

Dole Says Tower Affair a 'Wash'

—'My Slogan, a Rougher, Tougher America'

By NORMAN D. SANDLER
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Republican leader Robert Dole judged the political impact of the John Tower affair to be "sort of a wash," but he warned Democrats their decision to deal with President Bush a historic defeat will not be forgotten soon.

Tower's rejection for the post of defense secretary. "He's not going to do anything bad, but he remembers who helps and who hurts in the process."

will pass. The Kansas senator's attempt to put the bitter episode behind Bush, however, did little to hide the wounds the new administration sustained from a lengthy fight that distracted attention from other priorities and reinforced doubts about political decision-making in the White House.

"This is a battle Bush did not have to lose," a veteran Republican strategist said during the weekend. "It was a critical early test and they just blew it."

Bush earned widespread praise for his quick move Friday to fill the void left by the 53-47 rejection of Tower by the Democratic-led Senate. Republicans and Democrats alike forecast (Continued to Page 2)

Bob Dole Attends Colby Opening

Dean Banker, Russell, had a few minutes with Sen. Bob Dole following a noon luncheon in Colby Tuesday. He was a member of the team from Russell attending a dedication of a sunflower oil plant at which Dole was principal speaker.

Showing support for Dole and for the economic development asset at Colby were Bob McCurdy, Dave Goodyear, Louise McCord, Carol Bennett and Banker. While in Colby, they toured the Prairie Museum of Art to get ideas which could be applied to the Deines art collection being offered Russell.

The Colby event was the recognition of the Sigco plant in Colby. Ceremonies were at the plant starting at 10 a.m. and were concluded with the luncheon in the Colby Community College Student Union and Dole's remarks.

Dole —

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smooth sailing for Cheney, who served as White House chief of staff under President Gerald Ford and has strong ties from those days to Secretary of State James Baker and national security adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Still subject to debate, though, was the extent to which Bush was damaged by the Tower debacle, which marked only the ninth time in American history that a Cabinet nominee had been rejected by the Senate.

On the NBC News program "Meet the Press," Dole answered criticism of the way the White House handled the affair by insisting that Bush and his aides "did everything they could" and by accusing Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and other Democrats of turning the issue into "a no-holds-barred partisan fight."

In its aftermath, Dole acknowledged, there are "some bruised feelings on both sides" and the Senate is "not quite the decent place we were last month." But with an eye on future relations between Bush and Congress, he declared: "We'll all get along. It's not going to be the end of the world."

"My view is that it's sort of a wash," he added. "(Bush) lost in the sense he didn't get John Tower, but he won in the sense that he stuck up for John Tower 'til the end. I think he gained a lot of friends on the Republican side."

White House chief of staff John Sununu was a principal target for blame in post-mortems of the affair, accused of not taking the necessary steps early on to prevent the Senate confirmation process from reeling out of control under a barrage of allegations about Tower's personal and professional history.

Yet Dole suggested Bush's own style, careful to avoid direct confrontation or personal attack, may have given Democrats the opening to exploit the mounting public perception of the former Texas senator as a drinker and a womanizer.

Asked what he might have done differently, the man who was Bush's chief rival for the Republican presidential nomination last year quipped: "My slogan was a rougher, tougher America. Bush's was a kinder, gentler America."

To underscore the contrast, Dole added, "With Ronald Reagan, there was always sort of a fear of Ronald Reagan. I don't mean you were shaking, but you kind of knew that this guy had a hard core out there and if you didn't try to support him, you were going to be in trouble. Even Republicans felt that. He could roll over you."

Still, with Bush not yet two months into office, Dole gave the administration "a B-plus to an A" for its overall performance and predicted the hard feelings from the Tower debate will be seen easing in the next 30 to 60 days.

The Chinese Nationalist Political Party is called Kuomintang.

Bushes miss Dole at his own reception

By Jake Thompson
WASHINGTON — Although they once were arch campaign rivals, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole and President Bush were too busy trying to help each other out Wednesday evening to make a planned public appearance together in honor of Dole's work for the disabled.

Dole and his wife, Labor Secretary Elizabeth H. Dole, were supposed to introduce Bush and his wife, Barbara, at the fourth annual Dole Foundation reception Wednesday evening. The ceremony was to announce that \$1 million in donations had been received for organizations helping disabled people.

Mrs. Dole and the Bushes, on an unscheduled, low-key foray from the White House, showed up at the ceremony.

Bob Dole didn't. As Senate minority leader, he was on Capitol Hill, shepherding the president's ideas as the Senate worked on the budget.

Dole and Bush did meet, however, as Bush was leaving the ceremony and Dole was arriving.

They ended up making separate appearances before the more than 400 people in attendance. Both joked about the failed meeting and

offered gratitude to the other.

"Bob is doing what he should be doing: handling the troops," Bush said. "So thank you all for what you do, for one of the many, many thousands of points of light. And this Dole Foundation is one that sets a shining example for all of us."

"Barbara and I wanted to come over and pop in, pay our respects to Bob and Elizabeth for a magnificent job this foundation does," Bush said. "I do think a major objective of ours — leave aside party, leave aside whatever you're doing in public life or private life — ought to be helping mainstream those who may have been born with a disadvantage or a disability."

A few minutes later, Dole, smiling a bit sheepishly, told the group: "I'm sorry I missed the highlight, the president being here. But I chased him down the street and thanked him for coming."

"But we had a vote that could have been a very close vote, and I felt it was necessary I stay there to protect the president's interest, and I'm glad he was here to protect mine."

Dole said it was significant that the Bushes came to the foundation ceremony, attended by donors and foundation supporters.

"It shows their sincere interest, not just what Bob Dole is doing but what disabled Americans everywhere are doing and what you're doing," Dole said.

It was the fifth year of the Dole Foundation and the fourth year donations have been granted to programs for the disabled. On Wednesday the foundation announced new grants of \$240,000, including one of \$38,382 to the Judevine Center for Autistic Children in St. Louis. The foundation provides money for job training and job placement for people with disabilities.

Since it began, the foundation has given \$2.7 million to 102 programs in 30 states. Six programs in Kansas have received a total of \$162,100. Dole said the foundation has helped 2,250 people in five years and has given away 80 percent of the donations it has received, using the remainder for administrative costs.

Much of the money is donations from big U.S. companies. Dole said some people have criticized him for setting up the foundation.

"They said, 'This is just something Bob Dole is gearing up to get him elected,'" Dole said, adding dryly, "Well, we've already fooled them." The crowd chuckled.

Dole, whose right arm was crippled in World War II, said a foundation goal is helping disabled people move into the workforce.

"More and more employers are learning hiring persons with disabilities makes good business sense," Dole said. "Employers are learning men and women with disabilities should be judged by what they can do, not by what they cannot do."

The foundation gave a special award to J.W. Marriott, chairman of the Marriott Corp., which employs more than 6,000 people nationwide who have disabilities.

Other awards went to actress Susan St. James, co-star of the television show "Kate and Allie," who is chairman of the Special Olympics in her home state of Connecticut; and to comedian Geri Jewell, who has cerebral palsy and was a regular guest on the television show "The Facts of Life," now in syndication.

"We're nothing special, I guess," Dole said. "Just trying to open doors in employment, change attitudes, try to turn a negative perception of people with disabilities into a positive one, and win the battle for employment and win the battle for acceptance."

'Lesser' vs. 'Greater' in battle for office

By Sen. Bob Dole

If you want to know which side of the state line has the advantage on federal office space, the phrase "Greater Kansas City" gives you a real clue: Greater Kansas City, Missouri.

How much greater? When it comes to government-owned and -leased office space, try 4 million square feet to 550 thousand—that translates into an 88 percent to 12 percent mismatch.

The personnel statistics are just as bad: 18,000 workers on the Missouri side, only 3,000 in Kansas.

Still, some folks want us to keep quiet, smile and sing the praises of a "united" Kansas City.

Well, despite what you read in this newspaper, the office space issue is a very real one—not just for Kansas

and Missouri, but for taxpayers everywhere who have to foot the bill for a non-competitive, status quo federal regional center.

Once again, the "Greater" Kansas City, Missouri, forces are out to keep every square inch of federal space in town, even though taxpayers may not be getting the best value for their hard-earned dollars. The latest target is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Region 7 office whose present Missouri headquarters has been ruled unfit for rebidding due to substandard work conditions.

Unfortunately, just as Kansas and Missouri landlords competing for the HUD office project were getting ready to find out who won the rights, someone pulled the plug on the bidding process. It was a last-minute move that has darkened the selection process with a cloud of suspicion. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, Rep. Jan

Sen. Dole, the Senate minority leader, is a Kansas Republican.

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Meiers and I have asked the comptroller general of the United States to investigate this strange development.

The latest strategy of the "Greater" forces is to insist that their HUD office must stay put because it represents a "commitment to saving downtown areas." If that's the case, we have a priority candidate in Kansas City, Kan., which is struggling mightily to stay on the comeback trail.

That's why I have just written a letter to HUD Secretary Jack Kemp, stating that Kansas City, Kan., has "a dedicated group of businessmen, workers and private citizens representing a number of ethnic communities who are striving continuously through their initiative, hard work and resourcefulness to put the downtown section of the city on its feet."

The truth is, for many years Kansas was effectively shut out of the bidding for federal office space, even if those bids were better deals for the taxpayer, or if the Missouri-side offices were overcrowded, inaccessible to the disabled and represented health and safety risks for workers.

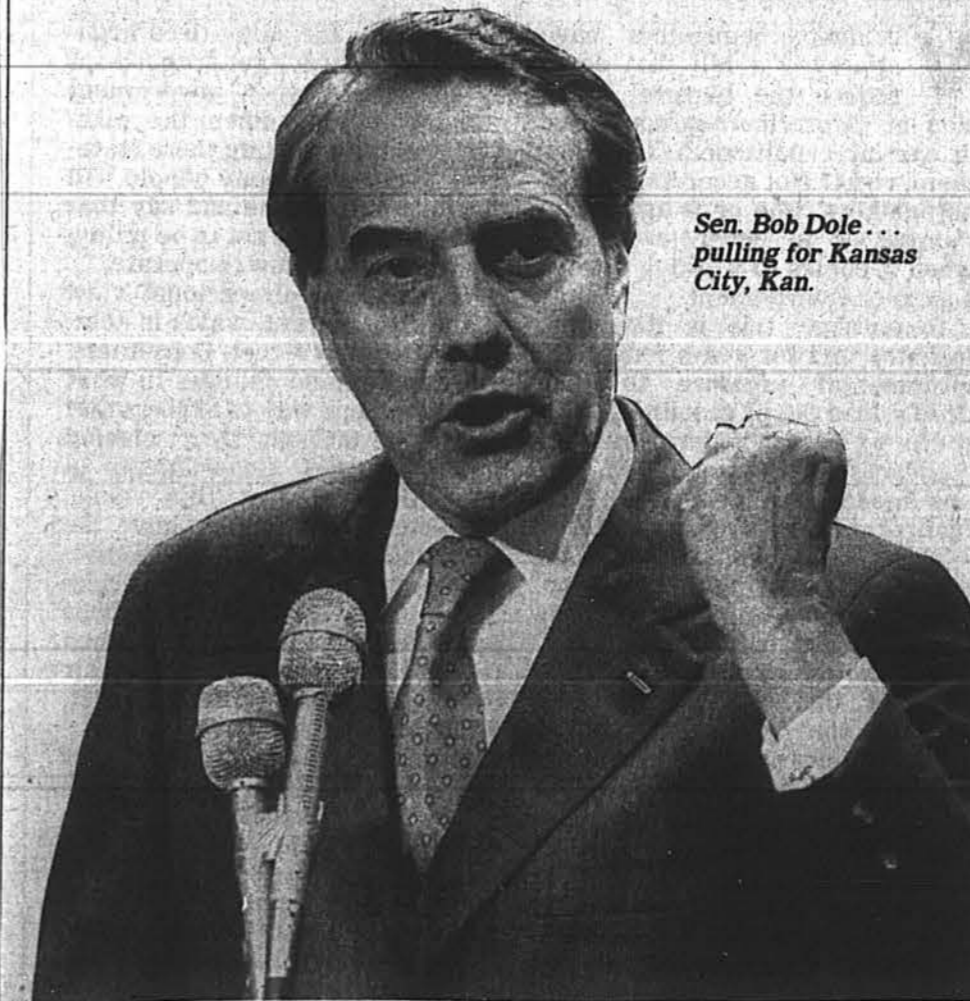
When some of us insisted on fairness, the status quo folks started hollering. It seems that editorials condemning this "unseemly row" only pop up when Kansas competition comes calling. We saw it back in 1984 when Kansas had the gall to compete for the regional Environmental Protection Agency office.

The good news is, a Kansas bid was judged to be the best deal on the merits, and since that time, the relocated EPA office has become a solid, popular and cost-effective addition to our federal system.

Believe me, I am proud of both Kansas Cities, and went toe-to-toe with the Nixon and Reagan administrations to block any attempt to move the entire regional center to Denver. I believe my efforts were helpful.

In my view, the bottom line is competitiveness and fairness. I want the best deal possible for the taxpayers and for every federal employee in Kansas and Missouri. They deserve an open and vigorous bidding process along with decisive, no-nonsense action by federal government decision-makers.

A "united" Kansas City sounds good, except when "Lesser" Kansas City and taxpayers on both sides of the state line are on the wrong end of a mismatch. Now that's unseemly.



Sen. Bob Dole... pulling for Kansas City, Kan.