

# Family problems force Goldschmidt from race

By Charles E. Beggs  
Associated Press

SALEM — Gov. Neil Goldschmidt announced Wednesday he will not run for reelection, saying he and his wife have agreed to separate.

"It's certainly no time to be running for governor," Goldschmidt said at a brief news conference.

"It will require giving more of myself than I am prepared to give."

The governor's aides recently

had denied recurring rumors that there were problems in the 25-year marriage of Goldschmidt and his wife, Margie. They have two children: Joshua, 20, and Rebecca, 17.

"Serving the state I love has come at the cost of another love, my family," said the Democratic chief executive.

"I put off my decision until now hoping Margie and I could work out our differences, but it was not to be," he said. "It is going to be a rough time for our children as well as for Margie and me."

He said he couldn't engage in a high-pressure statewide campaign under the circumstances.

Goldschmidt left after making his statement and didn't offer to answer questions.

Goldschmidt's decision focused much speculation on Secretary of State Barbara Roberts, a Democrat who holds the second-highest post in the executive branch and who's made no secret about desiring the top job.

She had no immediate comment about whether she would run for governor but scheduled a Thursday news conference. She's not up for reelection as secretary of state this year.

Roberts, 53, is serving her second term as secretary of state. She spent two terms in the House, and was the state's first female House majority leader.

Ted Kulongsoki, director of



Neil Goldschmidt

the state Insurance and Finance Department, said he's one who has no intention of getting into the race.

Kulongoski, a former Democratic state legislator, unsuccessfully challenged former Republican Gov. Vic Atiyeh in the 1982 elections.

Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer, who's seeking the Republican nomination for governor, said he was surprised by Goldschmidt's announcement.

"Last October, I said that my candidacy for governor was not a product of personal animosity to an incumbent whom I know and respect," he said. "I have first-hand knowledge of the tensions between public life and personal responsibilities that can sometimes be intense."

"Gov. Goldschmidt's deci-

sion obviously was a product of deep personal reflection, personal anguish and sincere focus on life's most important priorities."

Goldschmidt, 49, took office three years ago after winning a hard-fought race with former Secretary of State Norma Paulus.

Goldschmidt graduated from the University of Oregon and received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

He was a legal aid lawyer in Portland before being elected in 1970 to the City Commission. Two years later, at age 32, he was elected as the youngest mayor of the major United States city.

Goldschmidt won a second term as mayor but left the post in 1979 to head the U.S. Transportation Department under Carter.

After returning to Portland from Washington in 1981, Goldschmidt was head of Canadian operations for the Beaverton-based shoe and apparel company Nike.

He worked there until December 1985, when he left to run for governor.

Political figures expressed sadness at Goldschmidt's decision.

"I think his decision is a very serious loss to the state of Oregon," said former Gov. Bob Straub, a friend of Goldschmidt's for 25 years.

Straub, a Democrat who was governor from 1975-79, said he expected Goldschmidt to return one day to public office.

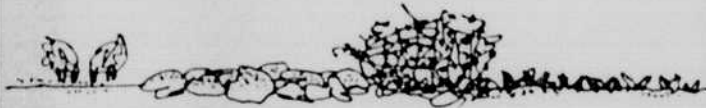
Atiyeh, who immediately preceded Goldschmidt as governor, said he understood the strain public life puts on a marriage.

"Dolores and I have walked in those shoes. It's tragic and it's a shame to see something like that happen," Atiyeh said.

Senate President John Kitzhaber, D-Roseburg, expressed similar feelings.

"We often tend to forget that people in public office also have personal lives and that the need to attend to them can and should transcend political considerations," he said.

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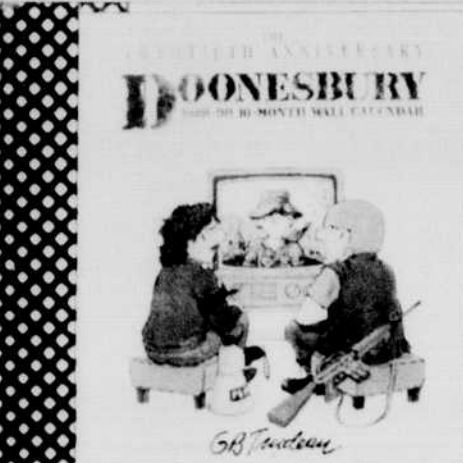


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