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Clinton boosts Seattle Democrats

By STUART GLASCOCK

SEATTLE, Oct. 23 (UPI) – In a purely political mission to Seattle on Sunday, President Clinton embraced Democratic Senate candidate Ron Sims, boosting a campaign which has lagged in the polls and in fund-raising.

Clinton rallied a friendly crowd of 500 supporters at the Seattle Center, telling them he likes Sims more and more every time he sees him.

“Instead of somebody that postures at getting tough on crime and then votes against the crime bill,” Clinton said in a shot at Sims’s opponent, Republican Sen. Slade Gorton, “you’ve got a guy who goes out and puts his life on the line to give kids a better chance in life.”

Noticeably absent on the platform of top-level state Democrats was House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Spokane, who faces a tough re-election battle in his eastern Washington district. Also missing were the big, outdoor public rallies that Clinton held in Seattle two years ago when he was campaigning. Both his appearances Sunday were tightly controlled party fund-raisers.

At the Sims rally, Clinton defended his 21 months in office, saying his administration had reduced the federal deficit and used the money saved for local crime-fighting efforts. He chided Gorton for going along with GOP filibusters that obstructed his policy goals. “In the 1800s we had a filibuster about once every six years,” Clinton said. “The 1900s were more verbose, about once a year. Now, the partisan attitude is so intense, in the last session of Congress we’ve had four different filibusters on four different issues in one day.

“No one was against the Superfund bill except slightly more than 40 Republican senators,” Clinton said. “Why were they against it? They would rather leave the poison in the ground than let (Washington state congressional delegates) Maria Cantwell, Mike Kreidler, Norm Dicks and Jim McDermott come back here and say they helped clean it up.”

He said his administration has brought the federal government down to its smallest since the presidency of John Kennedy.

“I wanted to make the world more peaceful and prosperous,” he said. “That’s what all these trade agreements have been about. It’s all about letting people prosper in a global economy.”

His biggest applause came when he said children no longer have to worry about Russian missiles pointed at them.

“I want a world in which we can have a more peaceful and prosperous and democratic future,” Clinton said. “I’m proud of what we did in helping the election in South Africa and peace process in Northern Ireland and standing up to Sadaam Hussein.”

Clinton only briefly mentioned his somewhat risky upcoming trip to Israel, asking for prayers for all those involved in the Middle East talks.

Mostly, he encouraged party loyalists to work hard to help Democratic candidates on election day.

“We don’t want to go back to trickle-down economics,” he said.

“We’ve taken a serious stand against crime,” Clinton said. “There are more jobs. There is a lower deficit. It is a more peaceful world. We are in better shape.”