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U.S. should care for its homeless before Israel's needs, Dole says

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said Sunday that the United States must take care of its own homeless before granting Israel's request for loans to house Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"Charity starts at home, and that means America," Dole, R-Kan., said at a news conference.

"We are going to give \$400 million to Israel for housing guarantees when we have 3 million homeless in America and no program for them?" he asked.

Dole has been the Bush administration's point man in attempts to reduce foreign aid. Israel is already the largest recipient of such aid, receiving about \$3 billion a year.

The Jewish state is seeking \$400 million in U.S. government guaranteed housing loans to help absorb the onslaught of Soviet Jewish immigrants. Israeli officials say as many

as 500,000 may arrive over the next three years.

The prospect of mass immigration has angered the Arab world ever since Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suggested earlier this year that Israel needed to retain the occupied lands to settle the wave of Soviet Jews.

President Bush made any U.S. aid for immigration purposes conditional on an Israeli guarantee that the money would not help settle Soviet Jews in territory Israel occupied during the 1967 Middle East War, including east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bush said in early March that the United States didn't recognize Israel's annexation of the eastern half of Jerusalem. Israel has declared unified Jerusalem as its capital, and most Palestinians want east Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

The Senate passed a non-binding resolution March 22 confirming that Jerusalem should be Israel's capital. Dole protested the Senate decision and said he was going to state his position on the Senate floor this week.

"I conclude (the resolution) was ill-timed," he said. "All it does is stir

up rhetoric. The Arab countries only wanted to discuss the resolution and not the peace process."

Dole claimed that Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek had agreed that the Senate decision came at a bad time and served no useful purpose.

Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, called Dole's intention to protest the Senate resolution "insulting."

"It is inconceivable that he should lead a campaign based on a chorus of criticism in the Arab world," Fox said in a statement released in Jerusalem.

Dole has headed a delegation of five U.S. senators whose visit to Israel was the last stop on a Middle East tour to promote peace. Other countries on the itinerary included Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

Others in the delegation were James McClure, R-Idaho; Alan Simpson, R-Wyo.; Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska; and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

Metzenbaum criticized the Israeli electoral system that is stalling government formation and said he was leaving with no more optimism for peace.



Dole

Sen. Bob Dole Calls Jerusalem Resolution 'Dangerous Nonsense'

By GARY SILVERMAN
WASHINGTON (UPI) — A battle broke out between Republican leaders in Congress over Senate GOP leader Robert Dole's criticism of a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as capital of Israel and his call for consideration of cuts in aid to the Jewish state.

In a speech on the Senate floor Thursday, Dole said his recent trip to the Middle East convinced him the non-binding Senate resolution he had co-sponsored was a mistake that gave Arab leaders an easy excuse to avoid peace talks.

He chastized his colleagues and himself for not giving sufficient thought to the resolution's consequences and called the measure "dangerous nonsense."

But Dole did not ask for repeal

of the resolution, saying, "It is too late to 'unscramble the egg' of the Jerusalem question. The damage is done. The less said about the substance of that issue the better."

House assistant Republican leader Newt Gingrich and three other GOP representatives responded with a letter to Dole asking him to "reconsider" his position on the resolution and possibly cutting assistance to Israel.

The Gingrich letter, released at a news conference, said Israel remains threatened by its neighbors and that the United States "must continue to stand by our one dependable, democratic ally in the region."

The letter noted that Dole was quoted in the April 13 edition of the Jerusalem Post as saying, "They (American Jewish leaders) wouldn't give one penny to anybody else. . . . It's not sensitivity. It's selfishness."

"Such personal attacks send a negative message that does damage to our party," said the letter signed by Gingrich and Reps. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., Vin Weber, R-Minn., and Bill McCollum, R-Fla.

Dole then sent a letter to Gingrich in which he said the Jerusalem Post quotes were "out-of-context excerpts" from a never-aired TV show. Dole said the interviewer, who has left the program, is considered "not reliable" by her former producer and is "peddling" the quotes to

sensation seekers.

Dole's letter said his assertion was "that the leaders of pro-Israel lobby are shortsighted and selfish" and denied making "any personal or ethnic attacks on anyone or on the Jewish community."

Dole said it would have been better for Gingrich to have spoken to him first before going public with his criticism.

"Normally, if I disagree with a (Continued to Page 4)

Sen. Bob —

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fellow Republican, I speak to him privately about any problems, instead of holding a news conference," Dole said. "You and your friends have chosen the latter route."

Dole's office then distributed press reports quoting Gingrich as saying Dole demonstrated "great courage" by raising the aid issue. A Washington Times story quoted Gingrich as saying, "It was the right thing to ask."

Assistant Senate Republican leader Alan Simpson backed Dole, saying that the resolution "sent waves through the Middle East and dealt a blow to the peace process. It was a diversion of extraordinary dimension."

Simpson also said he did not understand the motive of Gingrich and other House Republicans attacking Dole "unless it's just pressure to be more pro-Israel. I hope we won't let this slip into something that is anti-Israel and then anti-semitic."

The Jerusalem resolution was introduced March 20 by Sens. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn. It acquired 84 co-sponsors, including Dole, by the time it was adopted two days later on a voice vote.

Israel captured East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East War and considers the unified city to be its capital. The United States recognizes Tel Aviv as the capital, and Dole said he believed America should stick to its position that Jerusalem remain a unified city whose status will be decided by negotiations.

Dole said he remained a "strong supporter" of Israel. But he said everywhere he went in the Arab world leaders were angered by the Jerusalem resolution and distracted from the peace process.

Dole said he was not arguing the point either way, but he added, "If the Arab leaders were looking for an excuse to avoid the broader peace issue . . . (the resolution) gave it to them on a silver platter."

"The issue is whether the Senate should be jumping into the middle of an extremely sensitive situation without looking, or even thinking, first. . . . These kinds of resolutions, hastily prepared and even more hastily passed, are nonsense — dangerous nonsense. And we ought to do something about it."

Abdeen Jabara, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said, "There aren't many people on Capitol Hill with the courage that Bob Dole has. They're not able to say to the Israel lobby, 'Enough is enough.'"

Dole decries hasty vote

Calls resolution on Jerusalem 'dangerous nonsense'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital has damaged Middle East peace efforts and is an example of increasingly hasty actions by the chamber on sensitive matters, Minority Leader Bob Dole said Thursday.

"These kinds of resolutions, hastily prepared and even more hastily passed, are nonsense — dangerous nonsense — and we ought to do something about it," Dole said, accepting partial blame for passage of the measure.

The non-binding resolution was approved without debate March 22 two days after it was introduced. It said, "Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the State of Israel."

It is scheduled for action in the House on Tuesday under an expedited procedure for legislation deemed non-controversial.

Many of the resolution's sponsors hadn't even read it, the Kansas Republican said, saying he failed to realize its repercussions in the Middle East and made a mistake in joining 84 colleagues in sponsoring the measure.

Dole said in a floor speech that he has been a strong supporter of Israel over his 26-year congressional career. But this year he has called for

a cut in U.S. aid as part of an across-the-board trim to free more money for other countries, and he recently questioned the need for \$400 million in U.S. housing loan guarantees for Israel.

The campaign has alarmed Israel's supporters, who have powerful influence on Capitol Hill.

On Thursday, four members of the House GOP leadership called a news conference to denounce Dole's statements on Israel. In a letter to Dole, they disagreed with his reported comments that the threat to Israel has lessened.

"We continue to firmly support, as do the vast majority of the elected members of our party, the Republican platform that recognizes the importance of our unwavering commitment to Israel," the lawmakers wrote. The group included Reps. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, Duncan Hunter of California, Vin Weber of Minnesota and Bill McCollum of Florida.

Dole later released a letter to Gingrich in which he said, "Unfortunately, some people seem to think that if you disagree with a single policy or practice of the Israeli government, you should be characterized as 'anti-Israel.'"

"That is bunk, and I am surprised that you have joined in the narrow but shrill chorus of people who take that tack."

In his floor speech, Dole said that during a trip last week to the Middle East, leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq all brought up the Jeru-

salem resolution during discussions on the peace process.

The leaders feared it was a signal the United States might be headed toward granting legitimacy to Israel's possession of East Jerusalem and other lands occupied as a result of the 1967 Middle East war, Dole said.

Jerusalem is revered by Moslems, Christians and Jews as a holy city, and each point to history to buttress claims of sovereignty. The eastern half of the city was seized from Jordanian control by Israel in the 1967 war.

"The real point is not whether I believe, or even whether 100 senators believe, that Jerusalem should or should not be the capital of Israel," Dole said.

"The issue is whether the Senate should be jumping into the middle of an extremely sensitive situation without looking, or even thinking first."

The resolution was also viewed as ill-timed by the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, who strongly believes in the substance of the document, said Dole.

Dole said a Senate delegation led by Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, encountered much discussion with Soviet leaders over a resolution calling for self-determination for Lithuania.

"When you travel around the world, you find that some people . . . take what we do and say seriously — more seriously than, sometimes, we do ourselves," he said.

Page 2—The Russell Daily News, Friday, April 20, 1990

Guest Editorial—

Taking the Measure of Bob Dole

Bob Dole is a relaxed man these days, dealing comfortably and easily with topics as diverse as next year's farm bill, Eastern Europe and campaign finance.

A morning visit with the senior senator from Kansas is like attending a presidential press conference, with a chief executive having 24 years' experience on Capitol Hill.

If there's any lingering disappointment at his having lost the chance to be that chief executive in the presidential campaign wars of 1988, it seldom shows.

Even when it does, it's expressed with the self-deprecating wit that has led some to observe that in public life, Bob Dole is the most entertaining platform speaker since John F. Kennedy (which probably is true).

In an appearance later in the day before Sedgwick County Republicans' Pachyderm Club, that wit came through. He said he had told people during the presidential campaign, regarding his resolve to reduce the federal deficit: "If you want a rougher, tougher America, vote for Bob Dole. But they wanted a kinder, gentler America, so they voted for George Bush."

Any harsh words that passed between the pair is history now, though, he said. He has a good relationship with the president, and the two former adversaries often help one another.

"You ask him to call 10 senators, he will do it; enjoys doing it," said Mr. Dole, Senate minority leader, of the president.

'People' in Charge

The senator's travels to some of the world's trouble spots clearly have made an enormous impression on him. He told The Eagle's editorial board and Pachyderm Club members about his trip to Soviet Armenia in the aftermath of the earthquake there a year ago.

He and his wife Elizabeth visited one school site, he said, where 400 third and fourth graders had been killed in 30 seconds of horror.

Yet even in the midst of all their suffering, he said, the Armenian people "wanted to talk about America; they wanted to be in America."

It's an exciting time we live in, he said, with people on the march toward freedom around the globe: "If you miss the evening news, you might miss a country."

Asked if he thinks President Bush is doing enough to encourage the democracy movement in Eastern Europe, he said, "I don't think anybody can shape the events taking place; the people are making the judgments."

The premier example of that, he said, is Poland: "If anyone tells you one man doesn't make a difference, talk to Lech Walesa." The Solidarity union

leader's recent address to Congress was one of the more moving such addresses the senator said he ever had heard.

Freedom Not Selective

With the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania pressing their demands for freedom, what should the United States do if the Soviet Union were to intervene?

The senator's face tightened at the thought, and he said, "That would change everything."

This country has to support the Baltic states, he said. "We can't be for selective freedom."

Would he support some form of economic aid to the Soviet Union if it were to advance perestroika?

Actually, he said, the proposed waiver of the 15-year-old Jackson-Vanik amendment placing restrictions on United States-Soviet trade would be a form of economic aid. The amendment originally was imposed to encourage a freer Soviet emigration policy, which now has transpired.

Mr. Dole said that "under certain conditions, I could see extending credit to the Soviet Union."

What's Next

On other topics, the senator said:

—The 1990 farm bill will pay more attention to environmental concerns — among them, pesticides and non-point pollution involving agricultural run-off — than farm bills of the past.

—The Senate will make a major push for campaign reform next year. Political action committee contributions should be limited to \$1,000.

—Congress' repeal of catastrophic health care legislation was a mistake, leaving the "sickest, the oldest and the neediest" at risk.

—John Tower should have been confirmed as George Bush's first choice for secretary of defense. The charges against him were based on "rumor, innuendo," and Democrats' political maneuvering.

—The Malta summit meeting between Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "was a success — they got together." Sometimes what world leaders say is less important than the fact that they simply get to know one another.

Looking tanned, fit and rested, Bob Dole appears ready for more political wars. He said he had no plans, though, beyond helping his fellow Republican, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, get re-elected next year.

Given the fact he once said the only thing more popular in Kansas than Nancy Kassebaum was wheat, that shouldn't be too onerous.

What then? At 66, he looks much younger. And I thought I saw that faraway look in his eyes. — George Neavoll, The Wichita Eagle