

NATION & WORLD

GORE
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dorsed Gore, Maryland's Paul Sarbanes, whose seat is considered safe. Of the 20 House Democrats considered "vulnerable" after winning by 55 percent or less in 1998, four turn up on Gore's list.

"As important as the presidency is, we are very invested in recapturing the House of Representatives," said Washington Rep. Brian Baird, president of the House freshman class.

"I'm facing a re-election myself and I'm just not getting involved in the presidential fray," said Lucas, another freshman, who won his seat with a 6-point margin.

Massachusetts freshman Michael Capuano, another to put Gore off for now, said it's early and the question is, "Can Al Gore do it? ... I am not convinced yet who will be best for the country and my district."

Illinois Rep. David Phelps said, "I've gone to some strategy sessions with the Gore campaign. I've expressed some concerns." He hasn't pledged his support.

"I've got to be sure. I've got to get my own house in order," Phelps said. "We're just being cautious. It shouldn't be interpreted as being negative."

National Abortion Rights Action League president Kate Michelman, sounding the alarm that a Republican president could overturn abortion rights, also declined to side with Gore over Bradley. "American women can count on either one of them," she said.

In Iowa, Black Caucus representative Darlene Hill said she battles apathy as she tries to organize the black community for Gore.

"They think he's sincere but they don't think the group is going to be following him, jumping up ... and saying 'Amen' and rolling out to the polls."

Such hesitancy this early in the campaign might not be so remarkable except that Gore has pursued early endorsements with a zeal that some cast as intimidating.

The campaign is planning a series of fall events to make a splash with new endorsements from critical Democratic communities — including blacks, Hispanics, organized labor and elect-

ed officials.
Rep. Anthony Weiner, whose New York district is considered ripe territory for a Bradley insurgency, recently complained to his local newspaper about Gore and the administration's plan to build a radar tower in Gateway National Park.

Coelho and another Gore campaign aide "were on the phone with me instantly," recalled the New York Democrat.

"Bradley has strong connections here. If Gore is going to start hemorrhaging support, it may be here. But they have been pretty aggressive."

Another Democrat, who asked not to be identified, said Colorado Rep. Mark Udall received from Gore aides a warning "not to cross the line too much" after Udall organized an informational meeting for Bradley.

In an interview, Coelho said the Gore camp listens for murmurs of support for Bradley and aims to swiftly answer each one.

"The mere fact we call, they may take that" as a threat, he said.

Before the August congressional recess, Coelho staged at least four "members only" sessions on Capitol Hill designed to answer questions about the viability of Gore's campaign.

"It's their careers that's at stake, too," Coelho said.

"And so they want to make sure that there is a way of you winning."

Coelho asks lawmakers to seal their endorsements by signing a pledge card to lock in their nominating votes as super delegates at next summer's Democratic National Convention.

Bradley has three Hill endorsements — Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey, Minnesota Sen. Paul Wellstone and Illinois Rep. William Lipinski — plus 130 state representatives.

"We put effort into reaching out to elected officials, there's no question," said Bradley spokesman Eric Hauser.

"But at the end of the day, voters make this decision and that's where a lot of our effort is focused."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Associated Press reporter Katherine Pfleger contributed to this report.

House issues subpoenas for FBI records

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A House committee has subpoenaed records for its investigation of the FBI's admission that incendiary tear gas canisters were used in the government's fiery 1993 clash with the Branch Davidians.

The House Government Reform Committee on Monday subpoenaed the Texas Rangers for evidence sifted from the charred remains of the Davidians' compound.

Also subpoenaed was an assistant U.S. attorney in Waco who prosecuted criminal cases against surviving Davidian members.

Attorney General Janet Reno and the FBI have said there is no evidence that the incendiary devices lobbed at a concrete bunker 40 yards from the Davidians' compound ignited the fire that later raced through the wooden structure.

But Reno has pledged a full investigation. FBI Director Louis Freeh has recommended to Reno that she appoint an outside investigator to head the team, an FBI official said today.

And while the FBI has identified 40 agents who could undertake an investigation, Freeh is supporting a probe without FBI involvement, said spokesman Tron Brekke.

Recognizing that the agency's credibility has been

damaged by its recent about-face, Brekke said: "We would welcome a qualified group of (independent) investigators to do that investigation."

Amid complaints on and off Capitol Hill that the FBI and its parent Justice Department cannot properly investigate themselves, Reno still has not decided who should head the investigation, said Justice spokesman Myron Marlin.

"She is still working through her options," he said today.

Committee Chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind., whose panel will hold hearings in the fall, sent two investigators to Austin last week to review evidence.

Monday's subpoenas will be followed by others, including to agencies involved in the siege, said committee spokesman Mark Corallo.

Among them is the Defense Department, whose secretive Delta Force had members at the scene — a point of controversy for some who contend the military played more than an observer's role.

Only under tightly proscribed rules is the military allowed to participate in domestic law enforcement operations.

Pentagon officials have said three Army special forces officers were present outside Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993, but were not involved in the FBI operation.

The subpoena to the Texas Rangers seeks all doc-

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Tron Brekke
FBI spokesman

uments relating to the use of the pyrotechnic tear gas devices as well as the Rangers' final report on the incident, Corallo said. The information requested must be provided by Sept. 7.

Meanwhile, The Dallas Morning News said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Johnston, the prosecutor subpoenaed by Burton's committee, wrote Reno on Monday that last week he received a 5-year-old document that discusses the use of "military gas" by the FBI on the last day of the siege.

Johnston said he was concerned because the three-page document, a set of notes on interviews with the FBI hostage rescue team, included handwritten notations suggesting it be kept from anyone outside the Justice Department's legal staff, the newspaper said in today's editions.

Dow
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tially reacted negatively to signs of inflationary pressure, which ultimately prompted the Fed to raise interest rates Aug. 24.

Then, stocks began to fall sharply because of continued weakness in financial stocks and a gust of profit taking.

This was first of the three sessions that recorded triple digit losses, when the Dow closed at 11,984, a drop of 127.59 points. Stocks further plummeted

last Friday, when the Dow closed at 11,090.17. The Dow dropped 176.04 points Monday.

Eric Powers, a finance professor at the Darla Moore School of Business, doesn't think the drop is anything to be concerned about.

"This decline is not significant in percentage terms and is not really a big one, either," Powers said. "We have had a perfect situation this month, with everything going our way, so it's time to expect some volatility."

When asked what he felt about a further increase in interest rates, he said, "Rates will increase, but when is the question. In addition, the repercussions on the economy will be adverse, as it will slow growth."

He also thinks inflation will kick up due to already low unemployment rates, and he thinks the Dow's fluctuation will continue for some time.

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