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Quayle considers presidential bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Dan Quayle has all but decided to seek the presidency in 1996 and is beginning to lay the groundwork for a campaign, a close associate said Monday.

He will begin to campaign for Republican congressional and gubernatorial candidates and is

planning major speeches to try out possible themes for the 1996 campaign, according to the associate, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Quayle recently returned with his family from a long vacation, during which they discussed whether he should seek the Republican nomination. All

indications are that the answer is yes, said the friend who spoke to Quayle after the vacation.

Another associate said Quayle has made clear to friends that he would like to run and continues to evaluate the feasibility of a race by contacting potential campaign contributors.

Quayle's positive leaning

was heavily influenced by the strong sales of his book, "Standing Firm." He has counted on the response to the book, which has sold more than 500,000 copies, to give him an indication of his support.

The book is largely a memoir of his vice presidency under President Bush, four years during which he was dogged by ridicule and a lightweight image despite his substantial political role within the White House.

Quayle previously has said he would make a decision on running for president this fall.

Quayle also, for the first time since leaving office, will campaign on behalf of other Republicans. He plans to make a series of campaign appearances before the November elections, including for California Gov. Pete Wilson, and possibly for Virginia Senate candidate Oliver North, the former Reagan White House aide.

Other names mentioned often as likely contenders for the GOP nomination are Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas, former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas and former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander.

"Simplify, simplify."

Henry David Thoreau

"Hey, that's not a bad idea."

AT&T

Families continue to evolve

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 10 million American children live in families in which there is a stepparent or siblings who are less than brothers and sisters, the Census Bureau reports.

On the other hand, 33.4 million children live in "nuclear families" — that is, with biological parents and any brothers or sisters.

Those youngsters under 18 in nuclear families account for 50.8 percent of all young people, according to the report, "The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children, Summer 1991."

While many past studies have reported the relationship of children to the head of household, Census officials said this was the first to relate children to all members of the household.

The bureau noted that the "decline of the American family continues to be a controversial topic," with many people considering the nuclear family the traditional unit. Census researchers limited their study to reporting the numbers of various family and household arrangements, however.

The study disclosed sharp differences in children's living arrangements by race and Hispanic origin.

For example, 56.4 percent of white children resided in nuclear families with both parents, while just 25.9 percent of black youngsters lived in such households.

For Hispanics the figure was 37.8 percent of youngsters. Hispanics can be of any race and thus are also counted among blacks and whites.

One-parent families were the next largest component, accounting for 24.0 percent of children. Mom was the parent in 21.2 percent.

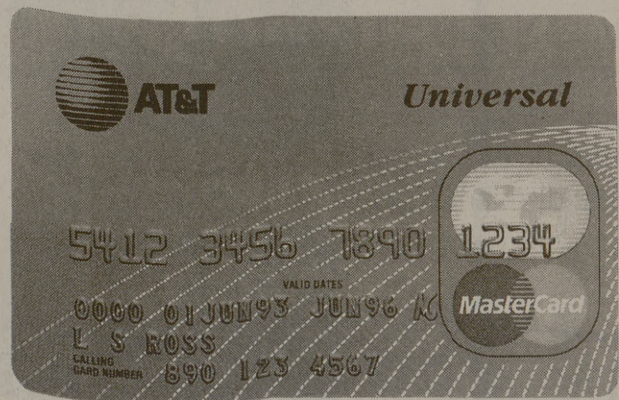
Among white youngsters 19.1 percent lived in one-parent families, with mothers accounting for 16.4 percent. Some 46 percent of black youths were in one-parent families, 46.7 percent with their mother. About 31.1 percent of Hispanic youngsters lived with one parent, 28.5 percent with mother.

Among the 9.8 million children in "blended families" — those with a stepparent or step-sibling or half-sibling — the most common situation was a child to have a half-brother or half-sister. This was the case for nearly 5 million youngsters, or 50.6 percent of young people in blended families.

There were 21.1 percent of families with a stepparent and 18.3 percent living with a stepparent and a half-sibling.

The study also found 7.9 million youngsters living in extended families, that is with the addition of other people in the household.

Having grandmother living was the most common, 25.2 percent of the cases, followed by 10 percent with both grandparent but only 3.9 percent with granddad on hand.



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