

Rep. Rose, North Carolina Democrat,

By John E. Yang
Washington Post Staff Writer

Rep. Charlie Rose (D-N.C.), a 12-term lawmaker who once aspired to be House speaker, said yesterday that he would not run for reelection this year, citing life in a Republican-controlled Congress as one of the reasons.

"Going from being in the majority, from being chairman of a committee to minority status is difficult and quite a change," Rose, 56, told reporters. "My inner compass tells me this is basically the time to go."

Rose said the House was "in the control of some rather zealous young Republicans who'd rather shut down the government than compromise. . . . I don't know that the American people wanted all that they got when they

elected this Congress. I want to do something else rather than sit around and wait for the public to perceive that maybe they went too far."

Rose's announcement brings to 36 the number of House members—24 Democrats and 12 Republicans—who have said they will not seek reelection this fall. Nine of them, six Democrats and three Republicans, are seeking Senate seats.

It also presents Republicans with another opportunity to add to their House majority. Voter registration in Rose's district, in the southeastern corner of the state, is predominantly Democratic, but in recent presidential elections it has tilted Republican.

Rose, who has a relatively liberal voting record, has seen his vote counts dwindle from 67 percent in 1988 to 52

percent in 1994. He denied that he retired because he was concerned about his reelection prospects.

"Some of my Republican friends might say that you know you're going to get whopped, and I don't think so," he told a Fayetteville, N.C., radio show. "I think we're going to reelect a Democratic Congress and reelect a Democratic president in November."

In 1993, Rose launched a campaign to become speaker. After Democrats lost their majority, Rose lost to Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo.) 150 to 58 in the race to be minority leader.

Rose's most lasting contribution to the House may be his efforts to bring the chamber into the technology age. As chairman of the Administration Committee, he improved the House's data and communications network,

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Is Retiring

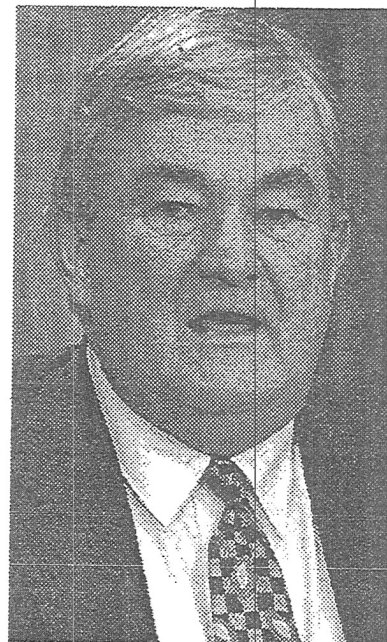
bringing lawmakers computerized mailing lists that aid them in fund-raising and keeping track of constituents.

But being head of that committee also brought headaches. He was in charge of the House bank, post office and restaurants—all sources of embarrassment and troubles.

In 1988, the House ethics committee issued a formal "letter of reproof" to Rose for irregularities in his use of campaign funds. The Justice Department pursued the case and Rose settled the matter in 1994 by agreeing to pay a \$12,500 civil fine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION 

To read Rep. Rose's voting record, see *Digital Ink*, The Post's on-line service. To learn about *Digital Ink*, call 202-334-4740.



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