

# Dole Quits as G.O.P. Head; Bush Named as Successor

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 11— Senator Robert J. Dole announced today that he was resigning as Republican National Chairman and that George H. Bush, United States representative to the United Nations, had been chosen to replace him.

Senator Dole announced his impending departure and Mr. Bush's designation as his successor at a news conference at the White House after he met for 45 minutes with President Nixon. The Senator from Kansas was supported by Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, in his denial that he was leaving under Presidential pressure.

Mr. Bush will stay through the current session of the General Assembly, with Mr. Dole remaining in an advisory capacity until Mr. Bush can leave the world organization and assume the newly full-time responsibilities of becoming party chairman. A successor for Mr. Bush will be named at that time, Mr. Ziegler said.

Later in the morning the



The New York Times  
George Bush at his news conference here yesterday.

White House announced that Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the sociologist and former White House counselor, would be named Ambassador to India.

Rumors that Senator Dole might be forced out of the chairmanship that he has held since January, 1971, began to stir soon after Election Day, when it became clear that President Nixon's overwhelming victory had not meant a paral-

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lel gain for the party in Congress.

But until today, Senator Dole has maintained that he wanted to stay on and had Mr. Nixon's support to do so, despite reports that, in their meeting at Camp David last month, the President had asked for his resignation.

"There was some speculation that I went to the mountaintop to be pushed off," Senator Dole said today. "But that wasn't the case. I never planned on staying long into 1973."

Mr. Ziegler stepped to the microphone to back this up, saying:

"I would just add that in terms of the President's feelings, about Chairman Dole, the President feels that Chairman Dole has been one of the most articulate spokesmen and effective leaders that the Republican party has ever had."

Mr. Ziegler also said that Mr. Dole told the President before the election of his intention to resign. He noted that Mr. Dole "led the Republican party in 1972 to the greatest Presidential victory in the history of the party."

Mr. Dole said that Mr. Bush's



Associated Press  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan



United Press International  
Robert J. Dole

name was among several possible successors mentioned during his "frank" talk with Mr. Nixon at Camp David on Nov. 27. He said that he went to New York City the next day to talk with Mr. Bush, and that he and Mr. Nixon had spoken with Mr. Bush twice since then by tele-

phone, most recently this morning. He said that Mr. Bush had previously "declined" the offer of a "very high position in the Administration"—in the Treasury Department, Mr. Ziegler said later—but finally accepted the party's chairmanship because "he feels it a great chal-

lenge" and still has political interests himself.

Mr. Dole indicated that the fact that he will be up for reelection in 1974 was involved in his decision to leave the chairmanship. "I learned that incumbents can lose," he said.

Although he displayed signs of tension—twisting his fingers and moistening his lips with his tongue from time to time—Mr. Dole was controlled throughout and occasionally smiled.

He said that he saw the new chairman's major tasks to be transforming "this new American majority the President has into a Republican majority in the Congress," and of recruiting better candidates, particularly more black and Spanish-speaking candidates, for the party.

Mr. Bush must be formally elected by the party's executive committee when it meets Jan. 19. Mr. Dole said, however, that he had found consistent support for Mr. Bush's candidacy, and added: "We believe our Texan will beat their Texan," a reference to the election Saturday of Robert S. Strauss as the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Bush and Mr. Strauss are both from Texas.

### 'A Certain Reluctance'

Mr. Bush, who has been the head of the United States delegation to the United Nations since the beginning of 1971, acknowledged in a statement issued at the United Nations today that he would be leaving "with a certain reluctance."

He added that his service at the United Nations "where one sees many systems of government, have convinced me that we've got a unique political process" in the United States, "and I look forward to being involved and hopefully to getting others involved."

He said he was leaving "a believer in the U.N.—a constructive critic, yes, a far stronger supporter, yes."

One of several key embassy vacancies was filled with the announcement by Mr. Ziegler that President Nixon would

nominate Mr. Moynihan to succeed Kenneth B. Keating as Ambassador to India.

Moynihan, a member of the faculty at Harvard University, is a Democrat who served in the Administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson in the Department of Labor — as a special assistant, an executive assistant and, from 1963 to 1965, as Assistant Secretary of Labor.

He was on leave from Harvard, where he joined the faculty in 1966, from January, 1969, to January 1971, serving first as assistant to the President for urban affairs, and as

counselor to the President from November, 1969, to January, 1971, and as a member of the White House Domestic Council. He has been a consultant to the President since returning to Harvard.

Another change within the Administration, which has not yet been officially announced, involves the resignation of Douglas Toms as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Mr. Toms' resignation has been accepted. The traffic agency has, under his direction, proposed stringent new automobile safety standards, including the air bag.