

Dan Quayle a stranger to Oakland delegates

By Tim Richard
staff writer

NEW ORLEANS — Oakland County Republicans enthusiastically responded to the selection of Indiana Sen. Dan Quayle as running mate for George Bush. Here is a sampling of what area delegates, alternates and officials had to say:

L. Brooks Patterson, county prosecutor: "The Americans for Democratic Action gives him a 0 to 5 (low rating). That's good enough for me. He's dynamic, attractive, will appeal to youth and close the gender gap. He's important to the Midwest — an area the Democrats snubbed by not taking (Ohio Sen. John) Glenn."

Ronna Romney, Republican national committee woman from Bloomfield Hills: "That's a surprise for the history books — Bush really sprung it . . . They (Democrats) can't run Benites in Michigan; they dropped the ball. The Midwest is the key to the election. The states that will deliver the winning margin are Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania. He'll help in Kansas and Iowa — a home-grown, all-American boy."

Larry Dickerson, Oakland County GOP chairman from Farmington Hills: "I grew up in Indiana (huge grin). He's very well respected by Republican leadership in Indiana — Don Cor, the national committeeman, and Gordon Durnall, the state chairman. Quayle has earned respect in the Senate. He shows surprising maturity for one so young. Dan Quayle will sell real well in Oakland County. I had met him be-

fore but never heard him speak until this morning."

Yvonne Stroher, Rochester Hills activist and aide to the delegation: "The Midwest is where the battle will be. I don't know a lot about him personally. I had the wind taken out of my sails. He's not that well known to us. But he's fresh, has no baggage, has earned no animosity and has strong Midwest connections."

Dann Wolf, Farmington Hills, county commissioner nominee and Jack Kemp backer: "I suspected it this morning (when he spoke to the delegation). I talked a little with him. He has a good political track record — beating Birch Bayh. He's a solid conservative, bright, articulate; probably the first baby boomer on the ticket."

Mary Lowe, Troy, 14th District alternate for Pat Robertson: "I never heard of him before today. I'm hearing he's very conservative."

DESPITE THE enthusiasm, Quayle, who served two years in Congress before toppling liberal Birch Bayh in 1980, was mostly unknown among the Michigan delegation.

Two young Republicans were the only Michigan party people who knew much about Quayle before George Bush asked the Indiana senator to be his vice presidential running mate Tuesday.

"I've heard of him. Conservative on family issues but not far right wing. In '80 the national media said he's someone to watch," said Greg Brock, a college student and page for the delegation.

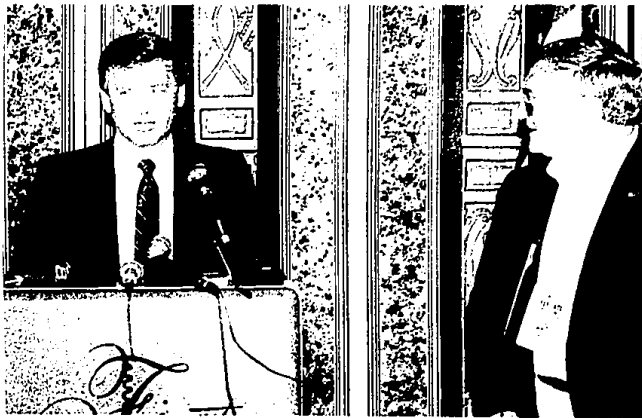
"He can relate to farmers better than Bush," said Brock, who lives in Utica, has worked on the Oakland County prosecutor campaign of Jack McDonald and attends Hillsdale College on the western edge of the 2nd Congressional District.

"He's on the Labor and Human Resources Committee," said Suzanne K. Miller, a 23-year-old Kemp delegate from Farmington Hills.

"He dealt with some of (Democratic Sen.) Ted Kennedy's pet bills. Dan Quayle is not so uptight in one position. He offered compromise views between Kennedy, who said 360 days on the plant closing bill, and the hard-liners who said zero."

"He's very appealing to youth. If we couldn't have had Kemp, he's good," Miller said.

IT MAY BE significant that, except for U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, only the two colleagues could rattle off J. Danforth Quayle's biography while seasoned delegates drew a blank.



Tuesday morning, Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson introduced Indiana Sen. Dan Quayle to the Michigan delegation in New

Orleans. Later that day, Quayle was named as George Bush's running mate.

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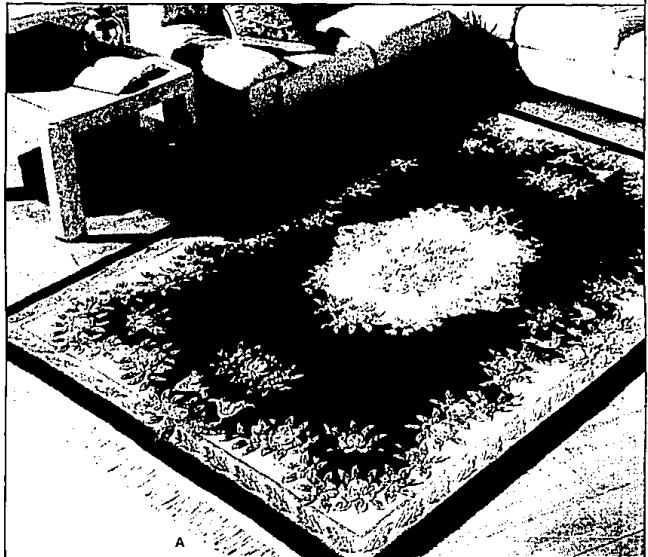
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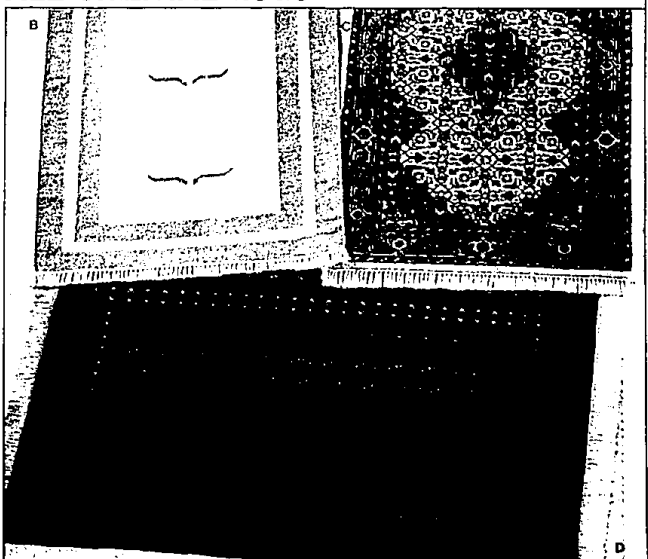
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