

Dole shifts away from Reagan years

By Peter T. Kilborn
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — With her help last week in settling the coal miners' strike in Appalachia, Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole has taken a step toward ending a bleak period for organized labor in its relations with the government.

Trade unionists hardly are proclaiming a return to their salad days, but they acknowledge that Dole and, by implication, President Bush have made a bow to them in the tone of her office and in modifications of policy that mark at least a modest break from Ronald Reagan's hands-off attitude toward disputes between businesses and unions.

ANALYSIS

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relationship between labor and government that characterized the eras of Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

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Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole, shown with bargainers, helped in negotiations between Pittston Co. and the United Mine Workers Union, ending the strike with a tentative agreement.

and step out in a different direction than has been the norm of the last 10 years."

Days before the Pittston announcement, Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO said he found the Bush administration "a little more civilized" than Reagan's and "less intensely ideological."

After a year out of the limelight in the Labor Department, Dole, a 53-year-old Harvard-educated lawyer and wife of Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, may have begun to live up to the early notices that greeted her appointment.

The administration's highest-ranking woman, who served in Reagan's Cabinet as Transportation secretary, negotiated a compromise with Kirkland on the president's proposal for the minimum wage increase, from \$3.35 currently to \$4.25 over two years.

And a White House official said she held off an alternate proposal by Vice President Quayle.

"It was Elizabeth who urged the president to state his position and say there was no negotiating," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas.

Early in the administration when the start of the Eastern strike on March 4 gave her an opportunity to seize the reins of an issue, Dole balked, or the White House balked for her.

Transportation Secretary Sam-

uel Skinner took it on instead and a former senior Reagan administration official said Skinner did so because the White House wanted to protect Dole from trade union brickbats so early in her tenure, when she was just opening her lines to labor.

Dole denies it. "I went to the president, as did Sam Skinner," she said. "In a situation like that, safety becomes very important, and because of the safety aspects, I told Sam to take it."

Her aides say the parties to the strike showed little interest in federal mediation of the sort that helped end the Pittston strike.

To the extent that deeds and priorities can be measured in money, Dole's biggest shift from the Reagan years has less to do with strikes than with workplace safety.

Year after year, the Reagan administration whittled away the budget of the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

But despite the spending constraints on most government departments, OSHA's budget went up last year for the first time in eight years, in part because of \$14.9 million Dole obtained to hire 179 more officers to enforce the health and safety laws.

And in the president's next budget, administration officials say, OSHA will have a significant increase, exceeding the rate of infla-

tion. OSHA aside, Dole has left a wide variety of labor-related issues largely or entirely untouched by policy initiatives.

Among them are the Reagan precedent of breaking strikes with replacement workers, increasing violations of child-labor and migrant-worker laws and the lively new question of employee incentives such as profit sharing.

Even so, in the nine-month Pittston strike in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, Dole showed unequivocal respect for the process of collective bargaining.

In her statement announcing the tentative agreement, she said, "Today's settlement is a victory for the collective bargaining process — a process, which over the years has resulted in protection for all workers, stronger businesses and greater cooperation between management and labor."

Yet labor leaders warn against assuming that the woman from the party of business is changing her stripes or that even if she did, it would make any difference.

"While her instincts may be good," said Victor Gotbaum, retired leader of New York's municipal workers, "she is inhibited by a president who's much more comfortable with business than he is with labor. Bush is softer than Reagan, but that doesn't mean he's soft."

The Wichita Eagle DAYBREAK



For the rich Tony magazine, Assets, will be sent only to the wealthy/2

Wichita Eagle - TUESDAY January 9, 1990

2-Minute HISTORIES

Dole-backed book on Senate highlights historic 200 years

By Aileen Rubin
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — There are moments in history when a single scene distills the tensions, the pain, the political problems of an entire era.

Just such a scene took place in the United States Senate on May 22, 1856, five years before the start of the Civil War.

On that day, Sen. Charles Sumner of Massachusetts was brutally beaten while he sat at his desk in the Senate chamber.

"Brooks lifted his cane and brought it down upon Sumner's head, neck, and shoulders, over and over, harder and harder ..."

Sumner tried to rise from his desk, ripping up the heavy screws that bolted it to the floor. Blinded by blood he staggered down the center aisle of the Senate Chamber.

Sumner left the chamber and did not return for three years.

This account is in a new book based on brief speeches by Sen. Bob Dole, the Russell Republican who has represented Kansas in the U.S. Senate for the past 21 years.

In celebration of the Senate's bicentennial year, Dole opened each session of 1987-88 with a one- or two-minute vignette recounting an important event in the history of the Senate.

The book, titled "Historical Almanac of the United States Senate," will go on sale late this month for \$28. Most of the money from the book's sale will go to pay for its publication; any profit goes to the U.S. Government Printing Press, the book's publisher.



U.S. Senate



Assisted by Senate pages, William Peffer, above, a senator from Kansas, whose beard reached his waist, prepares a speech on the Senate floor in 1897. Riding a Populist wave, Peffer was elected to office in 1891, replacing John J. Ingalls, who was perceived to lack compassion for farmers and who was accused of shady financial dealings; at left, the illustration reflects July 11, 1861 when the Senate voted to expel 10 Southern senators.



U.S. Senate

first 200 years

John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts is the catcher during a Senate softball game; Henry M. Jackson of Washington is the umpire and Mike Mansfield of Montana is at bat.

SENATE

Book explores first 200 years

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The vignettes were researched and written by the Senate Historical Office at the request of Dole.

"He came to us and said he was interested in a way to celebrate the Senate's bicentennial," said Senate Historian Richard Baker. "We made several suggestions and this was the one he decided to do."

Although Dole did neither the writing nor the research for the entries, he reviewed the drafts, made a couple of the topic suggestions and wrote the preface and the book's final entry — a tribute to Dole's Democratic counterpart, Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia. The two men have worked closely together during the past decade, each serving a term as majority leader.

The book, which organizes the vignettes in chronological order, is illustrated with contemporary cartoons, line drawings and photographs.

It is written in an easy narrative style with touches of humor and drama. Many of the vignettes suggest the grand themes of American history although they focus on a single event or individual senator. The expansion of the West, America's ongoing struggle over civil rights and the balance of power between the three branches of government are a few of the topics touched on in the volume.

It is the second Senate history to be published in honor of the bicentennial of Congress. The other, written by the Senate Historical Office and Byrd, is an 800-page tome that sells for \$55 and is similar in style to an English parliamentary history. Byrd is working on a second volume.

"I couldn't match Sen. Byrd, he's really a historian," said Dole. "He's spending a prodigious amount of time on it, and as you recall, '87 was a pretty busy year for me." Dole was running for president at the time.

Besides, it was more Dole's style to do something punchy, quick, a bird's eye view that focused on how individual senators affected history as much as on the Senate as a whole.

Dole made sure that one of the vignettes was about Sen. Strom Thurmond, the legendary senator from South Carolina who started political life as a Democrat, became a Republican and is the only senator in history to be elected as a write-in candidate. Dole was also involved in selecting the book's cover — a dignified navy blue with an embossed eagle.

Neither Dole nor Byrd's book is designed to be a moneymaker. The Government Printing Office sets prices with the goal of breaking even on the cost of printing and production. However, taxpayers pick up the tab for the research and writing.

Dole will receive at least 200 copies of the book, free of charge, to distribute.

Who buys a history of the U.S. Senate? "Somebody who's got an uncle who loves history," said historian Baker.

The book seems to have meant a lot to Dole. In contrast to his other books, including his official campaign autobiography, "Unlimited Partners," this one is dedicated to his parents, Bina and Doran, both deceased.