

Quayle, Cheney to seek presidency

By Paul Bedard
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Two potential GOP presidential hopefuls who've stayed quiet — former Vice President Dan Quayle and former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney — have decided to run for the White House and will soon set up exploratory committees, according to advisers.

"He's made a decision that he's certainly going to look at the next step. He's going to do the explorations to see what next needs to be done," said a Cheney associate. "He's on the verge of saying 'Let's roll!'"

As for Mr. Quayle, an adviser said: "He's in."

Advisers to the conservative Republicans said in interviews with The Washington Times that each is planning to create an exploratory campaign committee that will be responsible for raising money, forming a political platform and scheduling speeches and campaign travel.

Mr. Cheney, former House GOP leader and chief of staff under President Ford, is expected to be first out of the chute, aides said. Mr. Cheney, now a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, is considering hiring a top administrator to set up the exploratory committee.

Mr. Quayle plans to publish his memoirs in the spring before setting up his presidential exploratory committee, said an associate. "It will be next year before he gets going on exploratory stuff," said the adviser.

Both Mr. Cheney and Mr. Quayle refused to comment, but advisers speaking on condition of anonymity explained the presidential plans of the two former Bush administration officials. The advisers said neither is running for the No. 2 spot on the presidential ticket.

Pollster Brad Coker said Mr. Cheney and Mr. Quayle have just as good a chance of taking the GOP nomination in three years as today's



Dan Quayle (left) and Dick Cheney are front-runners for the nomination.

perceived front-runner: Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole.

"I don't think there's anybody who can lay claim to the front-runner position yet," he said.

Others expected to join the race are former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, who's already raised \$700,000 and operates a GOP satellite network; former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp; and Sen. Phil Gramm, the Texan who has an estimated \$7 million war chest. Another half-dozen potential candidates — including former Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Colin Powell — are eyeing the GOP primary race.

New Hampshire Republican Party Chairman Steve Duprey said he expects up to 10 Republicans to run in the GOP primary in his state, and he predicted three or four will emerge to continue the fight into subsequent primaries.

Many candidates, including Mr. Dole, Mr. Cheney and Mr. Alexander, have already visited New Hamp-

shire.

While Mr. Duprey characterized Mr. Dole as "very formidable," he said Mr. Quayle has a base of support in New Hampshire and that Mr. Cheney "impressed" Republicans here during a recent visit.

"Both will be warmly received," he said. "People like Vice President Quayle. Once you get to see him and meet him — so-called retail politics — people see his media image is not at all like his real personality. There will be a core support for the vice president here," Mr. Duprey said in an interview.

And, he added, "Cheney impressed a lot of people when he came here recently. A lot of people know Secretary Cheney for his leadership of the Defense Department, but he was also effective in the House and as chief of staff for [President Gerald] Ford."

Mr. Cheney decided to explore a run for the presidency after a vacation in his native Wyoming in Au-

gust. His decision came after months of speech-giving, during which he was surprised by the enthusiastic responses he received.

Rep. Craig Thomas, Wyoming Republican, told the Casper, Wyo., paper recently that there is "no doubt in my mind" that Mr. Cheney would run for president. However, he recanted later when Cheney aides said the Gulf war defense chief wanted to make his own announcement.

Associates are painting Mr. Cheney as a "steady Eddie," whose unexcitable style would be welcomed by Americans dizzy from President Clinton's roller-coaster presidency.

"At a time when you've got an administration which is very much spin control and seemingly always in trouble at home and overseas, here's a guy who consistently comes off looking and acting cool, calm and collected.

"That's a virtue when you've got such erratic swings by Clinton," said a Cheney associate and adviser.

The associate said Mr. Cheney, 51, will court youths, conservatives and fundamentalists first. "It's a natural constituency," he said.

Mr. Cheney also wants to broaden the image he created while at the Pentagon. To do that, he recently accepted invitations to talk about the economy and health care.

"He's typecast as a defense-type, but that came just in the last few years. His biggest challenge is . . . to remind people of his background in several other areas," said the associate.

Mr. Quayle, meanwhile, hopes to use trade and foreign policy speeches over the next few months and his book tour next spring to quiet his critics and dampen the jokes that dogged him since 1988, associates said.

"He's never been able to say, 'Here's my agenda.' That will come next year," said one adviser.