

Bush camp 'expendable' in 18th District



Donn Wolf, a Kemp supporter from Farmington Hills, said his camp "made a conscious effort" to get along with Robertson supporters in the 18th Congressional District, so the conservative coalition maintained control.

By Tim Richard
staff writer

They weren't the warmest of pals. But in the 18th Congressional District, there was no walkout at last weekend's Republican State Convention.

"The Kemp-Robertson coalition maintained control," said district chairman Dallas Hawn. With roughly 2-1 majorities, it selected three national convention delegates: two favoring former evangelist Pat Robertson and one favoring New York congressman Jack Kemp.

Just two weeks earlier on Jan. 14, supporters of Vice President George Bush had walked out of the 18th District convention in Bloomfield Hills. The group then picked a rival slate of approximately 120 state convention delegates.

"THE ORIGINAL convention was upheld in the credentials committee," said Joseph Knollenberg, who chaired the Bush rump convention. "We lost that round."

"So when the national (Bush) people looked at the overall (statewide) delegate strength, they ignored the local battles. . . . They ignored the situation in the 18th in favor of the overall battleground."

"We were expendable — that's a way of putting it. There are no hard feelings."

As a peace offering, Hawn, a West Bloomfield resident who favors Kemp, appointed co-secretaries — one from each camp — and asked Knollenberg to lead the pledge to the flag in the Friday night caucus in Grand Rapids.

SO THE 18TH District held together, and most of its people stayed upstairs Saturday morning for the mainstream Republican convention, while rump conventions went on in the basement at the Grand Center.

"We made a conscious effort," said Donn Wolf, a Kemp leader and former Farmington Hills councilman. "The battleground is outside the 18th."

The upstairs convention picked 37 Bush, 32 Kemp and eight Robertson delegates for the national convention.

The downstairs convention picked 43 for Robertson, 21 for Kemp and 13 for Bush.

BUT IF ROBERTSON forces controlled the selection of the 18th District's delegates, Bush people made a comeback in the upstairs convention.

The reason: The full convention elected 23 at-large delegates and two members of the Republican National Committee.

Re-elected to the national committee was Ronna Romney of Bloomfield Hills and Peter Secchia of Grand Rapids.

Had the battered conservative coalition stayed upstairs, the outspoken Secchia might have faced a tough fight from Dick Chrysler of Brighton. "We would have won," Chrysler said.

Instead, Chrysler dropped out. "With a split convention, my delegate votes are not here. I'm going to withdraw."

The downstairs convention promptly drafted him as national committeeman, and Elaine Donnelly, a Kemp supporter from Livonia,

Ronna Romney of Bloomfield Hills had no challenge in winning re-election to the Republican National Committee after Robertson delegates went downstairs for a rump convention. A Bush supporter, Romney will be an alternate at-large to the Aug. 15-18 national convention in New Orleans.



to replace Romney — if the conservative group can get seats at the Aug. 15-18 national convention in New Orleans.

THE UPSTAIRS convention picked a heavy contingent of 18th District-Oakland Republicans as at-large national convention delegates. State GOP chairman Spencer Abraham chose not to attend at all, the first time in more than a generation that a party chairman won't be a national convention delegate. In his place the state convention tapped Ronna's father-in-law, former Gov. George W. Romney.

Chairing the entire 77-delegate Michigan contingent will be Oakland

County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson.

Many Kemp supporters broke with the conservative coalition of Kemp-Robertson and were rewarded with at-large delegate posts. Among these were former 18th District chairman Alan May of Bloomfield Hills, 17th District chairman Andy Anzusi of Redford, and Kemp strategist Paul Welay of Farmington Hills.

Among the few 18th District Republicans who went downstairs was Jean Fox, a Farmington Hills historical society leader and member of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. A Kemp supporter, Fox was named an alternate-at-large in the rump convention.

Robertsonites caucused first, then walked out

It was an adroit move on the part of Robertson loyalists — and Bush supporters admitted it.

Michigan's 77 delegates to the Republican National Convention were elected in two stages at last weekend's GOP State Convention in Grand Rapids.

The first step was the Friday night caucuses in which three delegates were picked from the 18 congressional districts — a total of 54.

The second step was for the full convention on Saturday to pick 23 at-large delegates.

THE ROBERTSON supporters attended the Friday night caucuses to elect as many national delegates as possible — then they walked out.

As a result, they were assured of some delegate slots, even if their rump convention fails to get seated at New Orleans.

"I think they acted in bad faith, not intending to come to the convention," said Paul Ruschmann, a Bush supporter from Canton Township. But he admitted that in many cases the work of the Friday night caucuses couldn't be undone. "The decision last night is final," he said.

The 14th District is an example of the Robertson strategy. The district covers most of Macomb County and a corner of Troy.

Mary Lowe, a Robertson backer from the Troy portion, was elected a national delegate Friday, but attend-

ed the downstairs convention where Robertson appeared Saturday.

With 1,000 or so people packed in a caucus room, Lowe couldn't be located for comment.

IN THE 17TH Congressional District, chaired by Kemp loyalist Andy Anzusi of Redford Township, the situation was different.

Anzusi is part of a Kemp faction led by state Sen. Richard Posthumus of Lowell and his brother, Saul Anzusi, who works in Posthumus' office and is chairman of the 3rd Congressional District.

They left the Robertson-led conservative coalition and supported the procedures of the Bush-led state convention.

Andy Anzusi called two 17th District conventions — one in northwest Wayne County and one in southern Oak land — on Jan. 14. The state credentials committee, chaired by Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, seated Anzusi's group.

But the credentials committee threw out delegates from a Robertson-led group led by Lou Packer of Southfield. Packer's group attended the downstairs convention.

So the 17th elected three Bush supporters as national convention delegates. The Anzusi brothers got their reward by being named alternates-at-large by the full convention.

Michigan GOP picks rival slates

Here is an unofficial list by name, hometown or home county and candidate preference of the 77 delegates elected Friday and Saturday at the Michigan State Republican Convention.

MAINSTREAM GROUP

Of the 77 delegates, 54 were chosen, three each, from Michigan's 18 congressional districts. The other 23 delegates were elected at large.

Vice President George Bush won 37 delegates, 35 from congressional districts and two at large. New York Congressman Jack Kemp won 32 delegates, 11 from congressional districts and 21 at large.

Former television evangelist Pat Robertson, whose supporters conducted their own convention Saturday, won eight delegates, all from congressional districts.

2nd District: Emily Kackseter, Adrian, Bush; Dan Pierocci, Livonia, Bush; Lola Peterson, Jackson, Kemp. Alternates: Harry Greenleaf, Livonia, Bush; Jean Johnson, Jackson, Bush; Jane Talocci, Washtenaw County, Bush.

14th District: Mary Larus, Troy, Robertson; Terry Gilseman, Warren, Kemp; Mary Giordano, Macomb County, Robertson. Alternates (all Kemp): Kenneth McNoley of Madison Heights, Stan Grot of Sterling Heights, George Heitman of Harper Woods.

15th District: Jeff Nelson, Canton, Robertson; Joann Blausey, Westland, Robertson; David Thompson, Saline, Robertson. Alternates (all Robertson): Dorothy Primac of Livonia, May Zawicki of Washtenaw County, Kent Hoeksema of Southgate.

17th District (all Bush): L. James Hall of Southfield, Constance Richards of Royal Oak, Edward Haroutian of Detroit. Alternates: Marge Sands of Royal Oak, Marie Keegler-

Reece of Detroit and Sheila Molnar of Lathrup Village.

18th District: Ted Goutel, Commerce, Robertson; Donn Wolf, Farmington Hills, Kemp; Marlene Elwell, Farmington Hills, Robertson. Alternates: Bill Ireland of Rochester Hills, Robertson; Andy Bergstrom, West Bloomfield, Kemp; Bob Fredericks, Bloomfield Township, Kemp.

At large (Observer & Eccentric area): Andy Anzusi, Redford Township, Kemp; Ted Cox, Farmington Hills, Kemp; Alan May, Bloomfield Hills, Kemp; Suzanne Miller, Farmington Hills, Kemp; Michael O'Dea, Southfield, Kemp; Paul Welay, Farmington Hills, Kemp; Cecil Gordon, Franklin, Kemp; George Romney, Bloomfield Hills, Bush.

Alternates: Ronna Romney, Bloomfield Hills, Bush; Max Flaher, Farmington Hills, Sen. Doug Crapo, Troy; U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, Plymouth; Larry Dickerson, Farmington Hills.

DOWNSTAIRS CONVENTION

(Convention organizers provided only a list of names, without hometowns or delegate preferences.)

2nd District: Michael Legg, Northville Township, Kemp; Missy Cault, Ann Arbor, Robertson; Jon Throne, Jackson County, Robertson. Alternates: Les Lazarus, Washtenaw County, Robertson; Jon Beckwith, Hillsdale County, Robertson; state Rep. Michael Nye, Hillsdale County, Kemp.

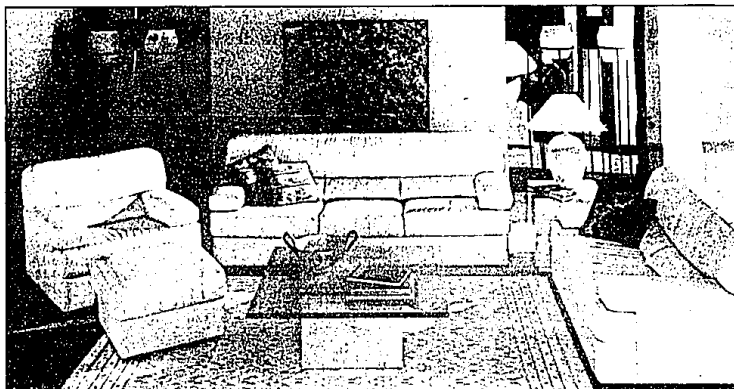
At large (Observer & Eccentric area): John Packer, Southfield, Robertson; Elaine Donnelly, Livonia, Kemp. Alternates: Jean Fox, Farmington Hills, Kemp.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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