

DOLE BANKS ON WINNING CALIFORNIA; CLINTON CONFIDENT, CAMPAIGNS IN REPUBLICAN-LEANING VIRGINIA

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Body

Bob **Dole** stepped up on Sunday his attacks on illegal immigration and affirmative action as he tried to cut President Bill **Clinton**'s commanding lead in **California**.

The president took to the stump Sunday in **Virginia**, a state that has not supported a Democrat for the White House since 1964.

In San Jose, Calif., at a rally of Vietnamese-Americans, **Dole** said **Clinton** had not done enough to police America's borders and repeated his support for a state ballot initiative to end affirmative action and preferences in government hiring, contracting and school admissions.

Aides said **Dole**, who has extended his Californian trip by one day, plans major speeches on immigration and affirmative action today and Tuesday.

Standing before a banner that read "Celebrate Legal Immigration, the American Dream," **Dole** said, "There are no limits on what individuals can achieve in this country when they come here as legal immigrants. Because in America what counts is merit and character."

But, he added, **Clinton**'s lax border controls have left thousands of Californians "victims of violent criminals who should have been stopped at the border."

Dole continued, "Quotas, set-asides and other preferences that discriminate by race or ethnicity are simply wrong in America . . . and do violence to the principles of our Constitution."

The GOP presidential candidate has decided to focus much of his time and resources in **California** in the closing days of the **campaign**. The state has 54 of the 270 electoral college votes needed to **win** the presidency. "We're going to **win** the Golden State jackpot on Nov. 5 because we're going to talk about trust and leadership and ethics and things you can count on in a **Dole** administration - that are sorely lacking now," he said.

Perot's Pick

Dole said he was pleased by Ross Perot's comments Sunday, in which the Texas billionaire - and Reform Party presidential candidate - said **Dole** would be a better military commander-in-chief than **Clinton**.

Perot, on NBC's "Meet the Press," said, "Senator **Dole** understands combat. He has certainly paid a terrible price, and, if you were limited to those two, you'd certainly, I think every American would pick him, because he understands what he's doing. The other candidate (**Clinton**) has no experience in military or in combat."

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Dole **campaign** manager Scott Reed traveled to Dallas last week to try to persuade Perot to drop his third-party candidacy in the hope that Perot supporters might move into **Dole's** column. Perot turned **Dole** down but has since attacked the ethics of the **Clinton** administration.

Dole said Sunday, "I think (Perot is) being very positive in telling the American people they have a choice, and I'm the better choice."

Clinton In **Virginia**

Clinton's visit Sunday to **Virginia**, the start of a three-day, seven-state **campaign** swing, illustrated his **campaign's** growing confidence as it races down the final stretch to the Nov. 5 election.

Clinton appeared to be playing a **campaign** endgame:

* On one hand he sought to buttress his commanding position in traditionally crucial Midwestern states like Illinois and Ohio, which he will visit today and Tuesday.

* On the other, he wanted to use the **campaign's** waning days to further objectives beyond his own re-election - like positioning Vice President Al Gore for a 2000 run at the White House and helping Democratic candidates for Congress.

During a quick visit to Springfield, Va., a Washington suburb, **Clinton** **campaigned** with Mark Warner, a businessman seeking to oust three-term Republican John Warner from the Senate, and with Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va. As he has done throughout the **campaign**, **Clinton** sought to paint himself as the candidate of the future and, without mentioning him by name, to portray **Dole** as a man of the past.

"Most people in **Virginia** have been voting against members of my party for president for over three decades now, and I know how hard it is to break a habit," **Clinton** said, prompting laughter. "One of the things we all teach our kids is that some habits have to be broken."

"I want you to go out from this place and spend the next nine days and tell your fellow Virginians they did a great thing for America when they and their native sons led us into the 19th century 200 years ago," he added. "**Virginia** can help lead American into the 21st Century nine days from now."

Clinton flew to St. Louis Sunday night and will **campaign** today in University City.

Graphic

PHOTO, GRAPHIC; (1) Photo from AP - Bob **Dole** receives a hug from Vietnamese-American children on stage during his rally in San Jose, Calif., on Sunday. (2) Photo from AP - President Bill **Clinton** shakes hands at a rally Sunday in Springfield, Va., a Washington suburb. No Democratic presidential candidate has **won** **Virginia** since 1964. (3) Color Graphic Logo - **Campaign** '96

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