

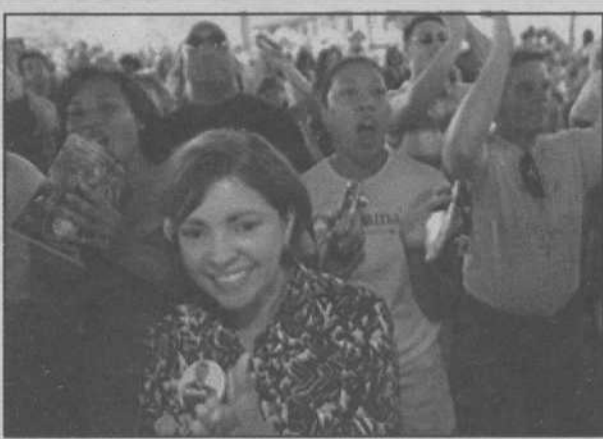
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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Hispanic voting power and trends debated by pundits.

Politicians eye Latinos in West

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - Bidding for Hispanic support in California's upcoming primary, Barack Obama describes himself in a Spanish-language television ad as the son of an immigrant whose success is a beacon to others.

"This is your country," a narrator says in the ad that began airing Friday in Los Angeles. "Don't let anyone or anything take away those dreams."

But it is an older, more familiar success story — that of the Clintons — that seems to be holding sway among most California Hispanics. They will play a key role in deciding the Democratic winner.

As the wife of the former president, Hillary Clinton has an almost dynastic appeal to Hispanic voters, many of whom came of voting age during the economic good times of Bill Clinton's presidency.

The New York senator leads Obama 3-to-1 among Hispanics, according to a recent survey by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California.

"There is very much a comfort zone with the name and the family, and a very comfortable remembrance with Clinton's eight years in office," said Jaime Regalado, director of the Pat Brown Institute at California State University, Los Angeles.

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Economic covenant signed

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LAS VEGAS (NNPA) - Leo Kiely stepped to the mic after a glowing introduction from John B. Smith Sr., chairman of the Black Press of America.

"I am Leo Kiely. And I sell beer. That's what I do," he said to laughter from the audience, members of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the nation's premier Black Press organization.

But, Smith quickly clarified that selling beer is not the only work of Kiely, CEO of Molson Coors Brewing Company, the third largest brewer in the U.S.

"He is a gentle giant because of what he believes in terms of community and a true friend of the Black Press," Smith said in his introduction during the NNPA Winter Conference in Las Vegas.

"He is a true advocate for the cause of African-American liberation and an advocate for us on the inside."

Kiely's next move put Smith's words into action. He recommitted to a 4-year-old national economic covenant, continuing a mission first initiated 24 years ago.

The covenant, signed by Kiely and Stanley Washington, co-chair of the National



Sentinel-Voice photo by Oxygen Photos

NNPA publishers look on as Molson Coors Brewing Company President and CEO W. Leo Kiely, sign new covenant with the Black community during a conference in Las Vegas.

Black Economic Development Coalition, as the publishers applauded, strengthens the company's commitment to economic growth and relationship in the Black community through diversity in employment, marketing, advertising, distribution, retailing, purchasing, corporate contributions and board representation.

"Our partnership with your organization is a wonderful thing in terms of us reaching out to our communities, employees and all of our constituencies — includ-

ing beer drinkers," Kiely said.

"You hear a lot these days about the way people get news and information. We have the Internet, blogs, podcasts — and I have my kids trying to educate me on what all that is as another generation is coming along — but I personally believe that these days, where there's a lot of transformation on how people are getting their information, that they really appreciate getting their information from a familiar face that they can trust. And that

face is you, the 200 plus newspapers of the NNPA... I think that is as true today as it has ever been."

Kiely said the Coors commitment to community, initiated in 1984 — 10 years before he came to Coors — was first established with the NBEDC. Coalition representatives, along with representatives from some of its member organizations, including NNPA, the NAACP, and the Rainbow-PUSH Coalition were present at the signing.

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Obama support spreads as Super Tuesday looms

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

ATLANTA (NNPA) - The eyes of the people at Gate A15 at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta were focused in one direction — and that was not on the flight monitor.

Heads were turned upward, ears straining to hear the TV set hanging from the ceiling.

On the screen, the figures showed that Barack Obama had just defeated Hillary Clinton 55 percent to 27 percent in South Carolina's Democratic Primary with

John Edwards trailing with 18 percent.

"In the South, where we were lynched? ...My God," marveled Tracie Powell, a middle-aged Black accountant on her way home to Maryland. "If the slave masters could only wake up and see this."

Another woman, 27-year-old Stacy Stewart, a copyright lawyer from Trinidad and Tobago, quickly switched seats in order to get closer to the TV.

"The way the U.S. is viewed today around the world will change," she pre-

dicted in an interview. "Also, he will not only bring hope to the U.S., but around the world."

Joined on stage by his wife, Michelle, the voice of the man who would be America's first Black president boomed throughout the terminal and in homes across America:

"Over two weeks ago, we saw the people of Iowa proclaim that our time for change has come. But there were those who doubted this country's desire for something new — who said Iowa was a fluke not to be repeated

again. Well, tonight, the cynics who believed that what began in the snows of Iowa was just an illusion were told a different story by the good people of South Carolina," he said.

"You can see it in the faces here tonight. They are young and old; rich and poor. They are Black and White; Latino and Asian and Native American... And in nine days [Feb. 5], in nine short days, nearly half the nation will have the chance to join us in saying that we are tired of business-as-usual in Washington, we are hungry for

change, and we are ready to believe again."

Those "nine short days" have now been whittled down to days and hours when voters in 22 states will go to the polls in Democratic Primaries on the same day, Feb. 5, called "Super Tuesday."

A growing excitement appears to have set in — among people of diverse nationalities — at the mere thought that an African-American could possibly become president.

"I'm just happy... I'm a big supporter," said Abraham Kulungara, who identified

himself as Indian. He sat mesmerized at the airport as Obama spoke, even as the last few people filed toward the plane.

Polls accurately predicted Obama's landslide win in South Carolina with a Democratic electorate of nearly half Black. But on Super Tuesday, anything could happen as African-American heavyweights, such as Reps. John Lewis in Atlanta and Charlie Rangel in New York, campaign on behalf of Clinton.

Obama also received ma-
(See Obama, Page 4)