

GOP VP?

Pursell's backing Bush

By TIM RICHARD

Carl Pursell and 24 other Republican congressmen supporting George Bush for president, want to negotiate the No. 2 spot for him now that Ronald Reagan is assured the GOP presidential nomination.

Pursell had urged Bush to quit the race several days before the former diplomat did so on Monday.

"I do think this VP is going to be the most important vice president ever selected," said Pursell in his Plymouth Township home on Memorial Day.

The reason: Reagan's age, which is 69. He would be the oldest man ever elected president if he topples Jimmy Carter in November.

"THE SLEEPER is Jerry Ford — to negotiate that (a Reagan-Bush ticket) and get some of that broad-based support," said Pursell.

And even if Reagan asks Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee to be his running mate, Pursell said, "Bush would be an outstanding secretary of state or ambassador — something like that."

But Pursell would prefer to see Bush in the No. 2 spot because Baker is too valuable as a Senate leader.

"I even see Ford playing some role in there, with his foreign policy expertise," said Pursell.

As the only Michigan congressman who supported Bush, Pursell admitted he is "looking good" in state party circles since Bush won the May 20 Michigan primary by a 2-1 margin. But the 2nd district Republican avoids discussing his own political future.

WHY DID BUSH stay in the race so long, even though Reagan has been a short hope from the magic 900 delegate votes required for nomination for weeks?

Pursell gave three reasons: "He was doing well, particularly in the northeast, the big industrial states like Pennsylvania and Michigan. We thought that would be the key to turning the thing around. But you have to have clout like places like the west, the southwest and some in the south, too."

There's another election in 1984. Bush, 55, ran long to "build up bridges with party leaders" for the next election, in the event Ronald Reagan

should be defeated or President Reagan should decide to retire after one term.

"To some extent, control of the party machinery was at stake, most notably in Michigan, where precinct delegates were elected, too, on May 20. We ran 18 (Bush) delegates out here in the Plymouth area and won all 18. But in some cases, the moderates fell asleep. I've been trying to keep tabs on it, but it's hard to identify," said Pursell, adding that no statewide count has yet been made of Reagan, Bush and uncommitted precinct delegates.

ALTHOUGH SOME Reagan delegates come from a hard-line Baptist group centered in Ypsilanti, others are responsible party people, said Pursell, adding: "I don't think we're in any trouble."

"The county conventions are coming up this week. There will be some good tests there."

"Peter Fletcher's all done," he said of the flamboyant GOP national committeeman and great friend of Gov. William G. Milliken.

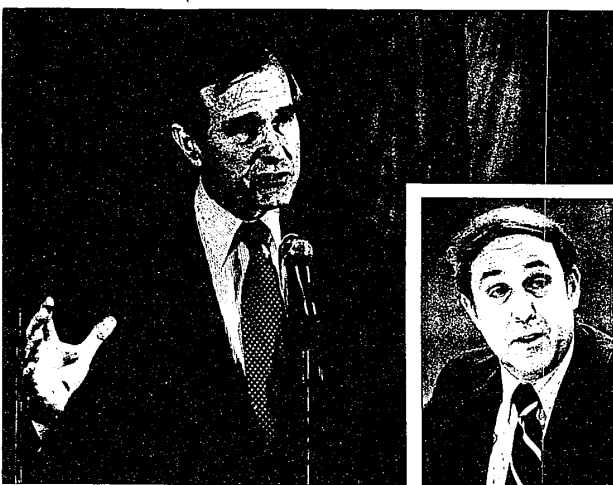
National Committeewoman Nancy Riecker can probably be "saved," he went on. State Chairman Mel Larsen, whose term ends in February 1981, has made "a lot of overtures" to conservatives and will probably survive, Pursell said.

ON HIS OWN political future, Pursell remains coy.

He is sometimes mentioned as a Senate candidate in 1982, when Democrat Don Riegle faces re-election. But David Stockman, a two-term congressman from conservative Berrien County, is openly ambitious for the job. How Stockman's support of John Connally and vote against the Chrysler Corp. aid package will set, however, remains to be seen.

One reason Pursell is mentioned is that he might be reapportioned out of a district if, as expected, Michigan loses one of its 13 congressmen after the census is completed.

"With Nedzi gone, that's really reshaping reapportionment," Pursell said. Rep. Lucien Nedzi, whose 14th district covers the east side of Detroit and eastern suburbs, recently announced he would retire this year.



Pursell (lower right) would prefer to see Bush in the No. 2 spot because Howard Baker is too valuable as a Senate leader. (Staff photos by Bill Bresler)

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June 1 deadline for energy contest

School year juniors and seniors throughout the state will be able to compete for 10 scholarships totalling \$30,000 by entering the Michigan High School Energy Awareness Scholarship Contest. Application deadline is June 1.

The contest is sponsored by the Governor's Energy Awareness Advisory Committee, a non-profit corporation charged with increasing public awareness of national and state energy situations. The contest will be an integral part of a series of statewide consumer expositions to be held this fall.

"Long-term solutions to our energy problems will not just happen," said Lt. Gov. James Brickley.

"They require new ideas, new ways of looking at the energy problem and new ways to assure an informed and involved public. Students can make major contributions to our energy future new, and this statewide contest is one way to give them this opportunity."

THE CONTEST will consist of two categories — an energy awareness brochure and an energy demonstration project. The contest will offer a \$5,000 scholarship to the state winner in each. Four state finalists in both categories will receive \$2,500 scholarships.

Each project will be judged regionally prior to the state finals and may be displayed at energy expos to be held in Marquette, Sept. 12-14; Traverse City, Sept. 19-21; Flint, Oct. 2-5; Grand Rapids, Oct. 23-25; and Detroit, Nov. 13-16.

In the first category, brochures, pamphlets, or flyers which can be printed in one or two colors of ink, will be judged on the basis of the basic idea, the written material, the graphics and art work, as well as the feasibility of widely distributing the entry as presented.

Entries must describe, in words, drawings or photos, possible means of energy conservation or energy production through alternative resources in Michigan.

ENERGY DEMONSTRATION projects must explain energy conservation or use of alternative energy resources in Michigan through a scientific display or an audio-visual presentation.

Projects in this category will be judged on the basis of creative and technical ability, thoroughness, skill, clarity and dramatic value.

Entry applications must be received by the Governor's Energy Awareness Advisory Committee, in Lansing, by June 1. All project work must be completed by Friday, Aug. 1.

Locations for delivery and set-up at regional expos will be announced after June 1.

Contest rules, description, and entry blanks have been mailed to all Michigan high school principals.

Students or school administrators can obtain additional information from the Governor's Energy Awareness Advisory Committee, 6345 Mercantile Way, Lansing 48910 or by calling (517) 374-9648.

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