

Obama: Put health care over politics

NATION SENTINEL WIRE SERVICES

WIRE REPORTS

PHILADELPHIA — President Barack Obama challenged warring members of his party on Monday not to give in to political fears about supporting health care legislation, asserting that the urgency of getting a bill through Congress should trump any concern about the consequences for Democrats in November.

In a high-octane appearance that harkened back to his “yes we can” campaign days, Obama jettisoned the professorial demeanor that has cloaked many of his public pronouncements on the issue, instead making an emotional pitch for public support as

he tries to push the legislation through a final series of votes in Congress in the next several weeks. He appeared intent on reassuring his party that he is as confident as ever in his powers to explain, persuade and capture the politics of the moment.

Appearing before 1,800 students and other members of the public at Arcadia University, just outside of Philadelphia, Obama struck a populist tone, setting up the health insurance industry as his main target.

The two-step approach now being pursued by the White House calls for the House to approve a Senate-passed bill from last year, despite House Democrats' op-

position to several of its provisions. Both houses then would follow by approving a companion measure to make changes in that first bill. Several officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a Senate-passed excise tax on high-cost insurance plans would be scaled back in deference to objections from



BART STUPAK
Michigan Democrat signals progress on abortion language

labor unions. In another White House proposal, a Senate-passed provision to raise Medicare taxes on the wages of upper income earners would probably be extended — possibly at a higher rate — to investment income such as interest and dividends as well.

A key Michigan Democrat, Rep. Bart Stupak, said Monday that prospects are good for resolving a dispute over abortion that has led some House Democrats to threaten to withhold support.

“I’m more optimistic than I was a week ago,” Stupak told The Associated Press between meetings with constituents in his northern Michigan district.

Palin: Family used Canadian health care

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Sarah Palin has criticized Canada’s health care system, saying it should be dismantled in favor of free enterprise, and denounced President Barack Obama’s health plan as being socialized medicine.

But during a weekend speech in Calgary, the former Republican vice presidential candidate acknowledged her family used medical care in Whitehorse, the capital of Canada’s Yukon Territory, when they lived in remote Skagway, Alaska, when she was an infant and toddler.

Palin’s father, Chuck Heath, said his family went to the Whitehorse hospital only twice — when a daughter had rheumatic fever and when his son severely burned his leg. “I still had to pay the bill, being an American citizen,” Heath said.

Two of oldest people in U.S. die

WESTMORELAND, N.H. — Two of the oldest people in the world have died on the same day.

Mary Josephine Ray, who was certified as the oldest person living in the United States, died Sunday at age 114 years, 294 days at a nursing home, her granddaughter Katherine Ray said.

Ray died just hours before Daisey Bailey, who was 113 years, 342 days, died in Detroit, said L. Stephen Coles, a director of the Gerontology Research Group, which tracks and studies old people and certifies those 110 or older, called supercentenarians.



DAISEY BAILEY
Just shy of 114

Deaths could hit 500 in Nigerian religious violence

WIRE REPORTS

DOGO NAHAWA, Nigeria — The killers showed no mercy: They didn’t spare women and children, or even a 4-day-old baby, from their machetes. On Monday, Nigerian women wailed in the streets as a dump truck carried dozens of bodies past burned-out homes toward a mass grave.

Rubber-gloved workers pulled ever-smaller bodies from the

dump truck and tossed them into the mass grave. A crowd began singing a hymn with the refrain, “Jesus said I am the way to heaven.” As the grave filled, the grieving crowd sang: “Jesus, show me the way.”

Officials and human rights groups in Nigeria sharply increased the count of the dead after a weekend of vicious ethnic violence, saying that as many as 500 people — many of them

women and children — may have been killed near the central city of Jos, long a flashpoint for tensions between Christians and Muslims.

The dead were Christians and members of an ethnic group that has been feuding with the Hausa Fulani, Muslim herders whom witnesses and police officials identified as the attackers. Officials said the attack was a reprisal for violence in January,

when dozens of Muslims were slaughtered in and around Jos.

At a local morgue, the bodies of children, including a diaper-clad toddler, were tangled together. One appeared to have been scalped. Others had severed hands and feet.

Nigeria is almost evenly split between Muslims in the north and the predominantly Christian south.

WORLD SENTINEL WIRE SERVICES

N. Korea creates army missile force

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has recently created an army division in charge of newly developed intermediate-range missiles capable of striking U.S. forces in Japan and Guam, a South Korean news agency said today.

The report came as North Korea stepped up its war rhetoric against the U.S. and South Korea after the allies started their annual drills aimed at improving their defense capabilities.

The North’s People’s Army recently launched a division supervising operational deployment of missiles with a range of more than 1,860 miles that it had developed in recent years, Yonhap news agency reported, citing an unidentified South Korean government source.

Haitians free U.S. missionary; 1 left

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — One of two Baptist missionaries still held on kidnapping charges in Haiti was released and flew to Miami on Monday, but the U.S. group’s leader remained in custody.

Charisa Coulter, 24, was taken from her jail cell to the airport by U.S. Embassy staff more than a month after she and nine other Americans were arrested for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti after the earthquake.

Defense lawyer Louis Ricardo Chachoute predicted that Laura Silsby, 40, would be released soon as well.

Iraqi election rivals both claim lead

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi prime minister’s coalition and its main secular rival both claimed to be ahead in the vote count Monday, a day after historic parliamentary elections that the top U.S. commander said would let all but 50,000 American troops come home by the end of summer.

Initial results of the election Sunday for some provinces, as well as for Baghdad — an area essential to determining any winner — were to be announced today.

The election was only the country’s second for a full parliamentary term, and it attracted 62 percent of about 19 million eligible voters, according to the nation’s election commission. The last such election, in December 2005, attracted roughly 76 percent of eligible voters.

BUSINESS SENTINEL WIRE SERVICES

Market watch

March 8, 2010	
Dow Jones industrials	-13.68 10,552.52
Nasdaq composite	+5.86 2,332.21
Standard & Poor’s 500	-0.20 1,138.50
Russell 2000	+1.09 667.11

NYSE diary

Advanced: 1,800
Declined: 1,257
Unchanged: 118
Volume: 3.93 b

Nasdaq diary

Advanced: 1,451
Declined: 1,240
Unchanged: 115
Volume: 2.1 b

SOURCE: SunGard AP

Stocks of local interest

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD%Chg
ArgGas	.70	25.73	64.78	-.85	-1.30
AlgnAir	.00	14.06	54.31	+1.40	+2.65
ArchCoal	.36	87.17	24.56	+2.24	+9.99
BBarrett	.00	30.77	34.00	-.31	-.90
BJSvcs	.25	N/A	22.79	-.17	-.74
BP PLC	3.36	10.62	56.17	+.39	+7.0
CBRL Grp	.80	13.16	44.62	+12	+27
Chevron	2.69	14.18	74.64	+.34	+4.6
ChoiceHts	.74	21.28	34.86	+.15	+4.3
Cimarex	.24	N/A	60.91	+.23	+3.8
DowChem	.60	94.04	29.50	-.50	-1.67
EnCana	1.40	13.82	34.18	-.07	-.20
Halbrtn	.36	25.12	31.41	-.47	-1.47
Harsco	.81	21.02	30.82	-.16	-.52
HewlettP	.32	15.54	51.73	-.30	-.58
HorwIntl	1.22	14.71	41.49	-.42	-1.00
Kroger	.37	90.24	22.90	+.16	+7.0
LockhM	2.40	10.45	81.09	-.18	-.22
MerillLyn	.00	N/A	11.78	0.00	0.00
MolCoorB	.96	11.05	42.69	-.12	-.28
NL Inds	.50	16.70	8.68	-.04	-.46
NewtM	.30	19.36	51.06	-.49	-.95
OfficeMax	.00	N/A	16.37	-.07	-.43
QwestCm	.32	12.17	4.70	+.04	+8.6
Safeway	.39	N/A	24.73	+.06	+2.4
SkyWest	.16	10.30	14.75	-.41	-2.70
SmithIntl	.48	64.62	43.49	+.52	+1.21
Startek	.00	24.73	7.73	-.01	-.13
TetonEgy	.00	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00
ThermoFis	.00	24.61	49.93	+.44	+8.9
UAL	.00	N/A	17.518	-.712	-3.91
US Airwy	.00	N/A	7.32	-.11	-1.48
US Bancrp	.20	25.98	24.99	-.21	-.83
UtahMed	.93	16.37	28.55	+.33	+1.17
VailRsr	.00	31.92	36.74	-.26	-.70
WellsFargo	.20	16.65	28.89	-.26	-.89
Wmcsos	.44	47.79	22.86	-.27	-1.17
XcelEng	.98	14.32	21.15	-.04	-.19
ZionBcp	.07	N/A	18.93	+1.19	+6.01

Commodities

Energy	Mon.	±Change
Light crude oil	81.71	-16
Heating oil	2.10	unch
Natural gas	4.58	+05
Unleaded gas	2.29	+02

Prices are futures from the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Agribusiness

Lean hogs	72.85	-30
Pork bellies	92.03	-98
Live cattle	94.20	+125
Feeder cattle	106.00	+78
Corn (bu.)	3.75	-.03
Soybeans (bu.)	9.49	+06
K.C. wheat (bu.)	4.95	+02

Prices are futures from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange except Kansas City wheat.

Metals

NEW YORK (AP) — Spot nonferrous metal prices Mon.

Aluminum	-\$0.9978 per lb., London Metal Exch.
Copper	-\$3.3864 Cathode full plate, LME.
Copper	-\$3.3965 N.Y. Merc spot Mon.
Lead	-\$2173.00 metric ton, London Metal Exch.
Zinc	-\$1.0234 per lb., London Metal Exch.
Gold	-\$1125.75 Handy & Harman (only daily quote).
Gold	-\$1123.60 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot Mon.
Silver	-\$17.220 Handy & Harman (only daily quote).
Silver	-\$17.165 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot Mon.
Platinum	-\$1607.00 troy oz., N.Y. (contract).
Platinum	-\$1600.10 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot

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