

Bush's speech thrills GOP

By Tim Richard

NEW ORLEANS — Veteran area Republicans hailed George Bush's acceptance speech Thursday night as evidence that the vice president is moving out of President Reagan's shadow and is in charge of his own campaign.

The praise and the speech came amid swirling controversy over Bush's first major decision after Reagan left the convention — the selection of Indiana Sen. Daniel Quayle as his running mate.

Despite the questions about Quayle's service in the National Guard, Bush backers were almost euphoric over their candidate's speech, deemed as important because of Bush's reputation as an unexciting speaker.

"It was a bell ringer. He covered all the bases. I never heard him any better," said U.S. Rep. William Broomfield just minutes after Bush delivered a 50-minute acceptance speech in the Louisiana Superdome. "I had been deeply concerned about the ticket, but he came off

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— U.S. Rep. William Broomfield

marvelously," said Paul Welday, a Farmington Hills leader in Jack Kemp's bid for the nomination.

"A helluva speech," said Michigan delegation chairman L. Brooks Paterson, Oakland prosecutor.

"It was properly tough, up to and including the death penalty."

"He said 'I — I am ready, I will lead.' That was the take-charge pronoun," said U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell of Plymouth.

A FORMER Army officer, Pursell liked former Navy pilot Bush's description of the presidential campaign as a "mission."

Said Bush: "I am your candidate because the most important work of my life is to complete the mission we started in 1980. How do we com-

plete it? We build on it."

A moderate and a Bush supporter for at least nine years, Pursell noted Bush brought up environmental issues that Reagan rarely touched — acid rain and ocean dumping.

"He went beyond many Republicans, I've heard," Pursell said. "And he was specific on his mission."

"We've heard him before. This was his best," said Audrey Greenleaf, whose husband Harry is a Bush alternate from Livonia.

"He's his own person. Wasn't in the shadow of President Reagan any more."

Harry Greenleaf was moved by Bush's saying that "it breaks my heart when I see corruption." Said Greenleaf: "That's the George Bush I know. This isn't put on. It's there."

Greenleaf, a Schoolcraft College trustee, added, "I wish he had come out more strongly on education." But the Ford Motor Co. personnel manager was impressed by Bush's promise of "60 in 8" — 30 million new jobs in eight years.

Bush repeated longtime Republican themes of limited government for economic growth and a strong defense for international negotiating power.

He broke new ground:

• "Make sure the disabled are included in the mainstream."

• "I am going to stop ocean dumping . . . I am going to have the FBI trace the medical wastes."

• "We must reduce the harm done by acid rain" — a promise which Michigan delegates noted will play well in Canada.

• "I will ban chemical and biological weapons from the face of the earth."

• "I think we need harmony among the races in our country. . . leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind."

Tempest won't wound Quayle, Headlee says

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Michigan Republican Party activist Richard Headlee calls the controversy over Republican vice presidential nominee Dan Quayle's Vietnam era military service a "tempest in a teapot."

"It shows you how they're straining for issues. That issue is pretty shallow," said Headlee, a Farmington Hills insurance executive and the Republican Party's 1982 gubernatorial candidate.

Headlee believes there's a good chance the controversy may help the Republicans. Quayle, an Indiana senator, admitted last week after his nomination that while a prime candidate for the draft, he lobbied to enter the National Guard at the height of the Vietnam conflict.

"If Quayle handles it well, it could be a big plus for him. The press will have helped Quayle become well known, and it will give him national exposure," said Headlee, retiring president of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America.

At a press conference in his Farmington Hills office Friday, Headlee predicted the Quayle controversy will blow over. He expects both Republicans and Democrats will "be taking their best shots" against the candidates because this presidential year offers little, if any, controversy.

HEADLEE BELIEVES the Republican ticket, headed by vice president George Bush, will succeed. "It's not a time for change," he said.

Bush's top pollster, Bob Teeter, a former Market Opinion Research employee, has long followed Quayle's career, Headlee said.

"Teeter knows Quayle like a book. It was well thought-out," Headlee said. Quayle provides the ticket with a "distinct advantage" because his roots are in the Midwest, Headlee said.



Daniel Quayle
VP selection

"Quayle will help Republicans generally. Quayle and (Democratic vice presidential nominee Texas Sen.) Lloyd Bentsen is a positive comparison.

"BENTSEN REPRESENTS the old guard of Texas politics. Quayle is a fresh face. He generates momentum and excitement."

Headlee endorses the Bush-Quayle ticket and hopes the Michigan Legislature and Gov. James Blanchard learn a lesson from the Reagan administration.

"I'm not only touting the Bush-Quayle ticket of staying the course, but I'm campaigning that the Michigan Legislature and the governor learn from the past eight years — no new taxes," Headlee said.

"Tax increases cost jobs. Tax cuts create jobs. Reagan and Bush have proven this, and it's not too late for the Michigan Legislature and our governor to learn this important lesson."

Bush and Quayle have Headlee's endorsement because their platform is designed to continue the economic accomplishments of the Reagan administration. "Things are really very good in the country. It's a recovery that's reaching way beyond my wildest expectations."

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