

copy
SOSNIK
original
for

MEMORANDUM FOR THE P

FROM: Doug Sosnik
RE: Weekly Report

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

1996 Presidential News

Pete Wilson. Stories trickled out regarding Wilson's immigrant employee this week, with more expected soon. Among the issues that may emerge are: evidence of a different immigrant housekeeper hired before the one currently known; the circumstances of the immigrant's sham marriage; and possible involvement of prominent Republican operatives in urging the immigrant to keep her mouth shut. Meanwhile, Wilson now claims to have \$14 million in pledges and is expected to formally announce his candidacy in two weeks.

Bob Dole. Barry Goldwater endorsed Bob Dole this week, boosting Dole's chances in Arizona's early primary. The endorsement was seen as a rebuff to Pete Wilson who had actively courted the endorsement to augment his credibility in his neighboring state.

New Hampshire. Phil Gramm's problems with the Granite State continue as Delaware refuses to budge from its plans to hold a primary four days after New Hampshire. Phil Gramm, already viewed suspiciously by New Hampshire voters because of his association with Arizona's plans earlier this year to move its primary within the window, refused to cancel his appearance before the Delaware Republican Convention on May 5th. (Bob Dornan and Dick Lugar also attended.) Prior to his address, however, Gramm sought to deflect criticism by saying he planned to tell the Delaware Republicans that they should abide by New Hampshire's demand of a seven-day window between it and any other primary. During the speech, however, Gramm made no mention of the seven-day timetable, simply saying that the tradition of New Hampshire going first should be maintained.

Because he did not specifically endorse the window at the convention, Gramm has been excoriated all week in the Manchester *Union Leader*. Gov. Steve Merrill's (R-NH) comments this week ranged from "disappointed" early in the week to saying he has a "serious problem" with Gramm and that "New Hampshireites aren't buying his explanation" later in the week.

Iowa. Gov. Tommy Thompson (R-WI) was in Des Moines, IA this week. His line about a presidential bid was the same there as it has been for months: that he has no plans to run but that he will consider it if he doesn't hear the current crop of candidates talk about "important issues."

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 5/15

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

95 MAY 12 P 6:47

May 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Doug Sosnik
RE: Weekly Report

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

1996 Presidential News

Pete Wilson. Stories trickled out regarding Wilson's immigrant employee this week, with more expected soon. Among the issues that may emerge are: evidence of a different immigrant housekeeper hired before the one currently known; the circumstances of the immigrant's sham marriage; and possible involvement of prominent Republican operatives in urging the immigrant to keep her mouth shut. Meanwhile, Wilson now claims to have \$14 million in pledges and is expected to formally announce his candidacy in two weeks.

Bob Dole. Barry Goldwater endorsed Bob Dole this week, boosting Dole's chances in Arizona's early primary. The endorsement was seen as a rebuff to Pete Wilson who had actively courted the endorsement to augment his credibility in his neighboring state.

New Hampshire. Phil Gramm's problems with the Granite State continue as Delaware refuses to budge from its plans to hold a primary four days after New Hampshire. Phil Gramm, already viewed suspiciously by New Hampshire voters because of his association with Arizona's plans earlier this year to move its primary within the window, refused to cancel his appearance before the Delaware Republican Convention on May 5th. (Bob Dornan and Dick Lugar also attended.) Prior to his address, however, Gramm sought to deflect criticism by saying he planned to tell the Delaware Republicans that they should abide by New Hampshire's demand of a seven-day window between it and any other primary. During the speech, however, Gramm made no mention of the seven-day timetable, simply saying that the tradition of New Hampshire going first should be maintained.

Because he did not specifically endorse the window at the convention, Gramm has been excoriated all week in the Manchester *Union Leader*. Gov. Steve Merrill's (R-NH) comments this week ranged from "disappointed" early in the week to saying he has a "serious problem" with Gramm and that "New Hampshireites aren't buying his explanation" later in the week.

Iowa. Gov. Tommy Thompson (R-WI) was in Des Moines, IA this week. His line about a presidential bid was the same there as it has been for months: that he has no plans to run but that he will consider it if he doesn't hear the current crop of candidates talk about "important issues."

1995 Races

Mississippi Gubernatorial Race. Incumbent Governor Kirk Fordice (R) and Secretary of State Dick Molpus, the de-facto Democratic gubernatorial nominee, both kicked off their campaigns last week. Molpus is in the process of internally re-working his campaign organization, bringing on new fundraisers and a campaign political director. The Molpus campaign will continue a rigorous fundraising drive, including a scheduled DGA fundraiser this summer in D.C.

Baltimore Mayoral Race. There is increasing talk about a possible Schaefer bid in the Baltimore mayoral race as a Republican or Independent. The Democratic primary between City Council President Mary Pat Clark and incumbent Mayor Kurt Schmoke is already heated enough. The Clark campaign recently released a poll showing Clark neck-and-neck with Schmoke for the Democratic nomination.

Denver Mayor's Race. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb had another bad week. His efforts to define the run-off as a referendum on City Councilwoman Mary DeGroot's record have thus far failed. The media instead focused on conservative City Auditor and former mayoral candidate Bob Crider's endorsement of DeGroot. Crider received 9% of the vote in last week's general election and his endorsement should boost DeGroot's fundraising effort and help her appeal to Denver's moderate, blue-collar electorate. Former Mayor Federico Pena dredged up the Denver International Airport controversy yesterday in Congressional testimony. Without mentioning Webb by name, Pena said that poor decisions after he left office caused DIA's costly delays and bureaucratic debacles. Pena's critique of Webb could hurt Webb with the city's Hispanic constituency. DeGroot's internal polling shows the race in a statistical dead heat.

Allegheny County Commission Race. The heated Allegheny County, PA commission race will be held Tuesday, May 16th. The Democrats and Republicans will each nominate two candidates for the runoff election, in which three commissioners will be elected. Longtime incumbents and early supporters Tom Foerester (D) and Pete Flaherty (D) are expected to win the Democratic nominations, despite strong competition from state Senator Mike Dawida (D). A recent poll conducted by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* showed that Dawida, the best known of the Democratic challengers, was unfamiliar to nearly half the Democratic voters polled. Should Dawida win one of his party's slots in the runoff, he would probably defeat Flaherty.

1996 Races

Illinois Senate Race. Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra (R) may draw a primary challenger after all. State Rep. Al Salvi (R), a wealthy attorney and anti-choice advocate, is weighing a bid and says he is prepared to spend up to \$1 million if he runs. He said: "If there's considerable support for me, I'll go." Rep. Dick Durbin (D), meanwhile, is making noises that all of the recent talk about clearing the field for former Attorney General Neil Hartigan (D) is premature and that he may make the race regardless of Hartigan's decision.

Nebraska Senate Race. Gov. Ben Nelson (D-NE) reportedly plans on running for the Senate next year and will announce his intentions after the state legislature concludes its business in early June.

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

Georgia Senate Race. A recent Mason-Dixon poll showed Senator Sam Nunn with a re-elect score of 61%. Only 7% of voters polled said they would not vote to re-elect the Senator. Statewide, his job approval rating was 73%-27%. Hypothetical match-ups between Nunn and rumored GOP challengers showed Nunn winning the general election by large margins. If Nunn decided not to run or to switch parties, only 30% of those polled thought Zell Miller should get into the race. Secretary of State Max Cleland was not tested as a potential candidate in the poll. Nunn is not expected to make a decision regarding his '96 candidacy until after the completion of the next round of base closings. The *Marietta Journal* poll also showed you with a favorable/unfavorable rating of 38%-62% and a re-elect score of 26%.

Montana Senate Race. Senator Baucus' internal polling (Garin-Hart) shows a mixed bag for Montana Democrats. Although Baucus trails highly popular Governor Marc Racicot by a margin of 58% to 31%, Baucus handily defeats all other prospective challengers by double-digit margins. Racicot is receiving pressure from national Republicans to challenge Baucus, but he is ultimately expected to run for reelection in 1996. Baucus' approval/disapproval rating hovers at 51%-47%, while yours is 40%-52%.

Iowa Senate Race. Rep. Jim Ross Lightfoot (R-IA) announced that he will not challenge Sen. Tom Harkin (R-IA) this year. He cited his increased influence in the new House majority as the reason.

Great
idea
Oklahoma Senate Race. The name of former Gov. George Nigh (D-OK) is being floated as a possible challenger to Sen. Jim Inhofe's (R-OK) expected 1996 bid for a full six-year term. There is no word yet on Nigh's thoughts on such a bid.

N
Alabama Senate Race. Last Friday, Representative Glen Browder (D) held a series of press conferences throughout the state announcing the formation of an exploratory committee for the '96 Senate race--to fill the seat held by retiring Senator Howell Heflin (D). The press conference received little coverage by the Alabama press. State Democratic Party Chair Bill Blount, Huntsville Mayor Steve Hettinger (D) and former Representative Ronnie Flippo (D) have met to discuss the race, with an unspoken agreement that only one of the three will seek the Democratic nomination.

Louisiana Senate Race. A Mason-Dixon poll conducted for the *Monroe News-Star* showed a crowded field with no frontrunner in the 1996 Louisiana Senate race. At the top of list of potential vote-getters is a probably party switcher, Representative Billy Tauzin, who received 14% of the vote. The Democrats have not yet fielded a strong candidate for this race. However, there is speculation that Johnston would consider resigning from office if he decides to seek the statehouse in 1995--to avoid difficult votes prior to the election. In this scenario, Governor Edwards (presumably in conjunction with Johnston) would appoint a Democratic successor to the seat for the remainder of Johnston's term. Possible candidates in the '96 race may be hanging back, waiting to see the outcome of Johnston's decision-making.

N
North Carolina Gubernatorial Race. State House Majority Whip Robin Hayes (R) announced he will challenge Gov. Jim Hunt (R) next year. Hayes, who brings considerable personal wealth to the table in the race, is virtually certain to be joined in the primary by Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot (R).

Other Political News

Western Militia Groups. In the wake of Representative George Miller's criticism of Representative Helen Chenoweth's ties to militia groups, Chenoweth made headlines this week by stating that the Oklahoma City bombers deserve the death penalty. In response to a query about whether she thought the government may have had a connection to the bombing, Chenoweth expressed skepticism but left the door open for the possibility: "I'm waiting to see what the facts turn up." The Seattle Post Intelligencer praised your Michigan speech this week. Meanwhile, KVI, the Washington State talk radio station that organized a protest for Mrs. Clinton's visit last year, wrote a defensive editorial this week condemning the Oklahoma bombing and expressing discomfort with the term "right wing radio."

Virginia Democratic Party. Virginia Democratic Chair Mark Warner announced this week he will step down from his post to explore running for the Senate seat currently held by Republican John Warner. Lt. Governor Don Beyer (D), the titular head of the Virginia Party, yesterday recommended Fairfax County Chair Suzie Wrenn to fill Warner's position as chair. Wrenn must be approved by the state Central Committee during their June 24th meeting.

We need to answer this **Rep. Steve Stockman (R).** Stockman, the archconservative freshman who you may recall received a fax from affiliates of the Michigan Militia tipping him off about the Oklahoma bombing, said this week that the reason for the Waco raid was the Administration's desire "to prove the need for a ban on so-called assault weapons." White House spokesperson Ginny Terzano called Stockman's statement "an outrageous and absurd accusation."

Willie Brown. The recall election for the Republican Assemblyman who supported Brown for Speaker is scheduled for Tuesday. He is expected to lose, giving Republicans a clear majority in the house, though they must wait until a June 6 special election on another seat to reach the 40 votes needed to oust Brown as Speaker. Internal Republican politics may also slow down the drive to replace Brown, however, as at least three other Republicans are considering challenging their leader for the job.

Governor William Weld. Governor Weld of Massachusetts (R) created waves yesterday when he failed to show up at the legislative hearing for his death penalty bill. The passage of the bill is a big priority for the Governor and has been highly controversial within the state legislature. Weld missed the hearing because he was out-of-state campaigning for California Governor Pete Wilson.

New York Mayoral Race '97. Comptroller Carl McCall this week toyed publicly with the idea of challenging Mayor Giuliani. McCall would be a top contender in a Democratic primary. At present, Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger is in the race, and Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer is toying with the idea of running. No African-American candidate has emerged, other than McCall. McCall privately, however, says he's not really thinking of running and is just playing with Giuliani in the press.

PH-
WJC HANDWRITING

Louisiana Democrats. Mack McLarty will serve as keynote speaker of the Louisiana Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner this Saturday, May 13th. The event will be attended by Senators Breaux and Johnston, as well as the bulk of the Democratic gubernatorial nominees. Despite reports of flooding and hurricane-like weather, the event is expected to draw a strong turnout from local Democratic supporters.

California's Central Valley. At the request of Vic Fazio, Leon Panetta met with five Democratic members from California's Central Valley today to solicit their thoughts about our political prospects in the valley. While they have problems with our environmental policies, they strongly support our trade efforts and very much want you to visit the valley this year.

Washington Immigration. Conservative groups are gathering signatures in Washington State to qualify a measure similar to California's Proposition 187 for this fall's ballot.

Gorton vs. Environmentalists. Senator Slade Gorton's bill to scrap the Endangered Species Act has further galvanized the environmental community in the northwest. Livid environmental groups were already organizing grass-roots and paid media campaigns around Gorton's salvage logging amendment to the rescission bill, and are likely to be a highly motivated force in the 1996 elections.

cc: The Vice President
Leon Panetta
Harold Ickes
Melanne Verveer
George Stephanopoulos