

Lott resigns as GOP leader

LOTT, from Page 1

or she must confront the Republican Party's record on race and embrace policies that promote genuine healing and greater opportunities for all Americans."

Lott became the first Senate party leader ever to step down in the wake of a wrenching national controversy.

"We've never had a Senate Republican leader or Senate Democratic leader step down like this before," said Senate historian Don Ritchie.

Lott's resignation — a terse statement released from the office of Senate Republican leader here — culminated a weeks-long controversy over Lott's racially insensitive comments.

His decision amounted to a 180-degree about-face. Lott had vowed to stay and fight to keep the top leadership job.

His fall followed a tribute that Lott gave earlier this month at Sen. Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party.

The Mississippian at the time hailed the venerable South Carolinian and

said he thought the nation would have been better off if Thurmond had won his campaign for the presidency in 1948. Thurmond ran as a Dixiecrat at the time, on a mostly segregationist platform.

Senior Republicans said Lott's decision caught many senior White House officials by surprise, including top political adviser Karl Rove and political director Ken Mehlman, who got no advance notice. As Lott's decision leaked to news organizations, his office informed the White House that the senator was leaving his leadership post but not the Senate.

Despite speculation that Lott would demand a committee chairmanship or some other consolation prize, he stepped down with no strings attached, one official said the White House was told.

Lott, 61, has been the Senate GOP leader since 1996, when Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., left the Senate to devote full time to his unsuccessful presidential bid.

At the Thurmond birthday party, Lott said: "I want to say this about my state. When Strom Thurmond ran for president, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years either."

The remarks drew immediate criticism from black leaders and Democrats. They were quickly joined by conservatives worried that the comments would create a distracting firestorm that would harm the White House's and GOP's efforts to advance their legislative agenda.

Incoming House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said that Lott's stepping down was an "important step" but that Republicans still needed to do more to address the issue of race.

While Lott initially attempted to stomp out the controversy with a terse press release and telephone interviews on radio and television, it began to spin out of control after Bush issued a forceful denunciation of his remarks last week.

Fearing Lott's comments had hurt the party and his own re-election prospects, Bush called the remarks "offensive" and "wrong." At the same time, he instructed White House spokesman Ari Fleischer to say Lott should not resign.

Senate leadership elections, conducted by secret ballot, are notoriously unpredictable affairs in which promised votes fail to materialize and lawmakers' decisions are based on personal relationships, past conflicts and any number of unpredictable factors.

nfl standings, schedule

By The Associated Press

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	9	5	0	.643	337	254
New England	8	6	0	.571	337	292
Buffalo	7	7	0	.500	352	378
N.Y. Jets	7	7	0	.500	287	302
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	9	5	0	.643	326	311
Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	302	256
Jacksonville	6	8	0	.429	305	267
Houston	4	10	0	.286	200	317
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	5	1	.607	339	307
Baltimore	7	7	0	.500	272	306
Cleveland	7	7	0	.500	306	291
Cincinnati	1	13	0	.071	250	416
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	9	5	0	.643	398	288
Denver	8	6	0	.571	339	309
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	283	312
Kansas City	7	7	0	.500	443	353

San Francisco at Arizona, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Detroit at Atlanta, 11 a.m.
Buffalo at Green Bay, 11 a.m.
Houston at Washington, 11 a.m.
Chicago at Carolina, 11 a.m.
N.Y. Giants at Indianapolis, 11 a.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 11 a.m.
San Diego at Kansas City, 11 a.m.
New Orleans at Cincinnati, 11 a.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 2:05 p.m.
Denver at Oakland, 2:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 2:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 6:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Philadelphia at New York Giants, 11:30 a.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Cincinnati at Buffalo, 11 a.m.
Atlanta at Cleveland, 11 a.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 11 a.m.
Tennessee at Houston, 11 a.m.
Miami at New England, 11 a.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 11 a.m.
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 11 a.m.
Dallas at Washington, 11 a.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 2:05 p.m.
Arizona at Denver, 2:15 p.m.
Green Bay at New York Jets, 2:15 p.m.
Seattle at San Diego, 2:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Chicago, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 30

San Francisco at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

End Regular Season

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	11	3	0	.786	381	228
N.Y. Giants	8	6	0	.571	266	245
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	200	282
Washington	5	9	0	.357	261	341
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	11	3	0	.786	324	179
New Orleans	9	5	0	.643	413	358
Atlanta	8	5	1	.607	350	275
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	224	282
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	371	286
Chicago	4	10	0	.286	267	340
Minnesota	4	10	0	.286	332	389
Detroit	3	11	0	.214	255	377
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	5	0	.643	330	306
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	275	319
Arizona	5	9	0	.357	241	363
Seattle	5	9	0	.357	294	331

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Saturday's Games
Miami at Minnesota, 11:30 a.m.

Plains United Way cuts budget \$1.2M

WICHITA (AP)—Hard hit by aviation layoffs in Wichita, United Way of the Plains decided Thursday to cut its budget by \$1.19 million.

The United Way chapter helps fund 34 service agencies in the region. The action by the board of directors spares those programs that provide for basic needs, such as food, shelter and medical care.

Patrick J. Hanrahan, president of the chapter, said Thursday was his toughest day in his 30 years with the charity.

Prime time TV schedule

Channel guide

2 PBS; 3 TBS; 4 ABC; 5 HBO; 6 CNN; 7 CBS; 8 NBC (KS); 11 TVLND; 12 ESPN; 13 FOX; 15 MAX; 16 TNN; 18 LIFE; 20 USA; 21 SHOW; 22 TMC; 23 MTV; 24 DISC; 27 VH1; 28 TNT; 30 FSN; 31 CMT; 32 FAM; 33 NBC (CO); 34 NICK; 36 A&E; 38 SCI; 39 TLC; 40 FX; 45 FMC; 49 E!; 51 TRAV; 53 WB; 54 ESPN2; 55 ESPN News; 58 HIST; 62 HGTV; 99 WGN.

Friday Evening December 20, 2002

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	Whose Lin	Drew Car	20/20		Local	Nightline	Up Close	Local	Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	Hack		CSI: Miami		Local	Late Show		Late Late Show		Local
KSNW/NBC	Providence				Local	Tonight Show				Local
KUSA/NBC	Providence				Law & Order: SVU		Local	Tonight Show		Conan
KDVR/FOX	Firefly				Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local

Cable Channels

A & E	True Lies						Biography		True Lies
AMC	The French Connection						Fright Night		The Wolf
CMT	Faith! Concert	Top 20 Countdown					Most Wanted Christm	Faith! Concert	
CNN	Larry King Live	Newsnight		Connie	Lou Dobb		Larry King	Newsnight	
DISC	Battle of the Sexes	How to Survive					Navy Seals Training	Navy Seals Training	
E!	The Curse of the Poltergeist						Howard Stern	Wild On China	
ESPN	NBA Friday					NBA Friday		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	NCAA Div I-AA Football						Pardon	NHL2Nigh	Edge NFL
FAM	Mr. St. Nick				700 Club		The Caroline Rhea Sh	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
FX	Murder at 1600				Reality		The Practice	Murder at 1600	
HGTV	White House Artisans	White House Christm			Small Town Christma		White House Artisans	White House Christm	
HIST	Biblical Disasters #4	Private Planes			Civil War Draft Riots		Christmas Unwrapped	Biblical Disasters #4	
LIFE	Stalking Laura				Ruthless People			Mad About	Party of Fi

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MAX	A Knight's Tale		The Mexican		The Pelican Brief
SHOW	Drew Carey's Improv	Haunted Honeymoon	The Others		Odyssey 5

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Saturday Evening December 21, 2002

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	Saturday Night Fever						Local	Local	Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	The District	The Agency			Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KSNW/NBC	Faith Hill	Snowboard Grand Pri			Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KUSA/NBC	Fat Albert	Freesebr	Faith Hill		Snowboard Grand Pri		Local	Local	Local	Local
KDVR/FOX	COPS	COPS	America's Most Wante		Local	Local	MAD TV		Local	Local

Cable Channels

A & E	Hercule Poirot's Christmas	In Concert: Rod Stew		Hercule Poirot's Christmas
AMC	Broadcast News		Short Circuit	Access
CMT	Inside Fame	Most Wanted Christm	Grand Ole Opry	Inside Fame
CNN	Larry King Weekend	CNN Saturday Night	Capital Gang	Larry King Weekend
DISC	Crash Files	Monster Garage	Private Jets	Secrets of the U.S. Mi
E!	The Price is Right	AnnaNicol	Star Dates	SNL
ESPN	NFL Football			SportsCen
ESPN2	Southeastern Conference		Mountain West Confer	NBA2Nigh
FAM	Life/Bonni	Less Than	The Christmas List	Jack Frost
FX	Sudden Impact		Reality	Reality
HGTV	Designer's Challenge	Dsgn Chal	Dn4Sexes	Your Holiday Home
HIST	Serpico			Serpico
LIFE	True Women			

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Sunday Evening December 22, 2002

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KLBY/ABC	Alias		The Practice		Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KBSL/CBS	A Town Without Christmas				Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
KSNW/NBC	Law & Order: CI		Boomtown		Local	Local	Dateline NBC		Local	Local
KUSA/NBC	American Dreams		Law & Order: CI		Local	Local	Dateline NBC		Local	Local
KDVR/FOX	Simpsons	King of	Malcolm	Andy	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local

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MAX	Rock Star			Creature	Death Warrant	Hearts in Atlantis
SHOW	Son-in-Law			Save the Last Dance		Queer as Folk

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