

House Republicans Jockey for Position in Leader Race

WASHINGTON — House GOP Leader Robert Michel's retirement ignited an immediate race for a successor Monday, and the combative Newt Gingrich emerged as the early front-runner. Other Republicans jockeyed for position.

Michel, the Illinois lawmaker who had led House Republicans for 13 years, made an emotional farewell in his hometown of Peoria as he announced he would not seek a 20th term in Congress next year.

The announcement of his departure — which will take effect after the 1994 elections — comes at a time when Republicans

still are groping to mold a role for themselves now that the Democrats control both the White House and Congress.

The race to replace Michel is seen as both a contest of styles and a battle over who can best define and develop strategy for the minority party in Congress.

"I don't know if it will be a fight for a soul of the party as much as it's going to be an issue of perceived style — the lower-key, more conciliatory style versus being antagonistic," said freshman Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich.

Gingrich, the outspoken Georgian who holds the number-two GOP job as minor-

ity whip, wouldn't comment on his intentions Monday. But he scheduled an announcement Thursday and told colleagues he would be running for Michel's seat.

Other candidates surveyed the landscape, too.

Rep. Gerald Solomon of New York, ranking Republican on the Rules Committee, is considered a potential candidate and scheduled a news conference.

Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, who heads the Republican Policy Committee, has built up formidable stature with his 19 years in the House and has voiced an interest in Michel's job. Hyde issued a statement say-

ing he had no present plans to run, but he noted the contest was 14 months away — "an eternity in political affairs," he said.

Rep. Bill Archer of Texas, the ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee, said through a spokesman he had been approached by several colleagues and urged to run but had not made up his mind.

Rep. Dick Army of Texas, the chamber's number-three Republican, is not inclined to run because he is too allied with Gingrich on conservative issues, said an aide in the Republican leadership.

Gingrich starts out as the front-runner because he is already in the leadership

ranks and because of his record as an aggressive, articulate GOP spokesman.

Gingrich appears to have been grooming himself for Michel's job and there was speculation he would challenge Michel next year, regardless of Michel's plans.

Gingrich has toned down his sharp wit in recent months, many lawmakers say, in a calculated bid to win over more moderates and has tried to prove his bipartisanship by meeting more with Democrats.

Many lawmakers said they were looking for a leader who could tell Americans just what it was the House's 175 Republicans stood for.

U.S. Won't Issue Trade Sanctions For Whaling

WASHINGTON — The United States will forgo trade sanctions against Norway for its resumption of commercial whaling, but will try "all good faith efforts to persuade" the country to halt the activity, President Clinton said Monday.

Although Norway is violating an international ban on commercial whaling, Clinton said he would not impose sanctions at this time despite calls by environmental and congressional critics for strong U.S. action. Instead, Clinton said the administration would prepare a list of products that could be targeted for sanctions if Norway continued its whaling. A potential target would be \$70 million worth of marine products, including 22 million pounds of fish such as ocean salmon.

"I believe our objectives can best be achieved by delaying the implementation of sanctions until we have exhausted all good faith efforts to persuade Norway to follow agreed conservation measures," Clinton said in a letter to Congress.

"It is my sincere hope that Norway will agree to and comply with such measures so that sanctions become unnecessary."

The United States already has made its position clear to Norway. In a meeting last week between Vice President Al Gore and Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, Gore "expressed U.S. disappointment" with Norway's whaling activities, said Gore spokeswoman Marla Romash.

Clinton's decision infuriated environmental activists, especially after the U.S. government had officially warned Norway in August that it risked U.S. sanctions because its hunt of the minke whale undermined the commercial whaling ban by the International Whaling Commission.

Norway contends it will not kill enough creatures to affect the viability of the minke whale as a species, but environmental activists say Norway's activity will reinvigorate the world demand for whales and will encourage other nations to resume whaling. "Letting Norway off the hook now will send the wrong signal to the handful of other nations that are already sharpening the harpoon tips in hopes of renewing their hunts," Gerald Leape of Greenpeace said.

After certifying under U.S. law that Norway was impeding the international whale conservation effort, Clinton had 60 days, with Monday the deadline, to explain to Congress what he would do about it. Last winter the House passed, 347-0, a resolution condemning Norway's whaling. Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, called commercial whaling "an anachronism" that at one point had brought most of the world's whale species near extinction.

Studds wrote a letter Wednesday to Clinton urging sanctions, saying other "pro-whaling nations are certain to use our actions on this issue to evaluate whether they should resume commercial whaling also."

At its May meeting in Kyoto, Japan, the International Whaling Commission, with U.S. support and Norwegian opposition, renewed its ban on commercial whaling.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Holst said Monday that Norway found "some of the reaction to our policy very surprising and completely inconsistent with sound environmental policies and concepts of sustainable developing."

YACKETY YACK

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the sense that the school made the deadlines," Lindler said.

Sales of the 1993 Yack increased between 15 and 20 percent after they had dropped to 1,410 copies of the 1992 book, Lindler said. Price said 1,809 copies of the '93 Yack will be printed.

Distribution of the 1993 book is expected to go as planned, with some students picking the book up at the Yack office and others getting it in the mail, Lindler said. Price said most of the recently shipped 1992 books had to be mailed because students had graduated.

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