

Democrats support Kubiak and Faulk

United Press International
USTIN — Saying Dan Kubiak is clearly the strongest candidate, Party Chairman Bob Gramm urged Texas Democrats today to support the former lawmaker in his race against Republican convert Phil Gramm.

"I have agreed to honor the best of the county chairman of the state party to make technical and financial assistance available to Kubiak," Slagle said. Gramm, a Bryan resident and former professor at Texas A&M University, announced he is resigning the 6th District congressional seat he won as a Democrat and would run in a special election as a Republican. Gov. Bill Clements set the special election for Feb. 12, and Democrats hopefuls have been unable to overcome Gramm's obvious advantage in the conservative district.

"We feel like the Democrats in Texas should make every effort to assist the strongest Democrat in the race against Gramm," Slagle said. "That is Dan Kubiak. Our goal

is to help beat Gramm. Kubiak, a 14-year veteran of the Texas House, and John Henry Faulk, a radio humorist who was blacklisted during the McCarthy era, were considered the most serious candidates.

"I think it's going to be a very strong Democratic effort and I think a statewide effort," said Democratic Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower. "I suspect we'll do some campaigning down there and make some calls. As long as Faulk stays in the race I'll support both of them."

"Gov. White intends to work actively for the election of a Democrat in that race, but does not want to get involved in a contest among competing Democrats," said Ann Arnold, White's press secretary.

Comptroller Bob Bullock echoed that sentiment. "I will go to the district if they ask me to," Bullock said. "I think it is very important to keep Phil Gramm out of Congress."

Neither Kubiak nor Faulk have openly solicited the support of prominent Democrats.

"We want to make this, for the first time in the history of Texas, an election in which there are several good Democrats running for office against a common opponent and they don't eat each other to pieces," Faulk said.

However, Land Commissioner Garry Mauro said he endorsed Kubiak. The two were opponents in the Democratic primary for Land Commissioner and Kubiak eventually endorsed Mauro in the runoff contest.

Mauro said he had Gramm as an economics professor while a sophomore at Texas A&M.

"Even as a 21-year-old Aggie I recognized Gramm's economics for what they are," he said. "If you spent more than you bring in you have deficits."

Gramm's opponents are hoping the number of candidates in the race — 11 in all — will force the contest into a runoff. In that event a Democrat would have additional time to chip away at Gramm's lead.

Both Kubiak and Faulk have indicated they would support the other in a runoff against Gramm.

UTSA Health Center ready to make babies

United Press International
AN ANTONIO — Doctors at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's new "test tube baby" program.

The San Antonio program joins one in Houston as two of a handful of such centers in the United States, said Dr. Ricard Asch, who is heading the "in vitro" fertilization team. "In vitro" is Latin for "in glass."

Asch said he expects the team to work with 50 or 60 couples in the next year and hopes at least one baby will be born in that time.

50 or 60 test tube babies are expected to have been born worldwide since Louise Brown was conceived in a laboratory in England and was born in 1978, said Alan Trounson of Melbourne, Australia, a pioneer in the IVF process.

"It is apparent this procedure

is going to become a common technique in fertility," he said at a news conference.

But the couples who want a test tube baby will be carefully screened for medical and psychological suitability, the doctors said.

The woman must be under 40 years old and the couple must have an infertility problem not treatable by other means, such as blocked Fallopian tubes or an extremely low sperm count, Asch said.

At Medical Center Hospital, the doctors will run tests on the woman to determine when an egg matures in her ovary, then will remove it by laparoscopy, a minor surgical procedure. The egg will then be moved to a plastic dish and combined with the husband's sperm.

If the woman does become pregnant, she will switch to the care of her own doctor for a normal pregnancy.

Only 10 or 20 percent of the women who want test tube babies become pregnant, the doctors said. Couples will be counseled to make sure their hopes are not too high.

The UT medical school in San Antonio has, in fact, been "dragging its feet" for two years on making test tube babies until the success rate rose above 10 percent, said Dr. Carl Pauerstein, chairman of the school's obstetrics and gynecology department.

"We don't know very well what the success rate of pregnancy is in normal couples," Asch said. "It may be just 10 or 20 percent. We may be reaching the top success rate possible for human beings."

"But the other side of the coin is zero," Pauerstein said. "These are people who have no hope of fertility."



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