

Clinton's Decision Was A Long Process

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton spent nearly two years tiptoeing around a decision to run for president that much of the political world assumed was a done deal.

Clinton didn't make a final call until the holidays. She spent her annual Christmas vacation last year in the Dominican Republic wading through 500 pages of memos and polling analysis, and discussing the material with her husband, former two-term President Bill Clinton.

When Clinton returned to New York in the new year, there was no meeting with staff or email to friends to announce her candidacy. The former senator and secretary of state simply started telling advisers to move forward with hiring and find a campaign headquarters.

Clinton formally launched her campaign Sunday in an online video. The announcement cements her status as the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, back within sight of an elusive ambition and a history-making turn as the nation's first female commander in chief.

Already one of the world's most analyzed figures, the 67-year-old will be subjected to months more scrutiny of her wealth, her appearance and health, and her personal relationships.



Clinton

Hezbollah's No. 2 Lashes Out At Saudis

BEIRUT (AP) — A top leader of the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group directed a barrage of criticism at Saudi Arabia on Monday, accusing the kingdom of committing genocide with its airstrike campaign targeting Yemen's Shiite rebels and warning it will "pay a heavy price" for its involvement.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, the Shiite militant group's deputy chief, Sheikh Naim Kassem, said Saudi Arabia made a "strategic mistake" by interfering in Yemen's internal affairs.

More than two weeks of Saudi-led airstrikes targeting Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, have failed to stop the rebel power grab. The Saudi campaign has also turned Yemen into a new proxy war between the kingdom and Iran, which has backed the Houthis, though Tehran denies aiding the rebels militarily. Hezbollah is a close Iran ally.

The strikingly tough criticism of the region's top Sunni powerhouse underlines the widening rift between Saudi Arabia and Shiite-led Iran, and is likely to further polarize the Sunni-Shiite divide in a turbulent Middle East.

"Saudi Arabia has embroiled itself (in Yemen) and will incur very serious losses ... that will increasingly reflect on its status, its internal situation and its role in the region," Kassem said.

Ex-Security Guards Get Long Sentences

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejecting pleas for mercy, a federal judge on Monday sentenced former Blackwater security guard Nicholas Slatten to life in prison and three others to 30-year terms for their roles in a 2007 shooting that killed 14 Iraqi civilians and wounded 17 others.

The carnage in Baghdad's Nisoor Square, a crowded traffic circle, caused an international uproar over the use of private security guards in a war zone and remains one of the low points of the war in Iraq.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth sentenced Slatten, who witnesses said was the first to fire shots in the melee, to life on a charge of first-degree murder. The three other guards — Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard — were each sentenced to 30 years and one day in prison for charges that included manslaughter, attempted manslaughter and using firearms while committing a felony.

Lawyers for the men said they planned to appeal.

In their first public statements since the shooting, the former contractors — appearing in leg shackles and prison garb — insisted they are innocent.

Manhunt Begins For Shooting Suspect

GOLDSBORO, N.C. (AP) — A 20-year-old former community college student fatally shot a campus print shop director that had recently fired him, just as his old boss arrived for work Monday morning, school officials and authorities said.

A manhunt was underway for the suspect, Kenneth Morgan Stancil III. Authorities are pursuing him on an open count of murder, Wayne County Sheriff Larry Pierce said.

Authorities believe Stancil has left the area but is still in North Carolina. They have not released a motive for the shooting.

Stancil entered a large Wayne Community College building around 8 a.m. with a rifle and went to the third-floor print shop, perhaps using a back staircase so he would go unnoticed, authorities and school officials said. Stancil's former work-study boss, Ron Lane, was killed in the print shop. He had worked at the school for 18 years.

The shooting frightened students and the campus was put on lockdown as officers stormed the building.

Obama Scoffs At GOP Estate Tax Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Americans race to meet this week's tax deadline, President Barack Obama accused Republicans on Monday of trying to boost the richest Americans at the expense of poorer taxpayers.

Obama plans events all this week aimed at rallying support for his own tax proposals while detracting from Republicans' plan to repeal an inheritance tax on large estates. Wednesday is the deadline for Americans to file income tax returns for those who don't receive an extension.

The president kicked off the effort Monday with a series of interviews with local television stations in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Ohio and Maine. Obama told WGAL in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, that his own proposed middle-class tax cuts would reach 44 million Americans, while the GOP is proposing a \$270 billion tax cut that would help only 5,000 families across the nation.

"A budget that I sign has to help the folks who need help," Obama told WBNS in Columbus, Ohio. "It can't be that we're going to provide additional tax breaks to folks who make more than \$5 million a year at the expense of folks who are really struggling."

The estate tax repeal is among a series of tax-related measures that the GOP-controlled House plans to vote on this week. Obama said the Republican proposals would add hundreds of billions to the deficit, but Republicans said it was Obama, not the GOP, who was failing to keep deficits under control.

"Under President Obama's budget plan — that never, ever balances — many middle-class families will actually pay more in taxes," said Cory Fritz, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "Republicans are the only ones offering a balanced budget that paves the way to new jobs and a fairer, simpler tax code for all Americans."

Decision 2016

Florida's Rubio Throws His Hat In The Ring

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT AND
BRENDAN FARRINGTON

Associated Press

MIAMI — Sen. Marco Rubio entered the presidential race Monday by offering the nation a younger generation of leadership that breaks free of ideas "stuck in the 20th century," a jab at both Democratic favorite Hillary Rodham Clinton and his one-time Republican mentor, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Standing in front of a banner that proclaimed "A New American Century" and repeating that refrain throughout his kickoff speech, the 43-year-old Cuban-American used his first turn as a Republican presidential candidate to take on two of America's political dynasties. In doing so, he bet heavily on the electorate's frustrations with Washington and his ability to change how his party is seen by voters.

"This election is not just about what laws we are going to pass," Rubio told his evening rally. "It is a generational choice about what kind of country we will be."

He said it's also a choice between the haves and have-nots, nodding to his own upbringing by working-class parents. "I live an exceptional country where the son of a bartender and a maid can have the same dreams and the same future as those who come from power and privilege."

Earlier in the day, the first-term Republican from Florida spoke to his top donors and told them many families feel the American Dream is slipping away and young Americans face unequal opportunities. He's banking on the hope that he, alone among many GOP rivals, can make inroads with groups that have long eluded Republicans — young people, minorities and the less affluent.

"I feel uniquely qualified to not just make that argument, but to outline the policies that we need to have in order to achieve it," he said on the donor call.

In his televised speech, he told supporters, "The time has come for our generation to lead the way toward a new American century."

Rubio's remarks came as Clinton was traveling to Iowa on her first trip as a



PATRICK FARRELL/MIAMI HERALD/TNS

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) announces his candidacy for president of the United States on Monday at the Freedom Tower in Miami.

candidate. Her entrance into the race with an online video Sunday is robbing some attention from Rubio's splash into the race.

But Rubio saw an opportunity to cast the presidential contest as one between a fresh face representing a new generation of leadership and familiar faces harking back decades — namely, the 62-year-old Bush and the 67-year-old Clinton.

"While our people and economy are pushing the boundaries of the 21st century, too many of our leaders and their ideas are stuck in the 20th century," Rubio said to applause.

The swipe at Bush was implied; with Clinton, he was more direct.

"Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday," Rubio said to jeers. "Yesterday is over and we are never going back."

Supporters began lining up in 87-degree heat three hours before the public kickoff at Freedom Tower, the Miami landmark that was the first stop for tens of thousands of fleeing Cuban exiles dur-

ing the 1960s and 1970s.

Kelly Steele, 50, and her 18-year-old son wore tie-dyed Rubio T-shirts. "We have had a lot of Bushes," Kelly Steele said, comparing Rubio to a youthful John Kennedy.

"Sen. Rubio kind of reminds me of JFK," she said. "He's got that energy and desire and momentum and excitement."

Hours before his rally, the chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, criticized Rubio as just another establishment Republican with no new ideas.

"He's a follower, peddling the same tired Republican playbook," she told reporters. "Marco Rubio has pandered to the Republican base throughout his whole career."

To counter views of him as a neophyte, Rubio has outlined specific policy proposals both on foreign and domestic issues. He plans future presentations as his campaign gets underway.

On Tuesday, on his first day as a candidate, he is set to return to Washington to join a Senate hearing on a proposed deal with Iran on its nuclear ambitions.

Iran Plan

Kerry Complains Of 'Misrepresentations'

BY DEB RIECHMANN

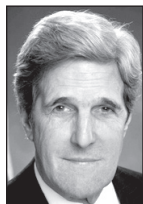
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration stepped up its lobbying campaign on Capitol Hill on Monday to try to persuade lawmakers not to pass any legislation that could hamper prospects for negotiating a final deal with Iran to curb its nuclear program.

A Senate panel is set to vote Tuesday on an intensely debated bill that would give Congress a say on a potential deal aimed at keeping Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon. On the House side, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Monday he will bring the bill to the floor if the Senate acts on legislation giving Congress the power to review any deal.

Republicans and Democrats maintain that Congress should have a say on an international deal with Tehran to curb its nuclear program and have lined up behind legislation. The White House has pushed back, threatening a presidential veto while warning that the bill could scuttle the delicate talks involving the United States, Iran and five world powers.

President Barack Obama has threatened to veto the bill



Kerry

as it's written, although senators from both parties are expected to offer amendments.

"There have been a lot of representations, misrepresentations" about what's contained in the framework agreement the U.S. and its partner nations negotiated with Tehran, Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters outside a congressional auditorium where he was giving a closed-door briefing.

A reporter suggested that many lawmakers already have made up their minds about the Iran deal and the bill that would allow Congress to weigh in on an important foreign policy issue facing the president. "That's what we're here to find out," Kerry replied.

"We hope Congress will listen carefully and ask the questions that it wants to, but also give us the space and time to be able to complete a very difficult task which has high stakes for our country," said Kerry, who also plans to lobby members Tuesday.

At the White House, Obama met with Jewish leaders. While Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is intensely skeptical that international negotiators can reach a verifiable deal with Iran, which has threatened to destroy Israel, some American Jewish groups have backed the international negotiations.

McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters that he spoke with Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, earlier in the day. McCarthy said he told Corker that if the Senate approves the bill, the House will vote on it.

"It's my intention to bring it to the floor of the House and move it," McCarthy said at a news conference as Congress was returning from a two-week spring break.

"Lines in the sands have moved back," McCarthy said, claiming the U.S. has backtracked on some of the demands it had at the beginning of the talks. "A lot of the ques-

tions will be why have they moved back and will Iran ever be able to have the capability of having a nuclear weapon? That's a key question."

Under the bill, Obama could unilaterally lift or ease any sanctions that were imposed on Iran through presidential executive means. But the bill would prohibit him for 60 days from suspending, waiving or otherwise easing any sanctions that Congress levied on Iran. During that 60-day period, Congress could hold hearings and approve, disapprove or take no action on any final nuclear agreement with Iran.

If Congress passed a joint resolution approving a final deal — or took no action — Obama could move ahead to ease sanctions levied by Congress. But if Congress passed a joint resolution disapproving it, Obama would be blocked from providing Iran with any relief from congressional sanctions.

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SURVIVOR REGISTRATION

Name _____ Gender M/F
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Type of Cancer _____ T-Shirt Size (circle): YM, YL, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
Signature _____

* I am interested in hearing more about patient-related programs/services of the American Cancer Society. Yes/No
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Survivor Registration form can also be completed on the Yankton Relay For Life website at www.relayforlife.org/yanktonSD (click on Survivors & Caregivers) by June 12th to ensure t-shirt size.

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