

# Move to Unseat Rhodes

Washington

House Republicans, smarting from their election losses, were urged by a colleague yesterday to dump their conservative party leader, Representative John Rhodes of Arizona.

Representative Peter Peyser (Rep.-N. Y.) said he will work for a change toward a more moderate leadership when the Republicans gather next month to organize for the new Congress.

At a news conference, Peyser said he had sounded out Representative John Anderson (Rep.-Ill.), now chairman of the House Republican Conference, as a possible challenger to Rhodes.

Anderson himself told reporters later it is too early to make such a decision.

"If this would be a move that might unite us, perhaps I would," Anderson said. "But I'm not part of a ploy to bring this about."

Anderson said he believes it is clear some changes must be made so House Republicans will reflect what



JOHN RHODES  
House GOP leader

he described as the "centrist, moderate" philosophy voters made clear in Tuesday's elections.

Peyser released a copy of a letter he sent to Rhodes Thursday informing him of the attempt to unseat him.

Rhodes was elected leader a year ago without opposition to fill the job left vacant



JOHN ANDERSON  
'Not part of a ploy'

when then-President Nixon picked Gerald Ford as his vice president.

Peyser, a third-term congressman from the suburbs of New York City, said Rhodes had failed to support the legislative needs of urban areas, particularly in mass transit, education and housing.

Peyser said he had talked of a possible revolt against Rhodes with about 15 of his House colleagues and thought there was a good chance to pull it off.

"We can't sit back and wait for two years," he said.

He noted that most of the Republicans who were defeated at the polls this week



PETER PEYSER  
'We can't sit back'

and those who retired, were supporters of Rhodes. They would not be allowed to participate in the party conference next month at which leaders will be chosen.

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