

Candidates lining up to take Tower's seat

United Press International
AUSTIN — Would-be successor Sen. John Tower, R-Tx, began jockeying for position Tuesday in the wake of Tower's stunning announcement that he will not seek re-election in 1984.

One Republican congressman, Ron Paul of Lake Jackson, announced he would be a candidate, and a second, Phil Gramm of College Station, said he was also considering the race.

"I'm going to take a look at it (campaign)," Gramm said in Washington, D.C. "I would make a decision on two things, whether or not I believe I'm strongest candidate and therefore most likely to win seat and help preserve the Republican majority in the Senate."

The two Democrats who had previously announced, former ambassador to Mexico Bob Krueger of New Braunfels and state Sen. Lloyd Doggett of Austin, told news conferences that Tower's withdrawal would boost their campaigns.

Former Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Rep. Kent Hance, D-Texas, had earlier been mentioned as possible Democratic entries, but Texas Railroad Commissioner Buddy Temple said Monday he was also considering the race.

"I definitely have a great interest in it," he said. "I'm going to take a deliberate, long look at it. "I am not going to do anything hasty."

"Frankly, I had not given the race serious thought recently, but Tower's getting out changes that dramatically," said Temple, who lost a bid for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1982.

Within hours of Tower's announcement, Krueger and Doggett both called news conferences at the state Capitol to tout their candidacies.

"I smiled. I don't think I let out a cheer," Krueger said of his reaction to Tower's decision.

"It clearly gives us an advantage," he said. "It's a significant boost since all along people have been talking about the incumbency and his (Tower's) 24 years there."

But Doggett also claimed an advantage on the grounds that he is a "Democratic loyalist."

"Sen. Tower's decision can only advance my campaign," he said. "He brought the advantages of seniority and incumbency to this election. I understand the value of seniority, and what it really means to be a senator."

Doggett declined to speculate on who the Republican contenders might be, but he said it would be a "contest between the far right and the not so far right."

But among the potential GOP candidates mentioned Tuesday were Congressmen Bill Archer and Tom Loeffler, former Gov. William P. Clements, Dallas computer magnate H. Ross Perot, Amarillo oilman Boone

Pickens and GOP state Rep. George Strake.

Most of the speculation centered around Gramm's name.

"Gramm has been his heart to run for the seat," said Texas Democratic Party chairman Robert Slagle, personally, I believe that the Republican Party has perceived there was no win the Democratic party ranks.

But Slagle said while he has name identification popularity with the Texas establishment is suspect is a "Johnny-come-lately party ranks."

"If I were the Republican have already placed a call to Clements to see if he'd like to switch from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party."

Austin political analyst George Christian, a press secretary to President George Bush, said he seemed to be more interested in Washington than Austin.

"The Republicans track record of new people said, 'Tower himself was a political unknown.'"

vision cameras — they shake Krueger's hand they met at a banquet. Tower won the election 12,000 votes out of more than 2.3 million cast.

Krueger, who also served briefly as ambassador during President Carter's administration, already announced his plans to seek Democratic nomination for Tower's seat in 1984.

When Tower was first elected in 1961, he was, at age 31, the youngest member of the state and a professor of government science at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls.

The 5-foot-5 Tower, slicked-back hair and three-piece suits, quickly earned recognition as a supercilious and power behind the scenes among Senate Republicans.

From the first, Tower considered one of the state's most conservative members. First to come out of the Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential candidacy. Last to form a close alliance with White House when Richard Nixon became president.

Tower later moderated of his views, saying he was a "pragmatic" approach to government policies but was counted as a conservative one official biography described himself as a "progressive conservative."

Tower kept largely from public view his increasing role in the Senate's Republican affairs. He was selected as chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

He gained prestige by becoming the senior Republican on the armed services and intelligence panels.

Tower was born in Houston Sept. 29, 1925, the son of a Methodist minister, and grew up in a middle-class Texas community.

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Senator's power went past state

United Press International
 Sen. John Tower's surprising decision not to seek re-election in 1984 will deprive Texans of their most powerful senator since Lyndon Johnson, an intimate of presidents whose chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee gave him influence far beyond the state.

Tower, 57, scheduled a news conference in Austin Tuesday afternoon to announce that he would retire from the Senate after this term.

Tower was a political science professor in 1961 when he first won election with the tacit support of liberals, but he quickly became one of the chamber's most conservative ideologues.

Defeated handily for the Senate in 1960 when Lyndon Johnson ran simultaneously for re-election to his seat and for the vice presidency, Tower came back the next year to take Johnson's place and become the state's first Republican senator in modern times.

Ironically, it was the long-feuding Texas Democrats who allowed Tower his first victory in 1961 and his re-election in 1966.

Rather than face the prospect of seeing another in a line of conservative Democrats get elected, liberals sat out the 1961 race — some may have voted for Tower — in the expectation that they could easily beat him with one of their own in 1966.

But again, Tower defied the odds, tailoring his image as a powerful voice among Republicans in Washington, and was sent back for a second term, again helped by liberals who did not want a conservative Democrat in the seat.

He faced his toughest test at the polls in 1978 with a challenge from popular Democratic congressman Robert Krueger. Although both men were articulate scholars, the campaign was particularly hostile, marked at one point by Tower — in full view of photographers and tele-

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