

Gannett  
2/19/89

# Bush's brother wants full-time state GOP chief

## Colavita may be forced to pick between county, state

The Associated Press

ALBANY — Jonathan Bush, brother of the president and a growing force in New York state Republican circles, said yesterday that it's time for New York to have a full-time state GOP chairman.

Bush said he's conveyed that message personally to state Republican Chairman Anthony Colavita, who also serves as Westchester County GOP chairman.

"I think Tony will accommodate us and will make that happen," said Jonathan Bush. "Either he will give up the state chairmanship and concentrate on Westchester County, which needs a lot of work at this point, or he will give up Westchester County and go up to Albany and run the party."

Colavita, who also has a Westchester County law practice, said that while he always felt he could handle both the county and state chairmanships, he was reconsidering his position in light of Bush's request.

"I'll have to consider it," said Colavita. "It's not easy, but I thought I could do both."

The president's brother, however, said that with Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo in office, Republicans needed a full-time spokesman in Albany to counter the governor.

"I think he can really do a fine job, if he puts his mind to it and does it," said Bush of Colavita. "There's only one person in the Republican Party at this point that can attract the attention of the press corps and the television people in response to the governor and that's the chairman of the Republican Party — the prime minister out of office."

"He's got to be up there (in Albany) ... and he's got to soften up that governor, because the governor is getting away with murder," Bush added.

The president's brother made his comments in response to a report in Friday's New York Daily News that he and U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican, had teamed up to ease Colavita out of his job as part of an effort to rebuild the state party organization.

Bush characterized the story as "misleading" and said he didn't want to oust Colavita, only get him to give up his dual role in the county and state organizations.

EX "T-1"