

Bush to send rival slate to Grand Rapids

By Tim Richard
staff writer

George Bush supporters will send the second delegation from the 18th Congressional District to the Republican State Convention next week in Grand Rapids, which may be cramped for hotel space.

"The Bush people wanted the convention a week later for more hotel space because there was another convention in town," said Joseph K. Knollenberg, who will lead the 121-member group loyal to the vice president.

"The coalition" — backers of New York Congressman Jack Kemp and TV evangelist Pat Robertson — was in control of last week's 18th District Convention. It elected two-thirds of the 165 delegates in an 10-hour session that ran until 5 the next morning. They have come to be known as the "A group."

CHARGING irregularities, Bush supporter Judy Riedlinger of Bloomfield Township announced a walk-out at that hour for a rump convention.

The Bush people protested that legislators were excluded from a roll call vote, that Livingston County-18th people should have met with Oakland and Macomb, and that the coalition improperly seated move-outs.

A custodian in Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School turned out the Bush conventions' lights briefly at



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— Joseph Knollenberg
'B' slate chairman

5:10, and police were called. Knollenberg said, but the group had finished its work. His list is the "B group."

Typically, Grand Rapids is the scene of GOP winter conventions, and delegates stay with their geographic areas.

NOT THIS bitter year. Delegates will be housed by whether they favor Bush, Kemp or Robertson.

Knollenberg, a minority member of the Republican State Committee, said Bush people preferred a Feb. 6-7 convention. But the Kemp-Robertson majority wanted to have as early a victory as possible in Michigan to

give their candidates momentum in Iowa.

The state convention will pick 77 delegates — first batch in the nation — to the Aug. 15-18 presidential nominating convention in New Orleans.

"Their whole strategy was 'kill Bush.' That's a negative philosophy," said Knollenberg. "The Kemp and Robertson people are cutting each other's throats in Iowa."

IN MANY county and district conventions around the state, however, Kemp supporters switched and formed a new coalition with Bush.

That didn't happen in the 18th, a Republican-held district that starts in northern Macomb County, spreads across the middle of Oakland (including Rochester, most of Troy, Birmingham-Bloomfield, West

Bloomfield and the Farmington area) and picks up a slice of Livingston County.

Led by Kemp operatives Paul Weiday and Donn Wolf of Farmington Hills, the coalition held, dealing the Bush group a 110-100 defeat on a key committee report.

"That 110-100 told us we didn't have control of the floor," said Knollenberg. "That meant on every vacancy we were going to lose."

The coalition used that majority to fill vacant precincts with Kemp or Robertson supporters and swell its majority to about 25.

NEVERTHELESS, the battle was tight. Knollenberg said, in three large communities: Troy, Bloomfield Township and Farmington Hills.

The coalition won each of those large blocs of delegates by only a vote or two, said Knollenberg and Troy city director Karen Cernel. The coalition elected virtually all delegates from those areas.

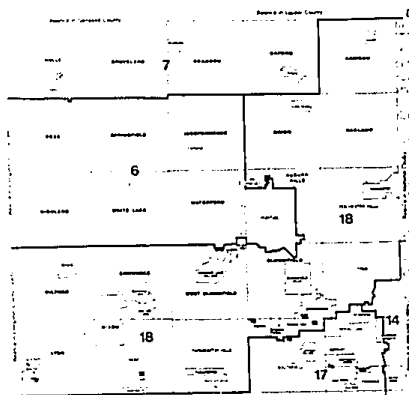
Around the state, Bush's campaign claimed 57 percent of the delegates, in contrast to the 18th District.

Calling the Kemp-Robertson coalition "a marriage of convenience" and "a disastrous policy on the part of Kemp," Knollenberg said a new Bush-Kemp coalition may emerge by Jan. 25. Negotiations apparently are going on.

SO MANY counties and districts are sending double delegations that credentials tests could consume an enormous amount of time. Politicians and media people alike freely use the word "chaos."

Normally, the credentials committee meets for a couple of hours

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



on the Friday evening of a convention.

JOHN LONG, state director of the Bush campaign, said all 1,805 delegates are being challenged by one camp or the other.

"First, we challenged six conventions (including the 18th) where our people walked," he said.

"Second, we challenged Kemp-Robertson rump conventions."

"Third, we cross-challenged them

where they challenged us, with a stipulation that the challenge could be withdrawn.

"In addition, they challenged anywhere they lost."

The credentials committee has two members from each congressional district. But there's a question as to whether anyone can caucus to elect members of the credentials committee, said Long.

"All that's up in the air as we talk," he said.

Bush GOP slate from 18th District

Here are Observer & Eccentric area "B slate" delegates from the 18th Congressional District to the Republican State Convention as elected by George Bush loyalists last Friday morning:

BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD: Jim Alexander, Mary Beattie, Blanche Bell, MaryLu Bennethum, Irene Bernhard, Michael Bouchard, Larry Dargan, Susan Ellertsen, Donna Fahlen, John Flintosh, Margaret Ann Gnaus.

Elizabeth Hagenmeyer, Sandie Knollenberg, Joseph Knollenberg, Ellen Mallender, Carolyn Marr, Nancy McConnell (county commissioner), Ronald Miller, David Moffitt (commissioner), Ann Marie Peacock, William T. Peacock Jr., Terry Rakolta, Richard Reid, Lynn Ribbis, Julia Richie, Ken Riedlinger, Judy Riedlinger.

Scott Romney, Judy Sherman, Irish Spencer, Thomas Storey, Barbara Suhay, Emily Sutton, Robert Tern, Eleanor Whitson, Flora Whan, Helen Wolfe, Betty Yeats.

FARMINGTON AREA: Lorraine Anderson, Mary Avery, Mary Buna, Mike Chekal, Kathryn Clark, Ann Govan Dickerson, Larry Dickerson, Alfred Diebel, A. Janette Dolan, Peter Gilbert.

Shirley Henich, Kay Hinn, Randall

Huffman, Kelly Jenkins, Wesley Knapp, Elizabeth Lister, Julie Pulgini, Terry Sever, Chris Stiehl.

FRANKLIN: Janice Bloom, Arthur Saltzman, Florence Saltzman.

ORCHARD LAKE: Gerald Kosmanky.

ROCHESTER AREA: Lorraine Cyman, Hazel DeEulis, J. DeEulis, Fran Doran, Sue Ann Douglas, Shirley George, Billie Ireland, Eric Karl, Marian Karl, Jack Kessler, Karen Malloy, Marge Nelson, Ed Strother, Yvonne Strother, Vern Tessier, Barbara Tolzien, Ruth Zende.

TROY: David Balos, Michael Carbone, Jim Cyrulewski, Mark Denning, Trudy Dodge, Howard C. Johnson, Dick Kerwath, Franklin Koory, Larry Littman (road commissioner member), B. Olson, John Pappageorge, Mark Rowland, Louise Schilling, Gordon Sparks (state representative), Nora E. Turner, Grace Ure.

WEST BLOOMFIELD: Gordon Alardyce, Jerome Fenton, Lorraine Hoxie.

The "A slate" elected by the Kemp-Robertson convention was published, as available, in the Jan. 18 edition.

'Michigan muddle' a lesson for Iowa

AP — Iowa Republicans, were you watching what happened in Michigan this week?

A top strategist for Vice President George Bush sure hopes so. In fact, he thinks Michigan's muddle may help Bush organizers rally the Iowa faithful.

Rich Bond, Bush's national political director, left Michigan Friday with a victory for his candidate, albeit a disputed one, and the aim of making an example of Michigan.

"I really think it will have a very beneficial effect on Iowa in the next couple weeks," he said. "We're at a critical juncture in the Iowa campaign . . . We're just about at the point in time when we have to say, 'Look, we really need you.'"

"IN FACT, Iowa caucuses are very similar to what happened in Michigan . . . You have to go out to a local meeting in the early evening just after supper and sit there for a couple hours and participate in a process selecting delegates to the next step," Bond said during WXYZ-TV's "Spotlight on the News."

"The difference of Iowa is you're going to cast a little straw ballot."

"But it's cold out, people are older, or they may have a high school basketball game to go to or something like that and you've really got to get

up against human nature and Mother Nature."

"That'll help us a lot to show that Michigan Republicans thought George Bush was worth it to turn out," Bond said, admitting the campaign had been concerned about the intensity of pro-Bush sentiment.

THE BUSH campaign boasted — and several independent analysts agreed — that the Bush organization did a good job in turning out partisans for Michigan's local conventions. Getting out the vote also is crucial in Iowa's caucus system, where a handful of loyalists can make a big difference.

Bush, who at first expected to walk away with Michigan's 77 delegates, was ambushed early in Michigan's two-year delegate-picking process by former television evangelist Pat Robertson, whose forces turned the race here into a deadlock after the first round of the two-year delegate-picking process.

Court challenges, local and state party rules changes and wildcat caucuses now have, in the words of GOP consultant Tom Shields, "turned Michigan into an asterisk" with competing state delegate conventions likely and a conflict predicted at the Republican National Convention.

Blood pressure classes offered

The Oakland County Health Division will offer a series of six weekly blood pressure control classes from 7 to 9 p.m. in its south office, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield. All are on Wednesdays, Feb. 24 to March 30.

Classes are free, but pre-registration is required because class size is limited. To pre-register, call 424-7042.

Topics will include: an overview

of high blood pressure, its control, medications, meal planning and cholesterol.

Classes will be taught by county public health nurses and nutritionists. Activities and information shared will help class participants better understand high blood pressure and self-care skills. Spouses and other family members may attend.

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