line again about "There you go again," and he went right through that stop sign and Fritz Mondale banged it out of the ball park.

Phillips: I think it's going to depend on the President's performance and the way he handles it. I do have one skepticism that I'd like to voice right here. I think the media has to be very careful in the way they play the age thing on Ronald Reagan, because as we have just been discussing, everybody that makes speeches has these moments of not knowing what they are going say, to jump on him and to suggest that it's necessary because he's 73 years-old when all the medical reports show that he's in good peace.... I think Bush helped himself in 1988.

Shields: I think Ferraro helped herself. I think George Bush helped himself....For the first time, Ronald Reagan really need George Bush tonight and George Bush responded.

Rather: ...Like the Reagan-Mondale match-up, here too. Right or wrong, a few impressions of who won and who lost will begin to filter down and bubble up over the next few days. Unlike the Reagan-Mondale matchup, there is an added dimension...this was and is the first forum between an incumbent vice president and the first woman candidate from a major party. Who won and who lost depends not only on the "iffy" we're use to dealing with, but the reaction to women in politics and feminists. On a practical level, it may also have a lot to do with whether the Reagan-Bush team is perceived as pulling away and ahead again or whether Mondale-Ferraro are moving from way back and moving up....

-end of CBS commentary-

NBC COMMENTARY FOLLOWING VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Tom Brokaw: There you have the family of Geraldine Ferraro greeting Vice President Bush on the stage. That's Geraldine Ferraro's husband with his back to us here. And that's Mrs. Bush moving to greet Mrs. Ferraro for the first time this week since Mrs. Bush said -- made what many people thought was a disparaging remark, talking about her richness and saying that she didn't want to use the word, but it rhymed with rich, talking about Mrs. Ferraro. That's young John Zaccaro greeting members of the Bush family -- the Bush boys, who are assembled on the stage.

(NBC drops off the air, then for approximately two minutes there are pictures but no voice-over audio.)

Brokaw: -- Bush staying on the stage a lot longer. He probably feels a little better about his performance tonight than perhaps Geraldine Ferraro does at this time. It was not one of her sterling evenings. She found herself in some difficulty when questioned about Central America and the use of force there. Vice President Bush, on the other hand, stayed on the attack about the Carter-Mondale years. He worked in 21 percent interest rates at every given opportunity. So, we're going to re-cap very briefly some of the points that were made here tonight, then I will be back in just a few moments. I'll be talking with New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and also with Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler, who is Washington tonight, a member of the Reagan Administration. George Bush said they delivered 21 percent interest rates, tying Mondale and Ferraro to the Jimmy Carter years, of course. For her part, Geraldine Ferraro said that the tax cuts of the Reagan years simply were not fair. There was a murky answer from Geraldine Ferraro on whether or not she would use military force in Central America if a Soviet-backed government were installed in Nicaragua. And George Bush for his part said tonight that the reason that the Reagan Administration has not had substantive talks with the Soviet Union is that there have been three leaders in three-and-a-half years in that country, and, as he put it, the Soviets will not talk.

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Brokaw: As I indicated a few moments ago, no real fireworks tonight, no substantial changes in position. There was a moment when Geraldine Ferraro said to George Bush, pointedly, don't be patronizing with me as he began to explain the difference between Beirut and Iran. But after that not much in terms of real electricity on this stage. To talk about it right now is Gov. Cuomo and Secretary Heckler. I'm going to begin with Gov. Cuomo, if I may. What was going on with Geraldine Ferraro? I mean, you've known her a long time. That's not the Geraldine Ferraro that we know. Did you tell her to dampen her enthusiasm?

Gov. Cuomo: Well, no, I don't think it was a dampened enthusiasm. I think she was well modulated. I think she was down low. I think you have to remember -- and I think she was effective. I think you have to remember that her case and Walter Mondale's case is essentially an intellectual one. Their problem is to get to the issues. Their strength is not histrionic, it's not at the surface, it's not superficial. I think the winners tonight, frankly, were certainly the American people because we have a much better education now on the question of foreign policy, even

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NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Cuomo (continued): deficit, than we had before tonight. So I think that's a plus. I think it's a definite plus for Mondale-Ferraro whenever you get the American people to think about the issues. I think the one person who didn't do well, frankly, was the President, because now you've had three people perform and all of them did better than the President did in his debate. Geraldine scored very heavily for herself because she proved to the American people tonight that she is competent to vice president.

Brokaw: Were you comfortable with her answer on Central America, for example, when she couldn't seem to come down whether or not she would use military forces in Nicaragua?

Cuomo: Tom, I'm sure that Geraldine could prepare better answers than she did on some of the questions. I'm sure that Bush could. I know the President could. And I know Fritz has said he could do better. So there's no doubt that an answer here or there could be improved upon. But she had one major mission: She had to prove to the American people that she was competent to be Vice President. Bush had a big head start. He has been vice president for some years. I think she proved tonight decisively that she has the strength, the capacity and she can always raise her voice. That's easy.

Brokaw: Secretary Heckler..., Vice President Bush was talking a good deal about what the Reagan Administration has done for the poor in terms of aid to families with dependent children and so on. And yet we checked during the course of the debate, and we found that spending for the poor is down about 15 percent from 1980 to 1983, that human resources programs are down about \$110 billion, and that's adjusted for inflation and unemployment. Do you have any argument with that?

Secretary Heckler: Well, the fact is that it would depend on what programs you are talking about and the specific areas you are looking at. But in fact, our budget continues to go up. We are now at over \$318 billion, and according to my information, what the President has done is reduce the growth in these programs and not reduce the basic spending. The fundamental growth has been reduced from 17 percent to five percent, and I really feel, Tom, that tonight in this debate you saw the central questions which affect my budget -- human services and certainly health -- and every other budget, including personal budgets in America. The central question of: Is America better off? Is the economy and its economic revival working for America? And the very facts that our Vice President brought out so brilliantly, I think, substantiate what I think Americans see. Interest rates are down. In general, we're creating jobs, and we're not going to be satisfied until we create job opportunities for everyone, as the Vice President has said.

Brokaw: Let me ask you a question. You're a former congresswoman from the state of Massachusetts. Would you say that here is a greater gap these days between the upper middle class -- the wealthy in Massachusetts -- and the poor?

NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Heckler: I would say that, with the economic revival, with six million people going back into the job market in Massachusetts and across the country -- in Massachusetts, we have the lowest unemployment rate of any industrialized state. So we're doing beautifully, and that's partially Reaganomics. The fact is that across America, Americans are going back to work. Reaganomics again. The tax and budget policies of the President are working. I think that this indicates the strength of what the Vice President is talking about so beautifully and so effectively, and I think the strength of the President's program as well.

Brokaw: Gov. Cuomo, I think, is eager to say something. Let's get our own mini-debate going.

Cuomo: I'm so -- that's why we need debates. You notice the secretary did not point out that we have a \$200 billion deficit, the largest in history, and next year, I'm afraid, my state will have less money for the poor. And incidentally, we have in this country now more poor, more homeless than at any time since 1932, and the secretary knows that. And of course there are people being punished at the bottom of the economic ladder. The President virtually admitted that in his last debate when he said, kind of casually, of course there are pockets of poverty. The Vice President admitted it tonight when he wants to extend this recovery until it reaches all those poor people. Their whole philosophy is to reach those people who are doing well, hope the others who are suffering are so disenchanted that they won't vote, get 51 percent of the people who are doing well, and divide this country in half.

Heckler: Tom, that is -- that is -- if I may --

Cuomo: And I think that is getting clearer and clearer as the debates continue. I have a suggestion, we ought have a little debate, I think --

Brokaw: Well, we're about to have one here.

Heckler: Yes, I think we should because frankly --

Cuomo: I'd be pleased to. You set it up, I'll be there.

Heckler: I could not possibly sit back and listen to the statements of Gov. Cuomo without responding because, frankly speaking, yes we have more people in poverty. But the percentage, the growth rate of poverty has dropped considerably, from 12 percent under the Carter-Mondale administration to only 3 percent at the current time, and going down as the economy improves. Secondly, as we look at tax policies, they're designed for a whole society. But the really important tax policy is the indexing provision which the Democrats wish to repeal. That provision helps the lowest sector of the economy, the poorest people.

Brokaw: Gov. Cuomo?

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NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Cuomo: What she said is the percentage of poverty is going down, but she admitted there are more poor people. The people at the top are doing better. And she -- we just heard the secretary admit there were more poor people. Now you go to those additional poor people, and you explain to them they shouldn't feel bad because, as a percentage, they're not doing so bad.

Brokaw: Is that a problem for you, madam secretary? I mean, the fact of matter is that there are more people who have dropped below the poverty line, and there is a great deal of concern about what will happen, say one year from now, if something isn't done about the deficit. Wouldn't you agree with that? Even Republican economists are saying that.

Heckler: Well, let me say that I think that we must do all we can. We must help the poor. We are doing this whenever we can. The fact is that the percentage is smaller than ever before, and that's significant.

Brokaw: Thank you very much Secretary Heckler ... Gov. Cuomo. Also here in Philadelphia, down in the midst of the audience that is assembled -- and by the way that was one of the highlights of the evening in terms of enthusiasm. When the concluding statements were made, and we had the response of both sides. Ken Bode there now with some of the people who've been watching all this from the floor.

Ken Bode: Tom, I have drafted two people to be with us tonight, two average citizens out of the hall. One is Marilyn Levy, who drove down from New York, a Democrat, and one is Kenneth Hill, a Republican from Pennsylvania. I want to ask not who won or lost this debate, folks, but I want to ask you if you could say to American citizens to keep one thing in mind that you heard in this hall tonight when they go to the polls, what would it be Mrs. Levy?

Marilyn Levy: Well, it would be the question of peace and security during the years ahead and the fact that the Democrats are putting forth a positive approach to annual negotiations on the issues of arms control, while the Reagan Administration seems to be in the same posture of dragging its feet and looking back at ghosts and goblins while continuing to build up and waste our national assets.

Bode: Mr. Hill, same question to you. What would tell people to keep in mind when they vote, from what they heard tonight?

Kenneth Hill: Well, I think, Vice President Bush addressed the issue of the economic situation as it stands today, and the fact that the Republicans are on a course of recovery. I think that recovery -- if it's to happen, we have to remain on a sustained course that the Republicans have laid out for the country.

Bode: Any personal aspects of this debate -- Mr. Bush and Mrs. Ferraro -- that you noticed tonight that particularly impressed you or depressed you?

NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Hill: Well, I was impressed by the way Vice President Bush handled the questions. He seems to be comfortable answering questions off the cuff and in a candid manner. I think he came across quite strongly tonight.

Bode: And how about your candidate, Mrs. Levy?

Levy: Well, I thought Geraldine Ferraro was -- spoke well, was well prepared and didn't show the type of redundancy, in a way, that Mr. Bush showed. He seemed to be repeating his opening and closing remarks and his references to the past, rather than thinking about the deficit problems and the economic issues and lack of equity in terms tax and distribution of burden in our economy.

Bode: Tom, two citizens who admittedly were a little biased when they went in. They sort of said they made their minds, and they don't seem to have anything tonight that changes their minds.

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Brokaw: Snap judgment time right now. John Chancellor is here with me, and John, as we watched this tonight, it seems to me that it was not a good night for Geraldine Ferraro, but it was a good night for George Bush. He maintained conservative credentials. He was articulate about the President's program. He had a lot of that gee-whiz enthusiasm for which he has become famous and infamous in Washington. And Geraldine Ferraro, on the other hand, the act that she has had on the road as a campaigner, she did not have in this hall tonight.

John Chancellor: I suppose we just have to get right up to it and say Geraldine Ferraro lost this debate. It is -- that's a tough call to make, but I think that I, as a reporter who watched this, has to say that. She was not forceful. She spent a lot of time reading from her notes. Many times she was not persuasive on the issues, and she did not seem to be in George Bush's class. On the other hand, he was calmly aggressive, in control of his material. He was positive, and he looked presidential.

Brokaw: And apart from that one moment, he wasn't terribly patronizing, which was a concern, I know, of the Republicans.

Chancellor: No. I made notes of that. He said, "Let me help you explain that." And she said, "I almost resent your patronizing attitude," which I think was certainly proper for her to say. She doesn't need George Bush to help her out of a spot. But she was in a spot. She was in a spot on Beirut, on the whole Lebanese policy of this Administration, and it's very vulnerable on that policy. I don't think she followed up enough on that. On Central America, it was just sort of a wash. On arms control, I don't think she was as forceful as she could have been. And even on school busing, I just don't think that -- she was, I think, told to be respectful to the Vice President, as Mondale had been respectful to the President. It worked for Mondale, but it resulted in a much lower key performance on Geraldine Ferraro's point, and you know, Tom, and I know, Tom, that she can go up like a skyrocket.

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NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Brokaw: Well, I said at one point tonight that I thought that she was like a 45 rpm record being played at 33 speed. I couldn't believe the way they'd slowed her down. They were very concerned about this street-smart politician from Queens, New York, being too much that tonight, and I think that they overcompensated on the part of --

Chancellor: I don't know, Tom. You had two extremely competent people who knew the issues and were working at it as hard as they could tonight. But she was too low key and Bush, I thought, played his part perfectly.

Brokaw: The other thing is that she, of course, is faced with defending the 21 percent interest rates, which tonight, it seems to me, that George Bush would have worked it into the answer that Sandy Vanocur gave him about who do you like in the World Series if he could have. Those are the Carter-Mondale years to which they keep referring in this campaign, and it makes it difficult.

Chancellor: But, you know, the name that didn't really get mentioned much was Jimmy Carter. Bush didn't talk about it very much, and when she referred to the previous administration, she called it the prior administration, and would not use the word Carter.

Brokaw: ...We're going to take a look at Walter Mondale now, who is about to make an appearance and give us his assessment of what happened. Walter Mondale, live in Miami tonight.

Walter Mondale (at podium at rally): Yo! Thank you very much....Well, we've just had two debates. Who won the Reagan-Mondale debate? (Cheers) Who won the Ferraro-Bush debate? (Cheers) Who will win this election? (Cheers) You've got it. You got it. Tonight, we saw the debate, and we saw the difference between a cheerleader on the one side and a leader on the other. Tonight, we saw the next vice president of the United States, and her name is Geraldine Ferraro. (Cheers) --

Brokaw: Walter Mondale tonight in Miami. A very enthusiastic reception from the crowd that he has assembled with him there. He came out and proclaimed that Geraldine Ferraro, of course, would be the next vice president of the United States. Someone was just making the telling point, it seems to me, that what may have happened to Geraldine Ferraro tonight is the same thing that happened to President Reagan last Sunday. They tried to change his game plain kind of at the last moment, and he didn't do very well in Louisville. They did about the same thing to Geraldine Ferraro tonight, and, as this person put it, she was scored on. She may not have been beaten entirely, but the fact is that points were made against her. Roger Mudd is down with a couple of the professionals tonight who have been watching all of us. Roger, what do they think?

Roger Mudd: Well, let's see if we can find out. We've got Steve Engelberg, who is the issues director for the Ferraro campaign, and we've got Dean Burch, who is a senior political adviser for the Vice President....Mr. Brokaw has just suggested that someone is saying

NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Mudd (continued): perhaps that Geraldine Ferraro had her game plan changed at the last minute, and that accounted for what some have observed as a rather flat performance, perhaps accounting for what is said to be a defeat for Ms Ferraro. Tell me what you think about that idea.

Steve Engelberg: Well, first of all, I think Ms Ferraro won the debate hands down. More important, the debate in this election really began for the first time last Sunday night with the first presidential debate, and it continued tonight. Mrs. Ferraro made very clear, in talking about the future, that there are three or four real issues which divide this ticket: war and peace, the economy and what's going to be done about it over the next four to ten years, and thirdly the whole issue of fairness and opportunity. I think she did that brilliantly, effectively, and I have no doubt whatsoever that people watching this debate, just as they watched the first debate with Mr. Mondale, are going to come away clearly understanding the major differences between these two tickets.

Mudd: And you weren't concerned that she was subdued and not her general, usual, ebullient self.

Engelberg: Well, first of all, Roger, I don't think she was particularly subdued. I think she answered the questions clearly. I think when Mr. Bush raised a question which sort of challenged her understanding of an issue, I think she put him in his place very politely and very quickly. I thought she was extremely firm and I think her closing statement was brilliant. One final point. Anybody that's worked with Geraldine Ferraro knows, you don't give her any game plan. She's a very tough, independent lady.

Mudd: Mr. Burch, he says hands down winner for Geraldine Ferraro. What is your call, sir?

Dean Burch: There's a lot of hyperbole in this business, and we've just heard a lot of it. I'm not here to rate how Mrs. Ferraro did. All I have to say is that George Bush hit the very long ball tonight. I thought he was absolutely superb. I'm not surprised. I've always known that George is capable of doing precisely what he did tonight. But it seemed to me, he was clearly in charge of this entire debate from the time began until it ended, and he has, obviously, he has advantages. He's been in the foreign affairs business for a long, long time. He knows whereof he speaks, and obviously that's a help for a man in a debate like this -- or a woman. But, nonetheless, I think it -- I understand what Steve is saying, I just don't happen to agree with it.

Mudd: Did he commit a little sin of patronizing Ms Ferraro?

Burch: If he did, it certainly wasn't intentional on his part. He is not the person to patronize anyone. He's enthusiastic. He's very definite in what he has to say, and I think that he felt obligated to point up what he felt was a discrepancy. He certainly didn't intend to be patronizing, and I didn't take it to be a patronizing --

Mudd: Does Ms Ferraro have a weak moment this evening?

NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Burch: I didn't see it, no.

Mudd: Did George Bush have a weak moment?

Burch: No, I Really don't think so. I thought he started strong. He ended very strongly, and in our side of the ballpark there was nothing but grins from the first round.

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Brokaw interviews Grace Kinser and Adelyn Davis, two grandmothers from Atlanta, Ga.: ...Let me begin with you, if I may, Mrs. Davis. What did you think of Geraldine Ferraro tonight and her performance?

Adelyn Davis: I thought she was fine. I had never heard her before, and I thought she was fine, even if your critics did think she wasn't.

Brokaw: What did you think was her strongest point against George Bush, as you heard the debate tonight?

Davis: Well, just stating the facts because the facts are what appeal to me. Evidently, I'm not moving in the circle with the President and Vice President because everything in the (unitelligible), every time I get a bill -- electricity, phone, any of them -- they've gone up, up, up. Last -- yesterday, I even got a note from my garbage collector saying, "Due to the high rise of costs, we are having to increase the rate of collecting the garbage." I just can't understand how the President has painted it.

Brokaw: Well, what about that, Mrs. Kinser, has your garbage bill gone up as well under the Reagan Administration?

Grace Kinser: Well, I haven't noticed if it has. I haven't been notified.

Brokaw: Well, what was your reaction to the debate tonight?

Kinser: Oh, I thought that it was interesting. I thought that Mr. Bush did excellently. I was very proud of him and I thought he was factual. Very articulate.

Brokaw: You're a successful and wealthy businesswoman, I am told. Do you think, however, that it may depend on how well one is doing in life these days in how you look at these debates. Whether or not you've been able to make a lot of money in the last year, or whether or not you're poor?

Kinser: Well, you have to remember that I haven't always been well to do. I'm certainly not very poor. And through hard work and good business judgment, and a good product, that's why I'm here today. But I just let me state this. We have a lot of trucks in our industry. During the Carter administration -- how high did that gasoline go? Wasn't it close to two or three dollars? Now that cost business, and of course that was translated on to the consumer. So these are the things I'm looking for, and --

NBC COMMENTARY (continued)

Brokaw: And -- ah -- I was just going to ask you if there was anything you saw tonight that would change your vote, and I want to ask the same thing to Mrs. Davis. If you can briefly, was there anything that changed your vote. First of all, Mrs. Kinser, you're for Reagan. Still for him?

Kinser: Yes, oh, definitely. No, there was nothing that I would say -- it just made me stronger for our President.

Brokaw: And what about you, Mrs. Davis, you still for Mondale and Ferraro?

Davis: Yes, indeed.

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Brokaw: Norma Quarles, the NBC News representative on the panel tonight. How did that look to you from up there, up close?

Norma Quarrels: I thought it was a draw. I was surprised to hear that some of the people were saying that she lost. We talked about it. Not only me, but the panelists. We thought it was a draw.

Brokaw: And how about you, Roger Mudd, what was your reaction?

Mudd: Still a matter of expectations. I thought everybody thought Mrs. Ferraro would kind of be bop around and, you know, hop, skip and jump. And when she didn't, it came across as being subdued. I thought it was generally a bore.

Brokaw: And John, how about you?

Chancellor: Jackie Robinson went on the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 in his first day as a black in the major leagues. He was 0 for 3 at bat, pretty good at first base, and he made history. A first woman did this tonight, and I think she made history.

Brokaw: Well, that's true. We've never seen anything quite like this in American politics, however you come down, on either side, Bush or Ferraro. For all of us at NBC News, I'm Tom Brokaw.

-end of NBC coverage-