

# Bush finds an audience at junior high

By TIM RICHARD

"Anyone who can get kids to come to school twice in one day has got to be good," said an admiring George Bush, Republican presidential aspirant.

The former diplomat's praise was for Don Wallace, principal of Bloomfield Hills Junior High, and Joan Peven, teacher in the gifted and talented program.

What started as a mock convention at the W. Quorum Road school turned into a Bush rally Thursday night with national press coverage.

"Our mock convention was modeled after the one at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va.," Ms. Peven said in an interview afterwards. "They've been doing it for 64 years, and almost every time they've guessed right. The Republican Party was selected because it is the party currently out of power."

"I sent out a letter to all the candidates. Along the way, George Bush saw a copy of the press release and asked to come."

THE MOCK convention isn't until May 21-22, but that will be after the May 20 Michigan presidential primary. Bush needed an audience prior to that.

While Ms. Peven and the school are officially non-partisan, it was apparent the 500 adults and students who jammed the school gym Thursday were overwhelmingly Bush fans.

Music was by the Shawassee Strutters, a nine-member Dixieland band from Farmington High, directed by Don Lochrie.

Introducing Bush was former Gov. George W. Romney, of Bloomfield Hills, who was HUD secretary in the Nixon Cabinet when Bush was ambassador to the United Nations. "He's not an amateur in foreign affairs. Reagan is," Romney said bluntly.

Romney added, "I know all the presidential candidates. I know their wives" — an unintended double entendre that left the audience giggling.

BUSH ASKED for volunteers to help Oakland County chairperson Margaret Thoms, of Birmingham. She works out of a rented office at 301 W. Fourth, Royal Oak.

Mrs. Thoms said there would be plenty of telephone and precinct work for all, as Bush seeks to catch up to the former California governor in what has become a two-man race for the Repub-

lican presidential nomination in Detroit July 16.

Praising the young politicians' "lack of cynicism" about politics, Bush said, "Things can change. You have to believe."

A former oil man and Texas congressman, Bush said there were two basic differences between himself, Reagan and President Jimmy Carter.

First, on economics, Bush said Reagan made "a simplistic promise" to cut taxes and Carter has quadrupled inflation.

Bush's program: "Get control of government spending. Get some regulatory relief — we're regulating ourselves to inefficiency. And on the supply side, stimulate investment with savings credits, job training credits, relocation credits. These are better than to train a kid in a ghetto area for a job that doesn't exist."

SECOND, IN foreign affairs, Bush said he has had experience at the UN, in China and with the Central Intelligence Agency that Reagan and Carter lacked before running for the White House.

"I have respect for human rights, but also for the strategic interests of the United States," he said.

The next day in Livonia, Bush had a kind word for Carter in the handling of the aborted attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran. "I support the president," he said. "He made a tough decision. I will not try to second-guess him."

He scored Carter's "crude joke about Montezuma's revenge" in Mexico and Reagan's suggestion to respond to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by "blockading Cuba." Said Bush: "That would take the entire Atlantic fleet."

IN RESPONSE to audience questions, Bush made these points:

- The draft: "I don't believe we need the draft. Registration is necessary, and it should be for both men and women. I don't believe in using women in combat."

- Iran: "I was the first to say we should break diplomatic relations. We put the imprimatur of legality (on the seizure of hostages) by not breaking relations. We've got to be tougher. I hope we never apologize to Iran."

- Balancing the budget: "Carter's doing it by raising taxes. Carter has vetoed only one spending bill and goes

along with big spending. Ford vetoed 67 spending bills."

- Federal Reserve Board high interest rate policies: "I can't argue with the Fed. If interest rates are less than inflation, you can't fight inflation. But the president must get hold of fiscal policy."

- The Olympics: "I support the boy-

cott. You do not reward naked, brutal (Soviet) aggression in Afghanistan by civilized treatment. I support the president."

- John Anderson's decision to run an independent presidential campaign: "It'll help me. I wish he had done it sooner. I think it clears the air."

Former Gov. George Romney introduced Bush (right) with these words: 'He's not an amateur in foreign affairs. Reagan is.'



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