

N.H., Rudy don't add up

■ Giuliani campaign's 'nine-inning game' plan moves TV funds from 1st primary state to bigger places

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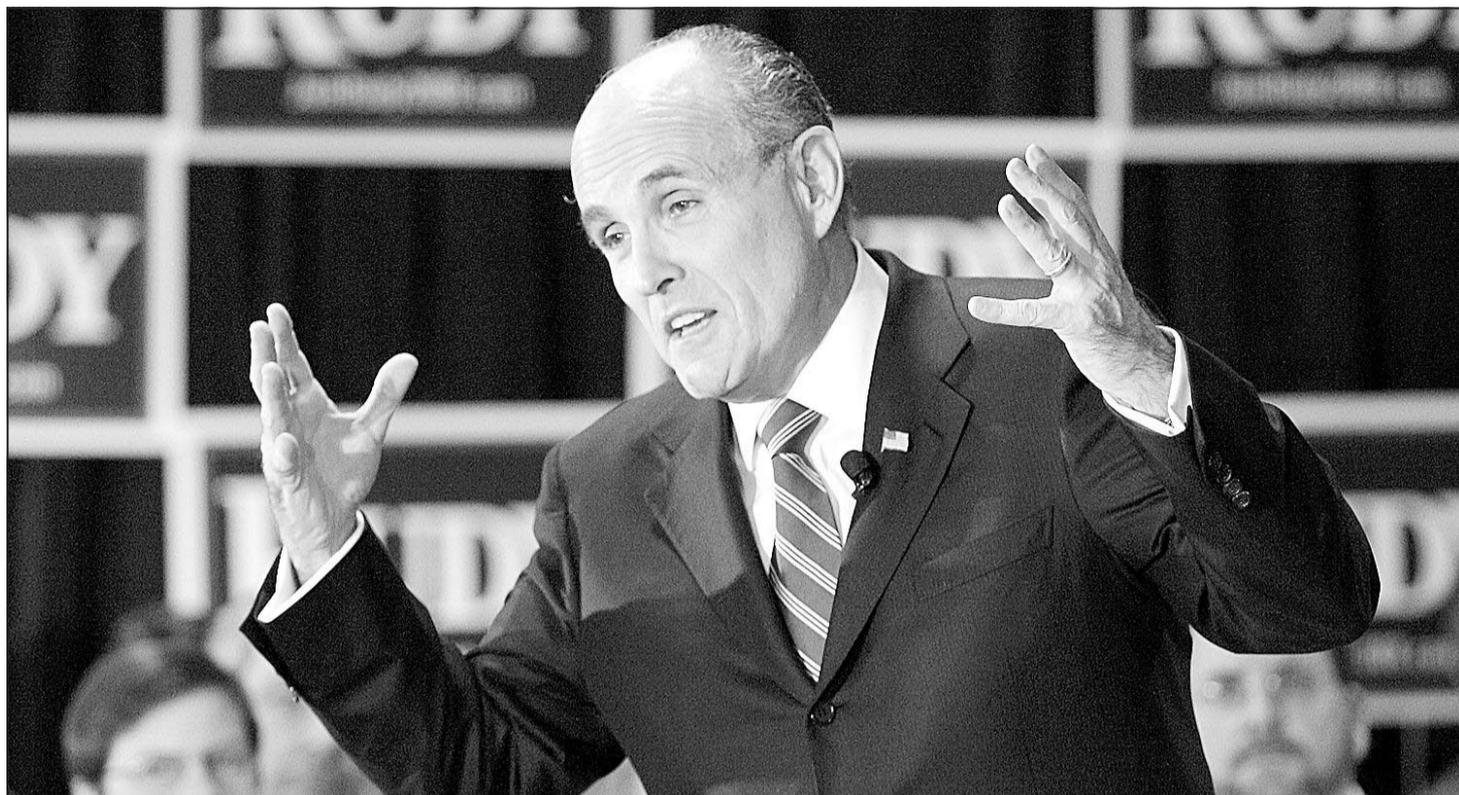
WASHINGTON — Rudy Giuliani's campaign has curtailed its TV ad schedule in New Hampshire as he makes an effort to do just enough to finish in second or third place in that first primary state, with an eye instead on winning Florida and delegate-rich big states on Feb. 5.

In New Hampshire, which will hold its primary Jan. 8, polls show Giuliani is trailing Mitt Romney by double digits and struggling for second with John McCain, while fending off a rising Mike Huckabee.

Giuliani made what appeared to be an almost perfunctory stop in Durham, N.H., as word broke that he had canceled or cut back time on Boston TV stations that broadcast in New Hampshire.

Later in an interview on "Hannity & Colmes" on Fox News, Giuliani acknowledged the shift in advertising strategy. "We do see it as a nine-inning game, so you're going to see money moving around," Giuliani said. "You may see more money going back in one place like New Hampshire. You may see some of it go to Florida. You may see some of it go to February 5th states."

The shift in ad money is part of Giuliani's view that the Republican nominee will have won the most states among the 29 holding primaries and caucuses in the first five weeks next year, and that the winner could emerge by Feb. 6. "Who knows what's going to happen in these



AP PHOTO

Rudy Giuliani acknowledged yesterday that he is cutting ad money in New Hampshire to raise the likelihood of winning key states.

primaries?" he said. "... There are going to be a lot of surprises."

Asked if he feared losing momentum to Huckabee, Romney or other winners of Iowa and New Hampshire, Giuliani said he campaigns in later states "with the idea that they make their own decisions."

But Giuliani's confidence in "momentum-proof" leads in some states was dealt a blow by a new Quinnipiac Poll on New York, showing his lead shrinking by 11 points since October to 34 percent, with Huckabee at 12 percent. "Mayor Giuliani is on top of the Republican field, but losing some steam," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "In the ever-changing race for



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second place in the GOP pack, Gov. Mike Huckabee is the lead dog, by a nose, this week."

In its Oct. 17 survey, the institute found Giuliani leading Fred Thompson 45-12 percent, and Huckabee with 1 percent. Thompson is now at 5 percent.

Giuliani also lost slight ground with Hillary Clinton, losing 32 to 53 percent, compared with losing 36 to 50 percent in October. Still, Dartmouth political scientist Linda Fowler said given his Florida to Feb. 5 strategy, "I don't think Giuliani has all that much at stake in New Hampshire. If he does respectably, it will be sufficient."

Fowler said the pressure in New Hampshire is on Romney. "If he wins, people will say it's the neighborhood effect," said Fowler of the former governor of Massachusetts. If he doesn't do well, it spells trouble. "New Hampshire's unpredictability could really be bonus points for Huckabee," she said, "or it could be the saving of John McCain."



Softer side

Hillary Rodham Clinton goes personal, with help from an East Northport family.

A48

Lieberman backs McCain

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HILLSBOROUGH, N.H. — Republican John McCain is having quite a moment. He's rising in the polls. He's got major newspaper endorsements in Iowa and New Hampshire. And now he's getting help with this state's legions of independent voters from Joe Lieberman, the contrarian who was Democrat Al Gore's running mate in 2000.

"The Mac is Back," said a hand-painted sign on the wall of the packed American Legion post where Lieberman announced his endorsement yesterday, a newly optimistic tone after a bumpy campaign year for the Arizona senator.

The decision by the Senate's best-known independent to snub the Democratic Party could help McCain win a big-

ger share of the tide of independent voters who have been expected to flow to the Democratic field in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary on Jan. 8.

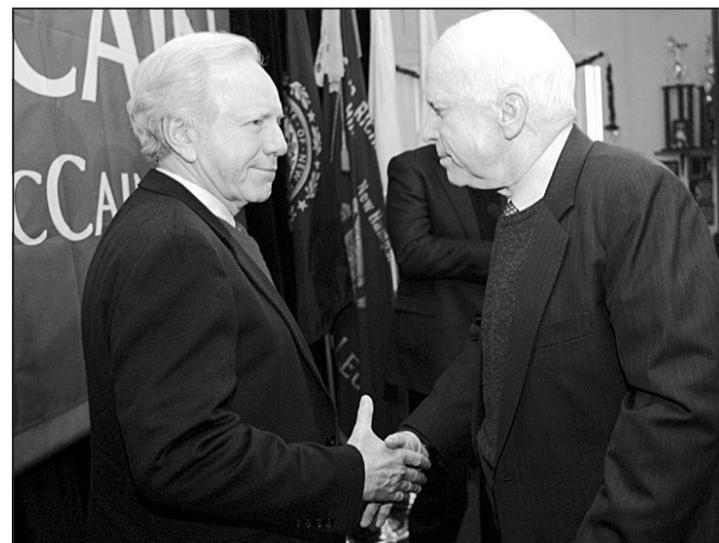
Independents outnumber Republicans and Democrats here, and the state is key to McCain's hopes for the GOP nomination.

Support from a high-profile senator who almost always caucuses and votes with Democrats risks alienating conservative GOP voters, angry already at what they see as McCain's abandonment on immigration and campaign finance. Democratic leaders expressed their annoyance, too.

There was no doubt, however, about the Lieberman announcement's buzz effect — no small factor in a race now

in the homestretch with a large field. The news injected energy and interest into the McCain campaign, still behind in the polls but glowing from a weekend of coveted newspaper endorsements: from The Des Moines Register in Iowa, where he is barely competing in the Jan. 3 caucuses, as well as from The Boston Globe and The Portsmouth Herald — both influential in New Hampshire. He'd already been endorsed by The New Hampshire Union Leader.

McCain also seemingly has enough money to stage a more serious play for South Carolina. He announced yesterday he is going on the radio there with a spot featuring the state's popular Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham — another of his Senate col-



AP PHOTO

Sen. Joe Lieberman, left, with John McCain in New Hampshire, where he endorsed the GOP hopeful yesterday.

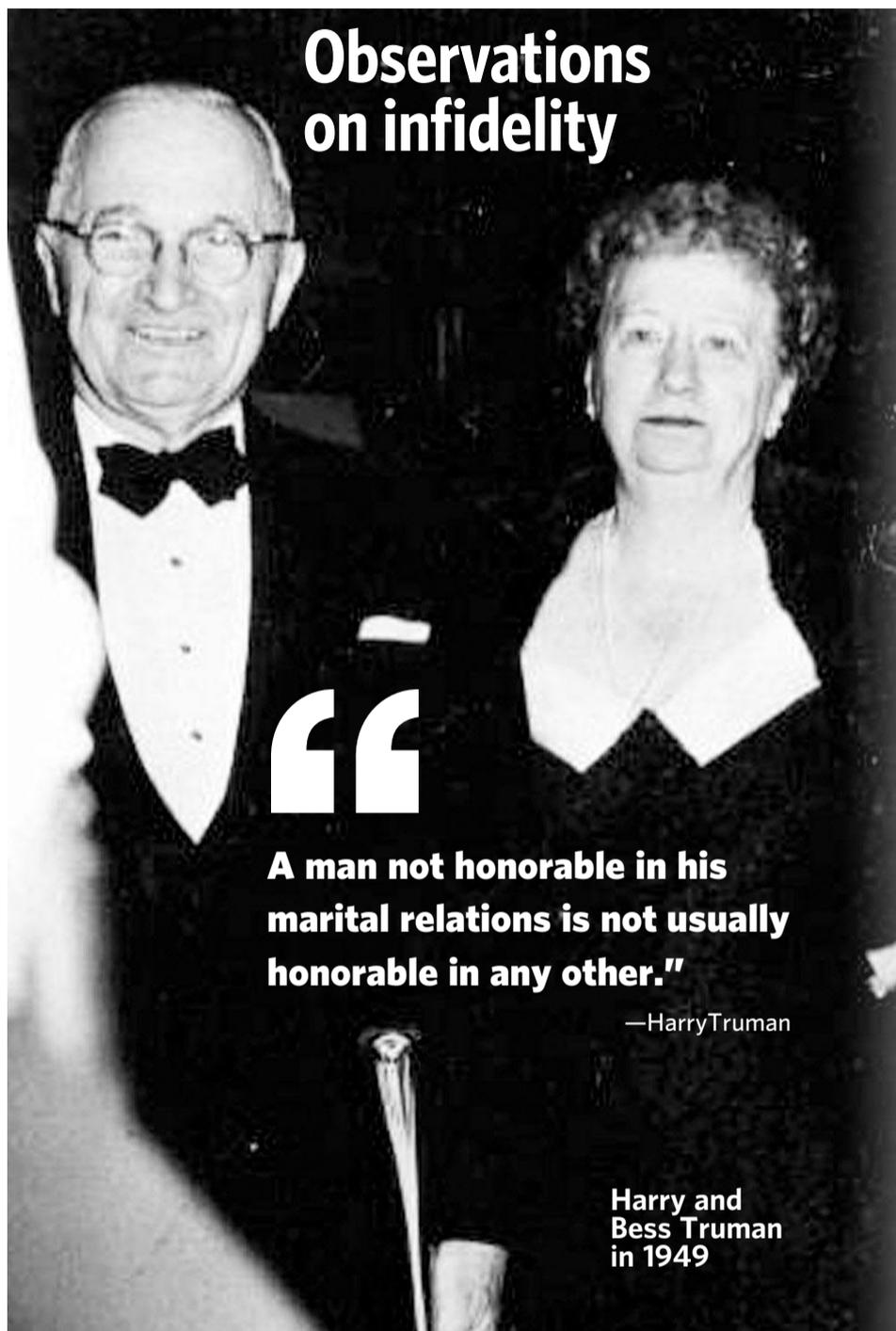
leagues.

McCain's strategy, pared down after financial and organizational troubles earlier this

year, now calls for winning New Hampshire and using that boost to lay claim to South Carolina.

Candidates' takes

Observations on infidelity



“

A man not honorable in his marital relations is not usually honorable in any other.”

—Harry Truman

Harry and Bess Truman in 1949



NEWSDAY FILE PHOTO / THOMAS A. FERRARA

“

I think sometimes we confuse the private and the public in ways that are not necessarily useful”

— Hillary Rodham Clinton



Barack and Michelle Obama

AP PHOTO

“

If we start getting too sanctimonious . . . there aren't going to be that many people who are able or willing to serve.”

— Barack Obama

Polls show Giuliani's national lead

BY JENNIFER SMITH
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COLUMBIA, Mo. — Watching his front-runner status slip away, Rudy Giuliani's campaign went into bunker mode yesterday over yet another Bernard Kerik controversy, refusing to elaborate on contacts between the former mayor and a felon who was Kerik's close associate.

Kerik's extensive ties to Lawrence Ray re-emerged yesterday just as a new poll showed Giuliani give up his national lead for the first time — tying with former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney at 20 percent of

the national Republican vote, according to a Wall Street Journal/NBC News survey.

Another poll by Reuters/Zogby had former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee nipping at Giuliani's heels, receiving 22 percent to Giuliani's 23 percent.

Both polls had a margin of error of 5 percentage points.

The most recent scandal was ignited yesterday by a Washington Post report that raised questions about Giuliani's own ties to Ray as mayor of New York City. The Post article contends that Giuliani and Ray were together on a “handful of occasions” — some documented in photographs — and that Ray helped ar-

range a meeting between Giuliani and former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a charge Giuliani aides deny.

After repeated requests for comment, Giuliani spokeswoman Maria Comella said any questions regarding Ray's relationship with the presidential hopeful, and his allegations, had been answered in the Post story by Giuliani's partner Dan Connolly.

By e-mail and phone, the campaign refused to answer whether Giuliani had ever had conversations with Ray or Kerik about Interstate Industrial, a New Jersey construction company with alleged mob ties that is at the center of Kerik's recent indictment.

Campaign aides also refused to say who set up the 1997 meeting between Giuliani and Gorbachev at City Hall.

“I'm just going to refer you to the Washington Post story,” Comella said. She then e-mailed a statement, taken from the Washington Post story, which quoted Connolly as saying, “Larry Ray's accusations are completely false and without merit. Let us remember Mr. Ray is a felon with a track record of dishonesty whose statements continue to lack one iota of credibility. As anyone familiar with Mr. Ray's history will attest, his character, credibility and motives are

all quite suspect and any statements he makes should be judged accordingly.”

Asked about Kerik in an interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer, Giuliani reprised themes aired at an earlier town hall meeting here. “I couldn't have gotten the results that I got if I didn't have good judgment about people. I couldn't have turned around a city,” Giuliani told Blitzer. “I've learned from it, I will not make it again, I'll do everything I cannot to make it again.”

Throughout yesterday, the questions about Kerik kept coming. Doubts about Giuliani's ties to him surfaced even among friendly supporters gathered

on state of affairs



Rudy
Giuliani and
wife Judith

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

“I’ve made mistakes in my life . . . not just in that area. I feel sorry about them. I try to learn from them so I don’t repeat them. Sometimes I even repeat them.”

— Rudy Giuliani



Janet and
Mike
Huckabee

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

“If you violate the promise that you made to the one person on earth to whom you’re supposed to be closest to, and this vow was made in front of . . . God . . . then can we trust you to keep a promise that you made to people you don’t even know?”

— Mike Huckabee

■ In presidential race, the personal and the political mix as hopefuls talk about whether voters should trust a person who cheats on spouse

BY GLENN THRUSH
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WASHINGTON — Mike Huckabee told Katie Couric that presidential candidates who cheat on their spouses are more likely to “break other promises” to voters — a thinly veiled criticism of thrice-married Rudy Giuliani.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, one of 10 presidential candidates asked about the political implications of personal infidelity by the CBS anchor, delivered a short, emotional response that alluded to her own marital woes.

“I think sometimes we confuse the private and the public in ways that are not necessarily useful,” Clinton said, according to a pre-broadcast transcript of “CBS Evening News” posted on Web sites yesterday afternoon.

“Of course, it’s a deeply personal matter that I take personally,” she added. “There are a number of people who have represented our country, led our country, accomplished great achievements on behalf of our country who might have some challenges in their personal life.”

As part of the series “Primary Questions,” Couric asked each candidate to agree or disagree with Harry Truman’s assertion that “A man not honorable in his marital relations is not usually honorable in any other.”

Giuliani, whose ex-wife Donna Hanover accused him of having an affair with a City Hall staffer, admitted to personal mistakes, but said they didn’t impair his capacity to lead.

“I’ve made mistakes in my life . . . not just in that area,” said the former mayor, at times struggling for words. “I feel sorry

about them. I try to learn from them so I don’t repeat them. Sometimes I even repeat them.”

Huckabee, whose popularity among evangelical Christians has brought him to the verge of overtaking Giuliani as the GOP’s national front-runner, took a much more Old Testament approach.

“If you violate the promise that you made to the one person on earth to whom you’re supposed to be closest to, and this vow was made in front of . . . God . . . then can we trust you to keep a promise that you made to people you don’t even know?” he asked.

“I think there’s a good reason to be afraid that you might break other promises, because your credibility has really been damaged,” the Arkansas Republican added.

Curiously, the only candidate to agree with Huckabee was New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Bill Clinton appointee who stood by his boss during the Monica Lewinsky affair. Mitt Romney, a devout Mormon, was the only hopeful to state flat-out, “I’m certainly faithful to my spouse.”

John McCain, who has admitted to infidelities during his first marriage, cited Franklin D. Roosevelt as a president who governed well despite reported dalliances.

Barack Obama said judging a candidate on infidelity was comparable to disqualifying him for using cocaine and marijuana as a teenager.

“I’m very cautious about applying strict moral rules,” he said. “If we start getting too sanctimonious . . . there aren’t going to be that many people who are able or willing to serve.”

gone as Kerik haunts again

thousands of miles from New York City to hear the onetime GOP front-runner outline his plans for the presidency.

Midway through the packed town-hall gathering here, a clean-cut young man voiced admiration for Giuliani’s mayoral record and his views on the war in Iraq. Then politely, haltingly, he asked whether it had been a mistake to back Kerik’s nomination to head the Department of Homeland Security.

“Do I think it was a mistake? Yes,” Giuliani responded quickly, drawing a laugh from the audience. “That’s a very easy question . . . I should have been more careful.”

While his tough talk on terrorism and optimistic spin on the country’s economic future won a standing ovation at the town hall meeting, the former New York City mayor is struggling to maintain his national lead among Republican presidential candidates, new polls showed.

“Giuliani’s expertise is in homeland security, and the questions about Bernie Kerik damage his credibility on that issue,” said Jack Pitney, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California. “It’s not enough to explain his troubles, but it’s certainly part of them.”

In Missouri, voters seemed to accept Giuliani’s explanations about Kerik, saying that backing him was an error in judgment, but represented just one bad call among thousands of successful ones made during Giuliani’s tenure as mayor of New York City.

Some said later that they were more concerned with where Giuliani stood on issues such as immigration and the war in Iraq. Others said they liked his straightforward response to the question about Kerik.

“He owned up to it, and I like that he did,” Columbia resident Marilyn Job, 64, said after the

event. “You can make mistakes.”

But even as Giuliani sought to distance himself from the legal troubles swirling around Kerik, he continued yesterday to praise his former police commissioner’s performance on the job.

“He reduced crime in New York City,” Giuliani touted. “He was a hero as a police officer, and he was a hero on Sept. 11.”

Pitney said Giuliani’s strategy was smart, but that it could distract from his efforts to woo voters in Feb. 5 primary states such as Missouri and New York.



Giuliani’s ties to Bernard Kerik are again an issue.

“The Bernard Kerik story is intertwined with the Rudy Giuliani story. It’s hard to cut him out of the plot,” Pitney said. “But the more time he talks about Bernie Kerik, the less time he has to stay on message.”

Staff writer Deborah S. Morris contributed to this story.

Rudy's back on campaign trail

Giuliani scales back
weekend appearances

Some skepticism on
nature of illness

New Hampshire poll
shows him in 3rd place

BY JENNIFER SMITH
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Rudy Giuliani tried to bounce back from the "flulike symptoms" that sidelined his campaign Friday, traveling to an upstate New York fundraiser Friday night but scaling back planned appearances in New Hampshire this weekend.

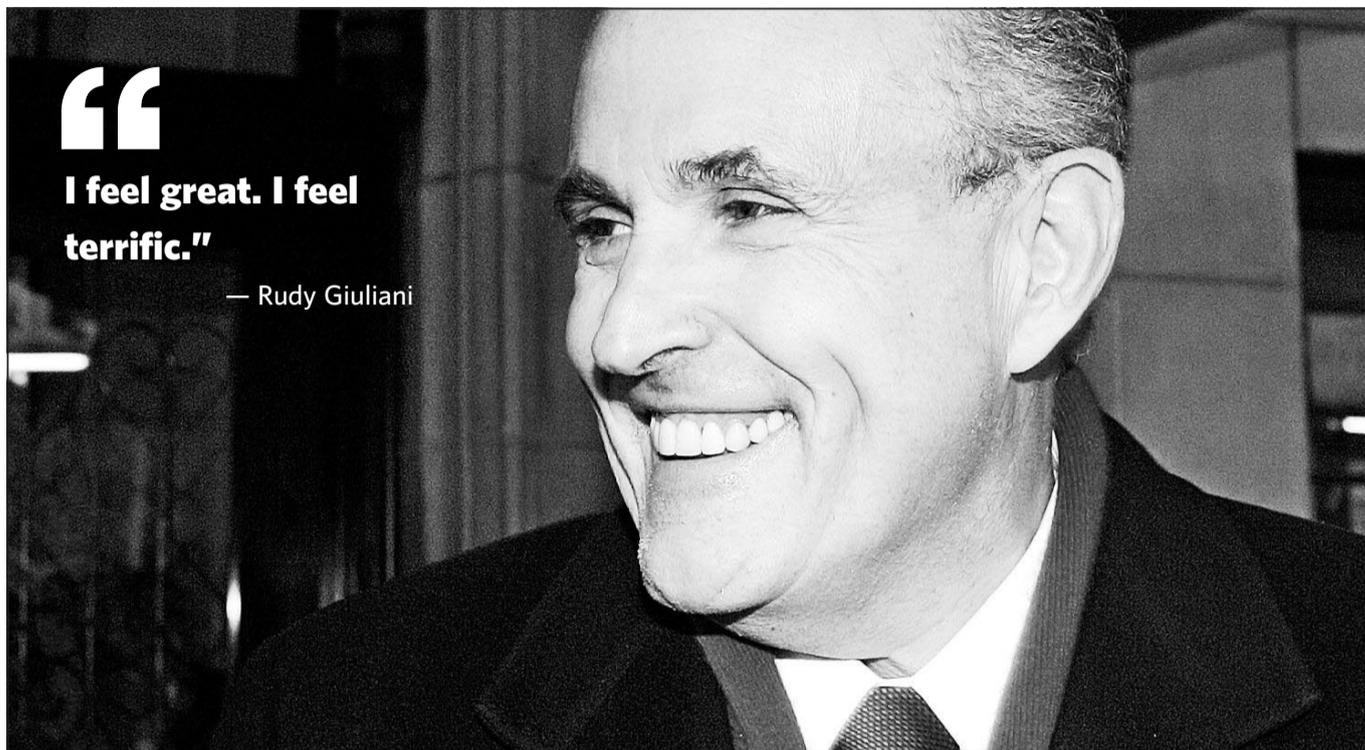
The former New York City mayor said his schedule had to be trimmed to allow him to fully recover from the illness that earlier this week landed him in a St. Louis hospital.

"I feel great. I feel terrific," Giuliani said as he arrived at the Rochester, N.Y., airport for the fundraiser.

"We're going to have a nice stop here and then ... we're going to be in New Hampshire for two days," Giuliani said. "We'll take a little time off for Christmas like everybody does, and then we'll be back on the trail the day after Christmas."

He arrives in New Hampshire Saturday afternoon for a town hall meeting and a house party — but dropped a second previously scheduled visit with local supporters Saturday and left his schedule for Sunday open.

Giuliani is skipping stops at a crucial time, as a new Gallup



“

I feel great. I feel terrific.”

— Rudy Giuliani

Republican presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani leaves his Manhattan apartment Friday after spending the morning at home.

Poll for the Jan. 8 New Hampshire primary shows him sliding to a distant third, with just 11 percent of the vote in a state he once hoped to win outright. Mitt Romney is leading with 34 percent and John McCain is a close second with 27 percent.

Hewing to the closemouthed approach adopted earlier this week, his campaign declined to elaborate further on what led to the presidential candidate's overnight stay in a St. Louis hospital on Wednesday, what tests he underwent or what

treatment, if any, he received there.

It was, some political observers said, the wrong way to handle an ostensibly minor health problem.

"You don't want a mystery to distract from the issues on the campaign," said political consultant George Arzt, who handled the media scrum when then-Mayor Ed Koch suffered a minor stroke in 1987. "You try to be as informative as you can ... You want to try and limit the press's imagination on this

topic."

Still, others said such incidents were to be expected on the campaign trail. "Clearly health of a potential president is of great interest," said Doug Muzzio, a professor of public affairs at Baruch College. "But at the same time these people are totally burnt out and exposed to all kinds of germs and you've got to believe that they're worn down, and they get sick."

Campaign spokeswoman Maria Comella said the campaign had been forthcoming

with timely statements saying doctors gave Giuliani a "clean bill of health" and said those statements speak for themselves.

Others said Giuliani — who abruptly abandoned his 2000 Senate race with Hillary Rodham Clinton after being diagnosed with prostate cancer — had simply gotten worn out by the grueling pace of the campaign, which included 77 events in 53 cities in the month leading up leading up to Wednesday's aborted flight home.

Clinton enlists kin in N.H.

BY LETTA TAYLER
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PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — Seeking to end the statistical dead heat with Barack Obama in this critical primary state, Hillary Rodham Clinton Friday enlisted her daughter and mother in a campaign swing that alternated camera-ready warmth with rants against the Bush administration.

While mother Dorothy Rodham stayed on the sidelines during three New Hampshire stops, daughter Chelsea Clinton briefly stole the show.

"Princess Diana!" one fan screamed as a willowy Chelsea entered a coffee shop here.

"You are great!" one elderly man in the capital of Concord gushed to Chelsea.

"I have good role models," the younger Clinton replied.

"I didn't realize you were so tall," a woman cooed as she sought an autograph. With a



Clinton is trying to end dead heat with Obama in N.H.

wink, the once-gawky Chelsea, who is now 27, pointed to her black, three-inch spike heels.

Clinton's mother and daughter will tour with her again Saturday as part of an effort to attract more female voters, one of the New York senator's strongest demographics. They appeared a day after former President Bill Clinton came to

New Hampshire to hail his wife as a "world-class genius."

Not to be outdone by her relatives, Clinton, who has been trying to show her warmer side amid polls suggesting voters prefer her politics to her personality, smiled for the cameras whenever possible.

With a new poll showing 40 percent of New Hampshire voters from both parties undecided in the Jan. 8 primary, Clinton sought to portray herself as a road-tested candidate who could reach across party lines. Under New Hampshire's flexible voting registration laws, balloters can switch parties on primary day.

"A lot of problems we face are not Democratic or Republican problems, they are America's problems," Clinton said. She deplored "a sense of fear and fatalism coming from the White House ... that has been a substitute for positive action."

Meanwhile, the campaign of



John Edwards said Clinton is imitating his ideas on Iraq troop withdrawal and raising the federal minimum wage.

John Edwards Friday slammed Clinton's pledges to withdraw most troops from Iraq within a year of taking office and legislation she just introduced to raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour as cases of "follow the leader."

Edwards, who is in a statistical tie with Clinton and

Obama in the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses and is trailing both by 14 points in New Hampshire, has since February pledged an Iraq troop withdrawal in 2008 and since July has called for a \$9.50 minimum wage.

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," quipped Edwards spokesman Eric Schultz.