

Analysis: Democrats telling Clinton it's over

Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON — Apart from George McGovern, a plain-spoken man who knows something about losing elections, not a single Democrat of national stature publicly urged Hillary Clinton on Wednesday to end her campaign for the White House.

They didn't have to. There was no shortage of other ways to signal, suggest,

insinuate or instigate the same thing. And certainly no need to apply unseemly pressure to a historic political figure, a woman who has run a grueling race, won millions of votes and drawn uncounted numbers of new Democratic voters to the polls.

Instead, many Democrats instead preferred to say softly what the party's 1972 presidential nominee said for all

to hear. Barack Obama has won the nomination "by any practical test," McGovern said.

"Hillary, of course, will make the decision as to if and when she ends her campaign," he added. "But I hope that she reaches that decision soon so that we can concentrate on a unified party capable of winning the White House next November."

Its campaign quarry fi-



"I'm staying in this race until there's a nominee and obviously I am going to work as hard as I can to become that nominee."

— Hillary Clinton

Obama

(Continued from Page 1)

in August, are hard pressed now to justify turning their backs on Obama, as Hillary Clinton and her supporters have insisted they do.

Clinton seemed to admit as much during what some suggested was a conciliatory victory speech in Indiana.

Though she had hoped for a decisive victory in the Hoosier State, coupled with either a surprise win in North Carolina — where both her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and N.C. Gov. Mike Easley, campaigned exhaustively — or at least a convincing narrowing of the 20-point lead Obama had there, she was stunningly denied both.

While vowing to "work my heart out" running in West Virginia and Kentucky — two of the upcoming six remaining primaries that conclude June 3 — Clinton's tone was no longer defiant.

"I want to commend Sen. Obama and his supporters on their win in North Carolina," the New York senator told supporters, as her subdued husband and daughter, Chelsea, looked on. "We are, in many ways, on the same journey. It's a journey begun long before we were born. It is a journey by men and women who have been on a mission to perfect our union, who marched and protested, who risked everything they had to build an America that embraces us all."

As she did with the N.C. Black Press a week earlier, Sen. Clinton vowed to work as hard as she could to elect the Democratic nominee in the fall.

"I know that people are watching this race and they're wondering: I win, he wins, I win, he wins. It's so close. And I think that says a lot about how excited and passionate our supporters are and how intent so many Americans are to be really taking their country back," Clinton said.

"But I can assure you, as I have said on many occasions, that no matter what happens, I will work for the nominee of the Democratic Party, because we must win in November."

While his margin of victory in North Carolina was impressive, the Obama win still betrayed signs of weaknesses. With the re-emergence of the racial controversy involving his former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, plaguing his campaign and threatening to undermine his ability to win a significant percentage of White, working class voters, Obama struggled with that demographic in North Carolina, garnering 36 percent to Clinton's 59 percent, according to exit polls.

The same held true in Indiana, where Sen. Clinton laid claim to that support base.

However, as with Obama's other primary victories in states with a significant African-

American population, especially in the South, the Democratic frontrunner dominated the senator from New York, 91 percent to 6 percent.

He also did well with young people; new voters; and White, educated progressive Whites.

Thanks to Obama, Democratic voter registration in North Carolina jumped to over 100,000 since January, and early voting figures logged in at almost 500,000.

N.C. election officials estimate that over 2 million voters went to the polls Tuesday, making it one for the history books.

But Obama faces another looming problem — Hillary Clinton voters who vow not to vote for him in November if he is indeed the nominee. Exit polls show that while 45 percent of Clinton voters would support Obama, 38 percent indicated they would vote for Republican John McCain.

Pundits are saying Clinton, who is not expected to be chosen as Obama's vice presidential running mate, will have to work hard to pull her White, working class and White female coalition together with Obama's supporters in order to win the White House for him. But she may not be ready to make that deal just yet.

The Obama victory comes amid yet another attempt by the Clinton campaign to redefine the terms of the game, suggesting Tuesday that the 2,025 pledged delegate goal for nomination set by the Democratic National Committee should actually be 2,208.

Clinton campaign strategists argue that the pledged delegates Sen. Clinton won in the certified Florida and Michigan primaries should count, even though both states' delegates were disallowed by the DNC because they changed their primary dates without authorization.

While Sen. Obama didn't campaign in either state, as mandated by the DNC, and actually removed his name from the Michigan ballot, Clinton won both uncontested but disallowed contests.

Now the DNC's Rules Committee must determine a way to seat the Florida and Michigan delegates at the Democratic Convention in Denver, Col. in August, but either split the delegates between Clinton and Obama, or come up with another formula for pledged delegate distribution that is acceptable to everyone.

DNC Chairman Howard Dean said the 2025 delegate goal is still in force, even though neither Obama nor Clinton can reach the magic number without the approximately 300 undeclared superdelegates weighing in.

Many of them are expected to do just that in coming days, thus, bringing Sen. Clinton's campaign for the presidency, to an end.

Cash Michaels writes for the Carolinian.

nally cornered, the Obama high command gave it space. The Illinois senator was on track to become the first Black presidential nominee of a major party and aides produced a small trickle of superdelegate supporters. But there was nary a word about hastening Clinton's departure.

"I think that it would be inappropriate and awkward and wrong for any of us to tell Sen. Clinton when it is time for the race to be over," said Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, speaking on a campaign-sponsored conference call with reporters.

"This is her decision and it is only her decision. And we are confident that she is going to do the right thing for

the Democratic nominee. We are confident she will help work hard to unite our party."

Sen. Chuck Schumer, a staunch supporter of his fellow New Yorker, said, "It's her decision to make and I'll accept what decision she makes." Asked about her chances of still capturing the Democratic nomination, the normally loquacious Schumer fell silent.

Other Democrats preferred to speak more freely, but only on condition of anonymity. They, too, said that Tuesday's primaries in North Carolina and Indiana had effectively sealed the outcome.

They predicted an acceleration in the pace of superdelegates to his side — he gained four during the day,

to two for Clinton. And wondered about her ability to raise sufficient campaign funds — she disclosed having loaned herself another \$6.4 million in recent weeks, despite an earlier boast that 80,000 new donors came to her aid after she won the Pennsylvania primary on April 22.

Clinton's arguments for staying in the race were disappearing.

Obama lengthened his overall lead in delegates in the two states that held primaries on Tuesday, and by day's end, had drawn to within about a dozen of the former first lady in superdelegate support. He had 1,846.5 in The Associated Press' count, to 1,696 for Clinton, out of 2,025 needed for the nomination.

Additionally, his 240,000-vote victory in North Carolina, coupled with her narrow, 18,000-vote triumph in Indiana, all but assured Obama will finish the primary season with a lead in the cumulative popular vote.

Five more states and Puerto Rico are yet to vote. But alone among them, Oregon (See Analysis, Page 11)

Homework Help

FREE with your library card at www.lvccld.org . . .

• Ask a Librarian

Librarians answer your questions through live chat or email

• On-line Tutors and Tests

Free on-line tutoring in math, social studies, English language arts and science — also available in Spanish. Writing lab, skills building lessons and practice tests

• Catalog

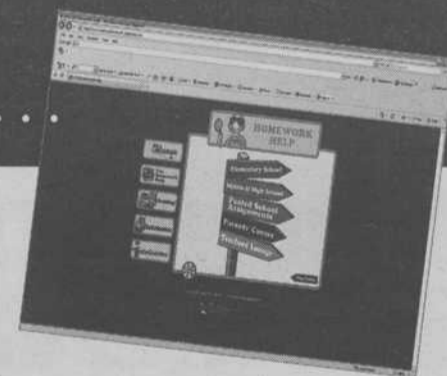
A kid-friendly source for library books, magazines, movies, music and more

• Databases

Verified sources of information from magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias and reference books

• InfoGuides

InfoGuides highlight relevant library materials and services, on-line databases and local community resources for each topic covered



Check out our Homework Help links at www.lvccld.org.

To get a free library card, stop by any branch or

visit www.lvccld.org and click on Cards & Services.

Homework Help is also available from in-library computers.

Las Vegas-Clark County
LIBRARY
DISTRICT