

GOP expects Jewish vote

By Tim Richard
staff writer

NEW ORLEANS — Republicans can make inroads into the Jewish vote as Jesse Jackson becomes more vocal on the "Palestinian homeland" issue, say two GOP congressmen.

"The Jewish community is becoming very supportive of the Republican Party more than in recent years," said Rep. William Broomfield of Birmingham. He is ranking minority member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"The reason is that the present administration has been very supportive with economic and military support for Israel, and it's been deeply appreciated.

"I don't think there's any doubt in the Jewish community, through their AIPAC (American Israel Political Action Committee), are supportive of pro-Israeli supporters," Broomfield said after attending a breakfast of the Michigan delegation to the Republican National Convention.

"They're embarrassed by Jackson and his positions on the Palestinian question," said the 30-year House veteran.

"THERE'S A frightening growth of systematic anti-Semitism, in places like Chicago," said Newt Gingrich, the suburban Atlanta congressman who spoke Thursday to the Michiganians.

"You now have active black politicians saying things which if they were white, we'd be literally calling for their expulsion from office," he said in an interview.

"And that's gotta scare everybody because of that kind of language, once it gets into the culture, is very deadly.

"Secondly, partly because of that antipathy between the left wing of the black community and the Jewish community, and which the black community sees as the explanation for their failure — anti-Semitism becomes the explanation for their failure. You can literally see that in the New Republic and New York Times articles.

"That creates a mood, 'Well, let's help the enemies of Israel. There are reasons Jackson was comfortable embracing (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat: that Arafat is an enemy of the western structure and western values of Israel and of middle-class, Main Street America.

"According to one poll, 70 percent of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention favor establishment of a Palestinian homeland.

Now, that is a revolution" — he paused for emphasis — "of where we would have been 15 years ago in the Democratic Party."

Gingrich is an aggressive Republican gladly in the House, continually challenging the procedures and agenda of the Democratic leadership. The Pennsylvania-born former history professor was brought in by Rep. Carl Pursell of Plymouth.

THE EFFORT to woo the Jewish community was put on the GOP's front burner by Max Fisher, prominent Franklin Village businessman, philanthropist and Republican donor. Fisher addressed the early Monday session of the national convention on

behalf of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

"The Reagan-Bush Administration is the best friend Israel ever had," said Fisher, bluntly addressing "paleo American Jews."

"Come join with me in this great political party which shares your values," he concluded.

The growing rift between the black and Jewish communities popped into the open in the Michigan delegation to the Democratic National Convention last month.

On one hand was Barry Howard, a Dukakis delegate from West Bloomfield, calling "Palestinian homeland" a buzzword for the destruction of Israel.

Jack sacked

Alan May of Bloomfield Hills (left) and Donn Wolf of Farmington Hills were hoping George Bush would select U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp of New York to fill out his ticket. Those hopes were dashed when the vice president surprised most observers by naming Sen. Daniel Quayle of Indiana, May, who is eyeing the University of Michigan Board of Regents, and Wolf, nominated in August for a county commissioner post, were in New Orleans for the Republican National Convention last week.

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