

## Conservatives expect Thompson in race

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Several leading Christian conservatives say they are confident former Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee will seek the Republican presidential nomination.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a Protestant and Catholic activist have told The Washington Times they expect Thompson to announce his candidacy "in a matter of weeks."

The leaders say current frontrunners -- former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Arizona Sen. John McCain and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney -- all fall short of social conservatives' expectations.

In addition to spending eight years in the Senate, Thompson currently portrays a tough district attorney on the popular TV series "Law & Order."

"It's the moment of truth for conservatives," one of the Christian activists told The Times. "Either social conservatives rally to stop a Giuliani nomination and victory for him in November 2008 or our issues -- abortion, same-sex marriage, the preservation of the family -- are permanently off the Republican Party agenda."

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