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## **John Kasich: Spoiling for a fight in Ohio**

By George F. Will

COLUMBUS, Ohio - In 1997, when Republicans controlled the U.S. House of Representatives and John Kasich chaired the Budget Committee, he set his sights on the GOP's 2000 presidential nomination because "there just aren't enough hours left in my life that I can get everything done that I want to get done." He was 44.

The presidency eluded him, as it has every sitting congressman other than James Garfield (another Ohioan), so Kasich went to work for Lehman Brothers (deceased), Fox News (flourishing) and now Ohio (ailing). His ebullience - 12 years from now, at 70, he will still seem like a boy who rode his balloon-tire bike out of a Booth Tarkington novel - is not dampened by a Midwestern winter's slate gray sky hanging close to the 30th-floor governor's office. Having occupied that office for four weeks, he has plans as big as Ohio's problems.

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