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Bush makes plans for 'ultimate job'

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Bush is dampening expectations of dramatic moves during his first 100 days in the White House, tacitly acknowledging that he will be busy wrestling with Congress over the huge budget deficit.

With the House and Senate both controlled by Democrats, Bush will face "a nine-month siege, not a 100-day breakthrough," predicted Mitchell Daniels, a former political adviser for President Reagan who also worked in the Bush-Quayle campaign.

Indeed, the incoming president himself said in a recent interview that he would "feel like a spring colt" if it were not for the fiscal challenges accompanying his elevation on Friday to what he called "the ultimate" job.

Even as he struggles with the deficit, Bush also will give priority to refining his strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union in the rapidly changing climate under Mikhail Gorbachev, officials said.

Moscow has put new pressure on Bush by recently promising major troop cutbacks and destruction of some chemical weapons.

Bush's first major trip will be to Japan for the Feb. 24 funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito.

He has said he would like to see a NATO summit as the alliance marks its 40th anniversary in April and will gather in Paris in July with the leaders of six other Western powers for the annual economic summit of major industrialized nations.

During the campaign, Bush said he wanted an early meeting with Gorbachev. But after he and Reagan and Gorbachev got together in New York last month, Bush said there was no pressure for him to see the Kremlin leader again soon.

Bush has promised several other summits: a global conference on the environment, a hemispheric meeting on illegal drugs and a meeting of the nation's governors about educational problems. Bush may be ready to announce the dates for the educational summit when the governors hold their annual meeting in Washington in late February.

On another front, Bush has made clear he will move quickly to propose new ethics legislation covering administration officials and members of Congress. As one of his first steps, Bush will name a commission to propose ways to strengthen ethics laws, and instruct the panel to report back within 30 days.

Another priority will be "attacking the perception that the Republican Party is somehow not interested in the problems of the poor, minorities and disadvantaged," David Beck, with, press secretary to Vice President-elect Dan Quayle, said. The deficit sharply limits funds for the effort, but Beckwith said, "Making them a priority makes a statement, and nothing gets done unless it's on the front-burner."

Along those lines, the White House staff will contain a new slogan filled by Gregg Petersmeyer, spearhead Bush's "thousand points of light" campaign to encourage people to volunteer their services to the poor.

Typically, a new president tries to do something to distinguish himself from his predecessor and set a tone for his administration. Yet, analysts caution against anything dramatic in the Bush White House.

Daniels, the former adviser to Reagan who was a top adviser to Quayle's campaign, said: "Fast starts are always useful but it is a lesser concern in this administration because... their opportunities are limited. The Hill is stacked against them."

Moreover, Daniels said, "They're also constrained by the budget and by the shortage of flagship issues coming out of the campaign."

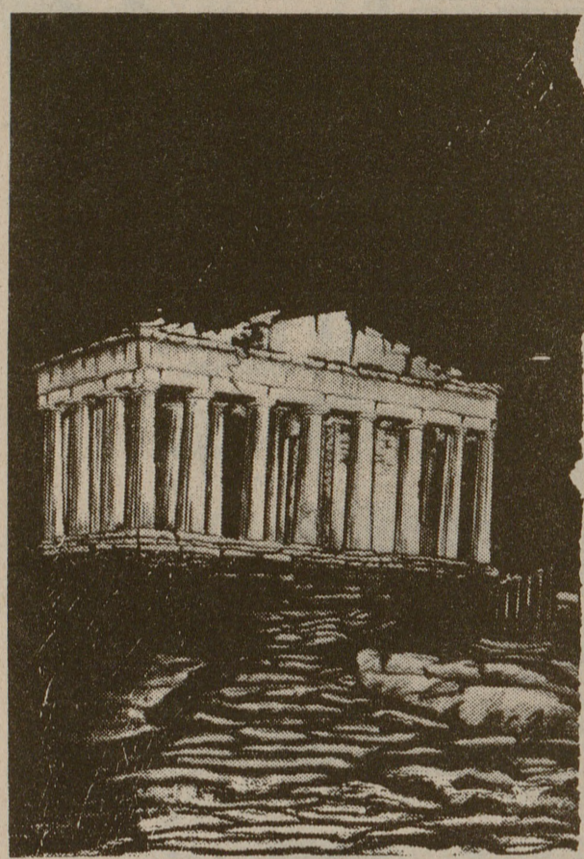
Bush says the change of command also is different now because it's the first time in 152 years that a vice president was elected to succeed his boss.

"I've been part of this administration and it isn't like there is the need for radical change," Bush said in an interview. "It's the concept of building on what has been done."

Bush said he would make his mark by "style, message, people — be yourself... I'm not vice president. I'm president. I'm the one who's calling the shots. I'm the one who's going to set the agenda. I'm the one who's going to have to do that which President Reagan did very gracefully — take the heat if something went wrong."

"So, automatically that happens," he said. "That happens at the time when I put my hand on that Bible and hold my right hand in the air and say that oath," he said. "It happens."

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Professor: Junk food can be good for you

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Your hand slides into a bag of potato chips, but a twinge of guilt makes you hesitate.

Potato chips are junk food, right? Not necessarily, says a professor at the University of Rochester Medical School. "If you ask people what are junk foods, potato chips are probably one of the first things they will name," Dr. Gilbert Forbes, who specializes in nutrition and body composition, says.

"But if you break down the composition of potato chips, you find that they have the same amount of protein as rice and wheat, more iron than milk, less sodium than cow's milk, and as much niacin as milk. They're low in thiamine and riboflavin, but they have a bit of Vitamin C.

All in all, there's more nutritional value than in apples."

So, we can lick the grease off our fingers, dig into the chips and eat aside that old apple-a-day adage?

Well, not quite, Forbes says. "The real point is that some of the food that get labeled as 'junk' are perfectly wholesome — in moderation."

"There are two pitfalls in allowing our children to fall into the 'junk food' habit as a steady diet," he said. "One is that the hamburger-shake-and-fries diet has no variety — no green vegetables, no fruit — and the variety of nutrients that is essential to good health."

"The other problem is that the convenience and cheapness of fast food restaurants tend to result in over-eating and turn into obesity."

Author suggests resisting ads for new computer technology

Associated Press

Just about the time you get your current technical pet housebroken, quiet and paid for, a new technology starts whining at the door and you get the urge to let it in.

Resist. New technologies, particularly new software and hardware upgrades for home computers, don't chew on slippers, they chew on money — your money. Columnist Jim Seymour, writing in the Jan. 17 issue of PC Week (Ziff-Davis, \$2.95) makes the excellent point that software these days is already pretty good and the upgrades are "evolutionary, not revolutionary."

That column deserves reading in full because it's in an issue in which PC magazine announces its annual awards for technical excellence, recognizing products that honed the cutting edge of personal computing in 1988. The magazine also lists those products considered best in 1988. For computers, the selections included IBM's PS2 Model 70-A21, which lists out at \$11,995. For printers, they included the Apple LaserWriter IINTX, which goes at list for \$6,999.

Of course you could still get a lot of computer out of the also-mentioned Compaq 386S for just \$3,799 (if you want a hard disk, it's \$4,499) and don't forget the IBM Quickwriter for a printer at \$1,699 list.

And for word processing, you'll probably want to get WordPerfect 5.0 for \$495.

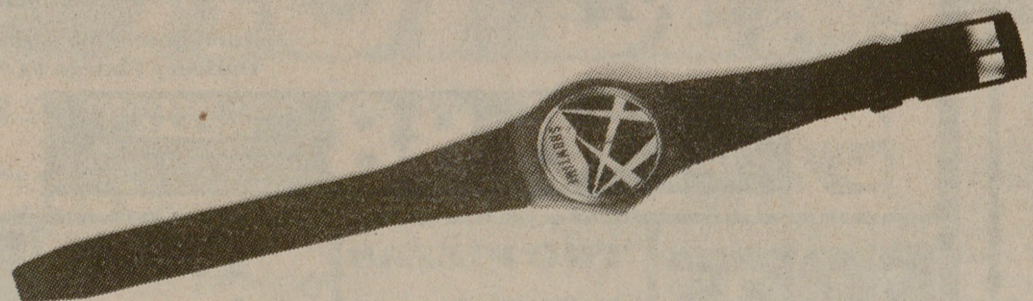
Unless, of course, your budget barely supports a less-than-\$1,000 PC or PC-XT clone or Apple, Atari, Commodore or Tandy computer. And your printer is a nine-pin dot matrix that you got for less than \$250. And you have to supply the spelling dictionary for your word-processor from the bookshelf.

In which case you might be depressed, until you read Seymour's column and consider the idea that the gear you have may already do more than you probably want it to do and more than you probably use. There's little point in popping for the wonderful capabilities of WordPerfect 5.0, for example, if most of your word-processing is writing letters and your current program has been getting them written and printed. How many times while writing a letter to Aunt Millie are you going to "re-map the entire keyboard with special characters or macros and switch from one keyboard to another with a keystroke," as the review of the software says you can do?

If the new computer the ads are trying to sell you stores parts of that letter on the disk in 20 thousandths of a second instead of 50, what's your plan for the added 30 thousandths of a second of time?

And if you use one of those new printers with multiple kinds and styles of type, what are the chances that Aunt Millie is going to think it's some kind of advertisement?

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