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Barie out; Ortloff likely GOP pick

By TOM BERGIN
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Rouses Point management consultant Mark Barie said Friday that he won't be the Republican's state Assembly candidate, an announcement leaving little doubt that the party will nominate former WPTZ-TV anchorman Chris Ortloff to run in the upcoming special assembly election.

Barie bowed out of the race for the party's nomination at a Plattsburgh news conference Friday morning. Some 75 enthusiastic supporters — many of them influential Clinton and Franklin county Republicans — attended.

A number of the party faithful attending the news conference expressed disappointment with the way Republican leaders handled the candidate selection process. They said party leaders overruled the wishes of most of the 110th Assembly District's Republican town chairmen, and that the party hierarchy — specifically State Senator Ronald Stafford (R-Plattsburgh) and Clinton County Republican Committee Chairman James Andre — selected the wrong candidate.

Andre, reached Friday afternoon, wouldn't comment on the charges. Andre said the Republican nominee will be announced at a press conference Tuesday morning, but he declined

My discussion with the party leaders and Mr. Andre indicate (that) Mr. Ortloff is the probable nominee. — Barie

ed to say if the candidate would be Ortloff.

Neither Ortloff nor Stafford could be reached for comment Friday afternoon.

Republicans and Democrats inside the 110th AD anticipate a special state Assembly election to fill the chair being vacated by Assemblyman Andrew W. Ryan Jr. Ryan was recently elected Clinton County district attorney and is leaving the assembly in mid-term. A special election to fill the remainder of Ryan's term will probably be held in February.

At his news conference, Barie read a short statement, saying he spoke with Andre and that the party leader "informed me that I was not his choice to be the Republican nominee in the upcoming election." Barie said he was "disappointed" by Andre's decision.

Barie, who ran Lew Lehrman's local gubernatorial campaign against Mario Cuomo, was asked who he thought the party's candidate might be. "I don't think it's any secret that Chris and I were very anxious to get the nomination," Barie said. "My discussion with the party

leaders and Mr. Andre indicate (that) Mr. Ortloff is the probable nominee."

Barie claimed to have the support of most Clinton County Republican chairmen, and the backing of many other influential Republicans in the district. If that were true, Barie was asked, why he wasn't the Republican choice.

"That's an excellent question to ask Jim Andre if you run into him," Barie responded, a comment which prompted much laughter from the news conference crowd.

A reporter asked Barie whether he would support Ortloff. "We have a saying in the Republican Party — we call it the 11th commandment — which says that if you can't help another Republican, you don't hurt him. I and my friends will abide by the 11th commandment," he said.

The Rouses Point businessman said that no matter how strong his support, he wouldn't run as an independent. "I have been approached," he said. "I think that most third party candidates act to serve as a spoiler. I don't think that a third party candidacy in this situation would be productive and my general inclination is — no."

Barie said he believed Ortloff was chosen because of his high visibility in two recent Republican-conducted candidate polls. Although he hadn't seen the poll results, Barie said he

Rank and file grouse about ruling

By TOM BERGIN
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — The Republican leadership's failure to nominate Mark Barie as the party's nominee for state Assembly could cause a split among the party rank and file, Barie supporters say.

"It's unfortunate everything had to happen so fast," former City of Plattsburgh Republican Committee official Lawrence House said. House, who now lives in Malone, questioned the Republican leadership's decision to make their choice based on a district-wide poll.

"For accomplishments, Mark was the most qualified on the whole (poll) list," House said. "I think this (decision) has weakened the Republican Party."

Francis Menard of Mooers agreed: "We're behind him (Barie). I don't think what they (party leaders) did was the right decision."

Art Spiegel of Champlain, another Republican, said: "I don't think there's any question that Chris Ortloff has the visibility. But, within 30 days, Mark would have it, too."

According to Chazy Town Supervisor Harold Jubert, Ortloff can't generate the kind of support Barie was capable of winning. Jubert also complained that the party leadership didn't give Republicans at the grassroots level a chance to voice their opinion.

Richard Lewis of Chazy, the town assessor, said some Republicans did get to voice their

opinion. "But they (Republican leaders) just wouldn't take it," Lewis said.

Barie said the Republican Executive Committee had been consulted on the decision to select Ortloff but party leaders overlooked the county committee. "I'm told by some of the town chairmen that they felt the decision was essentially made (without their input)," Barie said during his news conference. "I think that's unfortunate."

Barie was asked whether the decision to select Ortloff would lead to dissension within the party, or a move to oust county party Chairman James Andre.

Barie replied that he heard talk about a challenge to Andre's leadership, but that he (Barie) was not part of any such effort. "At this point, I really can't make any comment on it, but I'm aware there's been some discussion," Barie said.

"I think the Republican Party in the North Country is undergoing some fundamental changes," he said. "I think that we will soon reach the point ... that the torch will be passed from one generation to the next. I represent the next generation."

As to serious infighting will be, Barie said it depends on the candidate. "The Republican candidate has to get out — and I'm sure Chris will — he has to put the party back together again; he has to get out and meet the people. Whether or not he wins is entirely up to him."

Ortloff had greater support among the general population. He said it was too early to

decide whether to make a primary run for the party's nomination next summer. The special election will cover only

Ryan's unexpired term. There will be a regular campaign for a two-year assembly term next fall.

U.S. hails attack on Sandinista chopper

By TRACY WILKINSON

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (UPI) — Nicaragua recalled its ambassador to the United States Friday to protest the downing of a Sandinista helicopter by U.S.-backed rebels. The United States praised the missile attack that killed 14 soldiers, who it said included a Cuban flight crew.

The Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington denied that Cuban military men were aboard the helicopter. But Secretary of State George Shultz said the pilot and co-pilot of the aircraft were Cubans, and said the State department would release documents showing the extent of the Cuban combat role.

At a news conference in Washington, Shultz told reporters it was "fine" that the rebels shot down the helicopter and said he was "all for it."

Shultz also held out the possibility of "further steps" by the Reagan administration against Nicaragua's leftist government, including a possible request to Congress to approve military aid for the rebels.

Aid to the guerrillas is present

ly restricted to "humanitarian" assistance.

Shultz, denying Nicaraguan charges that the United States supplied the missile, said aid to the rebels is being delivered "in a proper way" as required by Congress, which specifically excluded military equipment.

"There's no truth to the charge that these weapons are being supplied by the United States," he said. "Our legislation prohibits that and we are faithful to the legislation."

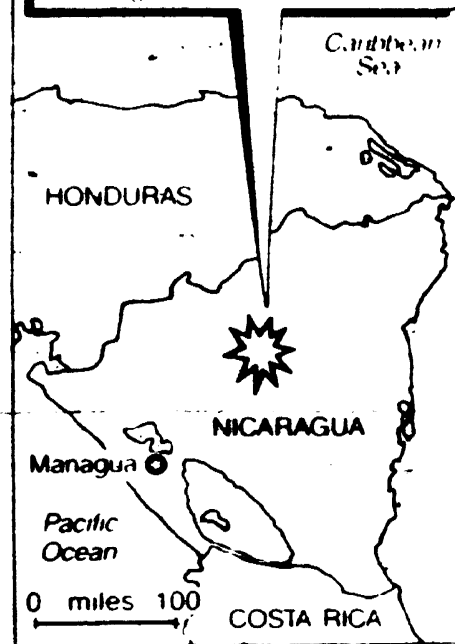
He suggested the weapons — believed to be Soviet-made, shoulder-launched SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles — were procured on the international arms market or captured from the Nicaraguan military forces.

"But somehow or other they got hold of them," Shultz said. "The point is that the Soviet and Cuban presence and material is there and being used against the Nicaraguan people. And thank goodness that they (the Contras) did get a hold of some weapons that can knock these choppers down, and were able to use them."

A spokesman for the

Rebel Missile Downs Nicaraguan Helicopter

Nicaragua accused the U.S. of arming rebels with ground-to-air missiles that shot down a military helicopter, killing 14 Nicaraguan soldiers.



Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington said Ambassador Carlos Tunnerman "is leaving sometime tomorrow (Saturday)."

"He's being recalled on consultation due to the shooting down of the Nicaraguan helicopter by the Contra (U.S.-backed rebels), with land-to-air missiles provided by the U.S. government," she said. "They're going to decide how long he's going to be there."

"Yes, it is in protest," the spokeswoman said of the recall. The Sandinista Defense Ministry issued a statement saying the helicopter, believed to be a Soviet-built Mi-8, crashed Monday near Nicaragua's principal army training base in Masakaka, 85 miles northeast of Managua. The statement did not say whether there was guerrilla activity in the area.

Liability, malpractice on tap for Legislature

ALBANY, N.Y. (UPI) — Municipal governments faced with spiraling liability insurance costs and policy cancellations would be assured of receiving coverage at reasonable rates under a bill introduced Friday by Senate Republican leaders.

Gov. Mario Cuomo has called a special session for Tuesday to consider his medical malpractice bill and five other pieces of legislation, including one dealing with municipal liability insurance.

Municipal governments, like doctors, builders and other business people, have seen their liability insurance rates jump this year. Insurance carriers claim their profits are being squeezed and can no longer afford to insure certain businesses and municipalities.

Some local governments have had their policies canceled and have not been able to obtain coverage.

The Republican proposal on municipal liability, like the GOP medical malpractice plan, is more far-reaching than the one proposed by the governor.

Leaders of the Republican-controlled Senate have come up with a 10-point plan that includes changes in tort — or wrongful injury — laws that are unacceptable to Cuomo and Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink, D-Brooklyn.

GOP liability insurance plan

The Republican plan includes these recommendations to:

- Allow insurers to pay jury awards over a period of years instead of in a lump sum.
- Fine people who file frivolous lawsuits.
- Allow suits against municipalities to be heard in state Supreme Court.
- Limit attorneys' fees in cases against municipalities.

Most objectionable to Cuomo is a recommendation to limit a locality's liability for damage to an amount equal to its responsibility for the injury. For example, under current law, if a court finds a municipality is only 25 percent responsible for an injury, the municipality may be required to pay 100 percent of the damages if the other parties are unable to pay.

Under the GOP plan, a municipality in the same case would be liable to pay 25 percent damages, or an amount equal to the municipality's actual responsibility.

Cuomo favors more limited actions to control liability insurance costs until a commission is convened to study the problem in depth.

"Before we turn the liability laws upside down, we want to make sure we're doing it for

some cause other than an instant response to some unilateral action by an insurance company," said Gary Fryer, spokesman for Cuomo.

"When you change tort law, your affecting consumers, people who have been harmed," Fryer said.

Both Cuomo and the Republicans favor the idea of prohibiting insurance carriers from canceling policies before they expire and requiring the carriers to notify local governments beforehand of increases or non-renewals.

There were no indications Friday that Democratic and Republican negotiators had narrowed their differences on municipal liability, medical malpractice, or any of the other issues on the agenda for next Tuesday's special session.

So be good, for goodness sake

KEENE, N.H. (UPI) — A judge said bah humbug when a man wearing a Santa Claus suit and shaking holiday bells showed up to answer a disorderly conduct charge.

With a full white beard and red stocking cap, a jolly Ronald Johnson, 43, of Surry, arrived in Keene District Court Thursday shouting "Merry Christmas" to respond to an Oct. 9 disorderly conduct complaint.

But Judge Bernard Hampsey ordered Johnson to go home and change into "proper dress" for a courtroom appearance.

Johnson said he dressed as Santa Claus for a holiday function appearance at a friend's business before his court date and had no time to change.

City Attorney Mark Bennett said if the judge had not sent Johnson home, he would have sought a contempt of court order because the Santa suit "distracts from the seriousness of the proceedings."

A less jolly Johnson returned to court 30 minutes later and was found guilty of the Oct. 9 disorderly conduct charge, which stemmed from a separate court appearance involving his son.

The judge suspended a \$100 fine on conditions of good behavior.



18 shopping days to Christmas

Good Morning

Weather

Cloudy with a chance of light snow today and tonight. Highs today 25 to 30. Lows tonight 15 to 20. The chance of snow is 40 percent.

Lotteries

The winning number picked Friday in the New York state lottery was 613. The Win-4 number was 2734.

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