

Stance on Israel satisfies local Jewish delegates

BY UZAN SINGER MITCHELL
SPECIAL WRITER

HOUSTON — The talk that President George Bush has turned his back on Israel and the Jewish voters appeared to be buried during the GOP convention in Houston.

Briefings and speeches targeted to Jewish groups were delivered by Vice President Dan Quayle and Detroit industrialist Max M. Fisher, urging Jewish voters to stay with the president who has proved his allegiance to Israel.

"President Bush has continued America's vital military and economic assistance to Israel, now totaling nearly \$4 billion a year," Fisher, a Franklin resident, said in his speech to the convention.

"Just last week President Bush asked the Congress to approve \$10 billion in new loan guarantees. In the Gulf War, under the leadership of President Bush, Israel's greatest military threat was brought to its knees — Iraq's dangerous war machine destroyed," he added.

Jewish delegates and guests from Oakland County said they were quite relieved when Bush supported the Israel loan guarantees because many people were talking about

deserting the president over that issue.

"Before coming down here I heard from Jewish Republicans and Independents that under no circumstances will they vote for George Bush because of his position on loan guarantees. Now that is not an issue," said Jim Alexander, Oakland County GOP chairman.

Many Jewish activists said the election of Yitzhak Rabin as prime minister has proven to be a turning point for George Bush.

"The president is able to get along with Rabin and genuinely likes him," Paul Borman of Birmingham said.

During a briefing with the National Jewish Coalition, Vice President Quayle told the group that had gathered for a "Tribute to Max Fisher" that the president pledged to Prime Minister Rabin his full support to make sure that Israel remains secure.

"After the meeting with the president and the prime minister at Camp David, the relationship between the two countries is stronger than ever before. There is a personal friendship and confidential relationship between them that no one

will be able to tear apart," Quayle said.

The "Tribute to Max Fisher" was just one of the heavily attended events focusing on America-Israel relations. Throughout the week both Jews and gentiles were seen wearing pins that proclaimed, "I'm a pro-Israel Republican."

Some people privately expressed surprise that Vice President Quayle and members of the "New Right" were such strong supporters of Israel.

"George Bush and Dan Quayle have always understood the importance of Israel. They have been active in trying to bring peace to the region," said Andrew Fisher, a delegate from Birmingham.

Lori Packer, deputy chief of staff for state Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus (R-Alto) and activist in the New Right movement, said she is disturbed that people believe that the New Right is anti-Semitic.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. Evangelicals are very pro-Israel. We have been taught that Jews are the 'chosen people' by God and that we must pray for peace in

Jerusalem. We also have been taught if America ever turns its back on Israel our nation will fail," Packer, who grew up in Southfield, said.

Both Jews and Gentile Republicans said they hope people will look to Bush's record as proven support for Israel.

"Thanks to President Bush's commitment and efforts, Israel's diplomatic isolation is coming to an end," Fisher said.

"It now has diplomatic relations with all of the world's major nations, including Russia, China and India. Today, Israel is closer than at any time in its history to achieving

full recognition in the world community, creating the hope that Israel may soon know peace, security and acceptance with its Arab neighbors," he added.

Susan Singer Mitchell is director of public information for Oakland County and a former Observer & Eccentric staff writer.

GOP brother-sister team reaches out to area blacks

HOUSTON — The Englers, the Peros, the Donaskisses, the Chryslers, the Greenleafs — Michigan Republican politics is full of couples.

A rarity is the brother-sister act of L. James Hall and Yvette Charles.

"In 1986 Jim recruited me as a precinct delegate. He was then city director in Southfield," said big sister Charles, 45.

She now has his old job, recruiting delegates for 50 precincts, doing grass-roots work for Republican candidates organizing people for literature drops.

Hall, 35, is the state party's second vice chair. "We do outreach in the African-American community. We sponsored a dinner three weeks ago, with Tony Brown (PBS talk show host) as speaker. We had 500



L. James Hall

African-Americans from Oakland and Wayne counties. Gov. (John) Engler was there, and all the elected officials we could get.

"Our message was political independence. We are not a one-party people," Hall said.

At this convention, Hall is a delegate at-large. In 1988 he was a delegate from the old 17th Congressional District. Charles is an alternate from the new 12th District.

"In the last year," she said, "Jim got me involved in state committee meetings. I'm now on the issues committee (which writes the state party platform)."

"Yvette is an extension of my outreach efforts," said Hall.

They also have an AAA Michigan connection. Hall has an agency in Farmington Hills. Charles is a customer service representative in Dearborn.

"I started in 1979 with the (George) Bush campaign when it was led by then-Gov. (William) Milliken," said Hall. "I was a Bush delegate to the state convention."

"I got interested in '80," said Charles. "I was widowed in 1979 and joined Space, a widows group."

Youth assistance needs mentors

Oakland County Youth Assistance Volunteer Programs will train adults interested in becoming mentors for children from 7-9 p.m. Sept. 16 and 16.

For those unable to attend both sessions, a combined session will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 26.

All sessions will be in the Probate Court Conference Room on the second floor in the East Wing of the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac. While all adults are welcome, males and minorities are especially encouraged to attend. For information, call 858-0041.

CLARIFICATION

A story in our Aug. 10 issue on the opening of Neilman Marcus quoted MernaLyn, a local model. She advised us that she has worked internationally.

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You could ask them: Which team won the game, how much are carrots at the supermarket or how many classified ads for cars are there in the paper today?

(Note to adults: This is the tenth in a series of activities in the Family Reading Challenge 1992 contest. Use this page to share some educational summer fun with your child.)

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1. You must be in grades 1 through 8 to enter.
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4. Void where prohibited by law or where restricted. All federal, state and local rules and regulations apply. No purchase necessary.

Questions? Call (313)953-2155

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