Minority Leader Michel Won't Seek Election in '94

By Kenneth J. Cooper
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel, R-Ill., Monday announced he would seek an eleventh term in Congress in 1994, marking a likely end to a line of pragmatic Republican leadership in the House and unleashing the ambitions of GOP lawmakers eager to move up.

Michel, the gentlemanly representative from protoconoic Peoria since 1957, became House Republican leader in 1981 as heir to a tradition of consensus-oriented, nonideological politics followed by his immediate predecessors, John J. Rhodes of Arizona and Gerald R. Ford of Michigan.

Recent elections have brought more confrontational conservative Republicans to the House and its leadership ranks, isolating Michel, 70, within his party.

"There's a big gap between my style of leadership and my sense of values, my whole thinking selves, as potential candidates for Boehner, R-Ohio, a second-term member who attacked Democratic leaders in both scandals, praised Michel for "the most forceful spokesman against abortion, and Rep. Bill Archer (Texas), a fiscal conservative and ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee, could enter the race. House Republicans are scheduled to elect new leaders in December 1994.

The maneuvering and speculation prompted Micheli, in characteristic style, to "admonish my troops" against "a fractious thing" within the party, "Be very careful about the tone of your comments," he said. "Please, don't let it interfere with what we ought to be doing as a unit within the Republican Party."

In the last two years, Gingrich and aggressive newcomers often have set the course of Republican strategy on issues like President Clinton's 1994 budget request and the House Bank and House Post Office scandals. And Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, a second-term GOP speaker, "If there's a tearful news conference in Peoria, traced his decision to retire back to election night last November. With George Bush's defeat, Michel said he no longer felt obligated to stay to help a Republican president.

In the wake of that election, a Michel aide confirmed to a reporter that Michel had run in 1992 only because he thought Republicans could win a House majority and make him the first GOP speaker since 1955. Instead, Republican gains were smaller than projected.

Monday Michel recapped his career in the political minority and said he had lost his excitement for the job. "I asked myself that. Do I really have the same zest for the job that I once had?" he said.

But before his retirement, Michel said he looked forward to playing a key role in legislative session on free trade, campaign laws in the 103 Congress. "We've got several big issues out that aren't going to get passed unless there's bipartisan support," he said.

Clinton Dispenses NAFTA Pact to Skeptical AFL-CIO

By Martin Kasindorf
SAN FRANCISCO

President Clinton, in a speech to labor leaders yesterday, said, "I would never knowingly do anything to cost an American a job," Clinton pledged twice during his speech, "That's not the business I'm in."

All of these improvements in American life will be necessary to strike "a new balance between security and opportunity in this country," Clinton said, theorizing that Americans now fear change because they see the world as a "lot more volatile" and uncertain.

So far, for health-care reform, Clinton played down his differences with labor over the issue by devoting more time in his hourlong speech to "alleviating the achievements of the family and medical leave law, and tax credits for the working poor. He drew applause when advocating his anti-crime bill and education reforms that the labor movement has endorsed.

"The most important thing to me today," Clinton told the audience, "is that you know that this administration believes in your values and your dreams and the interests of your children.

But Clinton rejected arguments that the trade pact would lead American companies to relocate in Mexico because of lower worker wages and less costly environmental laws there. Clinton said recently negotiated side agreements to the trade pact would raise labor and environmental costs in Mexico, reducing the relocation incentive that caused hundreds of U.S. companies to build in Mexico.

Further, Clinton argued, passage of NAFTA would increase U.S. exports to a Mexican market, which the United States is enjoying a $2.5 billion annual trade surplus. More American jobs would result from the increased business, Clinton said.

If Congress fails to pass NAFTA, American jobs could be lost should Mexico turn to Germany or Japan for a similar trade deal, Clinton said.

"I would never do anything to cost an American a job," Clinton pledged twice during his speech. "That's not the business I'm in."

To be placed on a mailing list to receive email on upcoming GSC meetings and events, send email to gsc-request@mit.edu.

The GSC is good. You like the GSC. You would like to help.

Married Students' Lunch

Are you married or in a committed relationship? The GSC would like to meet you, on Thursday, October 7 in the Graduate Student Council Office, rm. 50-222. We'll even give you lunch! Please send email to gscadmin@mit or phone 3-2199 if you would like to attend.

Bring your spouse and/or children if they can come.

Graduate Student Council

Housing and Community Affairs

This committee deals with non-academic issues relating to life at MIT: things like safety, transportation, health insurance, living expenses, and so forth. The first meeting for the fall term is Monday, October 18. Contact co-chairs Jonathan Baker (jonbaker@al, x-8837) and Emily Tan (chtan@mit, x-8516) for details.

You should send lots of money to the GSC secretary.

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday at 6. Only special people can come.