

Pa. 31-1991

Dole: Few would cry if Hussein were killed

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News
U.S. objectives in the Persian Gulf apparently have broadened from the president's initial statements, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Thursday.



"I think it is fair to say we are looking at other objectives, which were not initially stated by the president," Dole said during a telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "The president never stated in his first statement on his four objectives that we would, in effect, wipe out the military targets in Iraq. We are doing that."

"Yesterday, we destroyed two nuclear reactors, and we continue to hammer away at military targets all over Iraq, which would lead me to believe that the objective of reducing him as a military power in the future is an added objective that is being met on a daily basis."

Dole told the reporters that no one knows how much the Persian Gulf war is costing the United States daily. Dole said he'd heard estimates ranging from a low of \$300 million a day to \$2 billion a day on the high end.

"We have to look at the incremental costs," the Senate minority leader said. "We already have the costs of 450,000 people doing training in the U.S. So you've got to look at the extra costs incurred."

Dole said he did not expect Congress to begin talking about raising taxes to pay for the war. Instead, he wants to see how much other members of the U.S.-led coalition contribute.

Word that Japan would contribute an additional \$9 billion on top of the \$4 billion it already committed to the war effort encouraged Dole.

As far as Saddam Hussein goes, each time he parades a captured allied pilot, "he's setting himself up as more of a target," Dole said. Should Hussein be killed, Dole said he suspects that no one in the allied coalition would "shed any tears." He also doubts there would be much anguish among many Iraqis, many of whom have been brutally murdered by Hussein's forces.

"He's killed thousands of Kurds," Dole said. "So he doesn't have much use for people. Life is not much in his value system. We do believe that if something happened to Hussein, if he disappeared or fled the country, we would probably develop some good relations with the other Iraqis."

Dole holds hope Saddam will blink

By Alan Montgomery
The Hutchinson News
WASHINGTON — As the nation braced for war Tuesday, Washington was unusually quiet, according to Sen. Bob Dole.



"It was very quiet," Dole said, in a 4:15 p.m. conference call. "Secretary of Defense Cheney met today for about an hour and 15 minutes with both Democratic and Republican senators. He didn't know anything. If he did, he didn't tell us. It was sort of an information session. There was not much happening. The debate is over; now everyone is rallying behind the president."

Dole said everyone he talked to during the day was convinced the United States would soon be at war — but he wasn't ready to concede that.

"I don't think so, yet," he said. "It seems to me, this man (Saddam Hussein) has to come to his senses. Someone said earlier, unless he seeks mass destruction of his country, or martyrdom — or perhaps he thinks he can win by losing, standing up to the infidels invading his country."

Pastor: War would be 'just'

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News
Should the Persian Gulf crisis erupt into war, it could be considered a "just war," a Hutchinson minister who recently returned from Israel said Tuesday.

"Saddam Hussein is another Hitler," said Jim Burns, senior pastor of Westside Baptist Church, 400 West 12th. "It is not fair to let him continue. He has to be stopped. The only language he understands is force."

As Burns' tour group traveled across Israel, the members saw numerous battle sites, dating back to biblical times. Historically, the region has been rocked with conflict.

"All through the Bible you find war," said Burns, who has been a minister for 15 years. "... God told his people to go and destroy them (enemies), to destroy false religions and to keep his nation pure."

Burns said oil is not the central issue in Kuwait. Instead, it is the acts of aggression — tortures, murders and rapes of innocent people by Iraqi troops — that are central to the conflict. In today's world, "that's the kind of thing that needs to be stopped."

"Somebody has got to take a stand," he said. "In this case, it is George Bush and America taking a stand. We need to pray for the president, the nation and the troops."

As for Burns, the pastor said he was praying that Iraqi troops would pull out sometime in the "next 24 hours" to avert war.

There has been no information provided to the senator by anyone in Washington, about when and if the U.S. would launch an invasion, he said.

"I haven't the foggiest notion, nothing to predicate on," he said. "If I did, I wouldn't want to guess. We need the element of surprise. If Saddam Hussein

knows in advance when we are going to strike, he might be in a position to inflict heavier casualties on us, heavier punishment, when we strike. ... Some senators said President Bush ought to call Saddam Hussein. Maybe Saddam Hussein ought to guess, when you get right down to it, when you start massive air strikes and ground movements, there's not much difference."

The Iraqi leader has had the opportunity to withdraw, in accordance with the United Nations resolution, he said.

"If everything else fails, he's going to learn the hard way that he miscalculated," Dole said.

There have been briefings in Washington, at all levels, about how to guard against terrorism that could be spawned by a Persian Gulf war, he said.

"The FBI, the CIA are sharing information. There have been a lot of briefings about what to do, how to handle your mail. The same is being done overseas at our embassies. So they will be alert to it."

When asked if there were any difference between the authorization to use force, granted to President Bush by Congress, and a declaration of war, Dole said he could see little.

"I guess it is semantics," he said. "Some think a declaration of war means you have to go at it right away, but that's not necessarily true. ... When you are authorized to use force, it's pretty much the same. One reason for it is that President Bush requested it, not a declaration of war. And it is what the U.N. Security Council adopted. I guess, when you get right down to it, when you start massive air strikes and ground movements, there's not much difference."

Dole learned of Gulf war during telephone call from White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, the Persian Gulf war arrived with a telephone call not long after the sun had set and darkness began to blanket the nation's capital.

The White House called Dole in the Capitol about 4:30 p.m. CST on Wednesday. A few minutes later, President Bush told the Kansas Republican of the U.S. military strike.

Here, according to congressional sources, is an account of what transpired in the Capitol as a critical chapter of American history began to unfold. The sources spoke on condition of not being identified.

Rumors had begun to circulate in mid-afternoon on Capitol Hill that a military strike was imminent against Iraq.

"You just had the feeling after a while that something was up," said one aide. "It was something that built all day, kind of a crescendo."

It was business as usual for Dole. He delivered a speech in the Senate Wednesday afternoon criticizing a military crackdown by the Soviet Union on its Baltic republics. While the senator was speaking on the floor his staff even heard rumors that Dole had been summoned to

'He didn't say anything and he didn't have to. I'll never forget this. I saw the look on his face and it was unmistakable that we were going to war.'
— Walt Riker, Dole spokesman

the White House. That hadn't occurred, however.

Dole later returned to his office, which is just a few steps away from the Senate floor, and he was there when the White House telephoned. His office on the second floor of the Senate offers a sweeping view, looking west across the Mall toward the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Monument beyond.

Dole took the call alone. He was wearing a dark blue cardigan sweater. A television set in the room was tuned to a news program.

The White House was on hold for a short time before Bush came on and began talking to Dole at about 5:40 p.m. The two spoke for about five minutes. After Dole hung up, he called House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., and Senate

Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, for a briefing in his office. Dole did not emerge from his office immediately after the call. About 10 minutes went by, he opened the door and came out into a side room.

"He didn't say anything and he didn't have to," said Walt Riker, the senator's press secretary. "I'll never forget this. I saw the look on his face and it was unmistakable that we were going to war."

Michel came walking into Dole's office about 6:10 p.m. and then Mitchell arrived at 6:25 p.m.

The leaders were briefed by Robert Gates, deputy national security adviser, and one of his aides. Gates is a native of Wichita. The briefing lasted about 30 minutes, and the doors to Dole's private suite were locked.

Not long after 6:30 p.m. there were television news reports of jets taking off in Saudi Arabia and reports of antiaircraft fire in Baghdad.

After the briefing, Dole came out of his office, stood and briefly watched a television news account. He told a staffer: "It's a go."

Dole recommends former senator as agriculture chief

By GENE SMITH
The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole said Thursday he has written a letter to President Bush backing former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota to succeed Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter, who is resigning to become chairman of the Republican Party.

Boschwitz, a Republican, was defeated for re-election last fall.

Dole, R-Kan., said Rep. Robert L. Michel, R-Ill., his House counterpart, has written a letter supporting a defeated Illinois congressman — Edward R. Madigan — for the job.

Dole said he was to meet later



Thursday with a couple of national farm organization leaders, both of whom want to be secretary of agriculture, and there were sure to be other candidates as well.

During a conference call from Washington, Dole told Kansas reporters he didn't know who would be chosen or when. But he said he told John Sununu, White House chief of staff, he wanted input on the decision.

Dole said he wants to see Yeutter succeeded by someone able "to go out to talk to the farmers" as well as consumers.

On another topic, Dole on Thursday offered a resolution warning Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev the most-favored-nation trading status Gorbachev has sought for his nation is in jeopardy because of military attacks against civilians in the Baltic states.

Co-sponsored by Senate Majority

Acker to head export agency

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Duane Acker, former president of Kansas State University and a foreign aid expert, was named Thursday to head the Agriculture Department's main farm export agency, the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said Acker succeeds Rol-

and E. Anderson, a career agency employee who held the job since mid-1989.

Most recently, Acker has been head of the department's Office for International Cooperation and Development.

Acker was Kansas State president from 1975-86.

Acker, 59, will be paid \$108,300 a year.

to continue working with a responsible Soviet regime.

"I hope it is not too late for Gorbachev to pull back from the very principles of reason and reform he has championed," Dole said.

Dole also said he has talked with Bush about putting pressure directly on the Soviet president.

None of that lessens the need for new markets for Kansas grain farmers, Dole said. Since "the price of wheat is at about a 13- or 14-year low," he said, there is a need to expand Kansas grain markets worldwide.

"Whether government can cure it, I don't know. We're looking at a number of options," he said.

A Soviet grain purchase, jeopardized as a result of the Baltic disturbances, amounted to \$103 million. The Soviets were subsidized at a rate of \$1.08 a bushel.

Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, the resolution passed the Senate Thursday 99-7.

Noting "Glasnost and perestroika might not be dead, but they're certainly on life support," the resolution warned the Soviet leadership "there will be no 'business as usual' unless

Gorbachev "returns to the path of reform and reason on which he had so impressively embarked."

Closing the resolution on a personal note, Dole conceded the United States has benefited from Gorbachev's "relatively reasonable and reformist policies" and would prefer

Dole notes state role in conflict

Fort Riley troops aren't only Kansans contributing to war effort in gulf

By GENE SMITH
The Capital-Journal

WASHINGTON — Kansas workers and industries contributed much of the sophisticated weaponry in the Persian Gulf and more will be sent, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said in a telephone news conference Friday.

The Senate minority leader said the Boeing B-52 bombers and the Boeing KC-135R aerial tankers involved in Operation Desert Storm were built in Wichita, while the Navy's Grumman A-6 Intruders were rebuilt there.

Much of the munitions carried by "smart bombs" and cruise missiles used in the air attacks came from the Kansas National Ordnance Plant at Parsons, Dole said, and parts of the electronic circuitry came from King Radio in Olathe. The drive trains used in the M1 Abrams tanks equipping U.S. forces in northern Saudi Arabia were cast in Atchison.

All that is in addition to some 13,000 members of Fort Riley's "Big Red One" — the 1st Infantry Division — and a number of smaller federalized reserve units from Kansas, Dole said.

Virtually all questions asked during Dole's 15-minute news conference dealt with aspects of the widening war against Iraq. Briefly, Dole said:

■ He was to meet with the Israeli ambassador Friday and hoped Israel would "continue to exercise restraint" despite Iraq's firing of 10 Soviet-built Scud intermediate-range missiles into Tel Aviv and the Haifa area. "The damage was not severe and the injuries were not high." If further attacks were launched with chemical warheads, he said, "It would change things."

■ Congressional support for the president is high. "Members of Congress are Americans. Once the conflict starts, it's in everyone's interest to show support."

■ For the most part, what is being shown on TV is what is being told to members of Congress. "You get some additional information. You get to look at some photos that aren't on TV. We're getting the experts, and we're able to ask questions; clear up points."

Dole said he believed the United States has had remarkable success so far. Before the attacks began, he said, military experts were predicting aircraft losses of 7 percent or more. That hasn't happened.

"I really believe this plan is being prepared with great accuracy. In my view, so far, so good."

Dole backs Boschwitz for ag post

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., has thrown his support behind former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., in the Minnesota's effort to become agriculture secretary.

During a telephone press conference of Kansas journalists Thursday, Dole said he had sent the president a letter supporting Boschwitz's candidacy for agriculture secretary. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter is expected to step down during the next month to become national chairman of the Republican Party.

Should Boschwitz decide against the job, Dole said he would like to look at some of the other candidates for the post. Among those Dole mentioned were Rep. Ed Madigan, R-Ill.; Dean Kleckner, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation; and Jack Parnell, assistant agriculture secretary.

Dole and other congressional Republican leaders met with the president on a variety of issues Thursday morning. Yeutter attended the meeting. The president did not indicate to the group that he was ready to make a decision on Yeutter's replacement.

Also during the press conference, Dole said he had sent the president a letter Tuesday asking for help for farmers. At the bottom of the letter was a personal note to the chief executive.

"We really need some help in the Midwest, Mr. President, because the price of wheat is at a 13- or 14-year low," the note read.

Dole said that he did not feel talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were going anywhere and that the United States needed to "step-up" the export enhancement program to make us more competitive in the world markets.

At the same time, Dole did not back away from calls last week to re-examine the United States' granting of export subsidies to the Soviet Union. Dole called for the suspension of all unused grain credit granted to the Soviets in December. About two-thirds of the \$1 billion already has been used.

Dole called for the suspension because the Soviets were violently repressing independence efforts in the Baltic republics.

"My view is that farmers everywhere must take a look at the human rights abuses," he said. "We're not going to worry about a 2- or 3-cent increase in the market price because we give export credit to the Soviet Union. But the Soviets have been buying more wheat. It has been heavily subsidized, — about \$1.08 a bushel."

Dole added the Big Red One now is fully deployed in Saudi Arabia. After collecting the Army's most modern weaponry from prepositioning sites in Germany, Dole said its combat power is beyond even what it was in Kansas.



Dole



Boschwitz

Dole wants allied help for war costs

By GENE SMITH
The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Thursday he'd "rather lean on the coalition" than plan new taxes on Americans to pay for the war in the Persian Gulf.

The Senate minority leader declared, "Let's not talk about taxes. Let's get our allies to put up some money."

Speaking in a telephone conference with Kansas news media, the state's senior senator noted the Japanese now have pledged another \$9 billion, "which once we get it amounts to a total of \$13 billion," more than any other nation. "Now if we can get Germany to follow suit, that'll be even better."

Dole said between August and the end of December 1990, 80 percent of the cost of operation of Desert Shield was paid by other members of the United Nations coalition. "If we can do that well in 1991 (with Desert Storm), there's no reason to ask the American people to pay additional taxes."

Meanwhile, Dole noted a bill providing special tax advantages for military personnel involved in Desert Storm "passed the House unanimously" on Wednesday and "will pass the Senate unanimously a couple hours from now."

The bill gives the Internal Revenue Service authority to pay interest on tax refunds paid to military personnel who file income tax returns within six months of the end of hostilities in the Gulf. The IRS estimates three-fourths of the nearly half-million U.S. personnel will get refunds.

President Bush signed an executive order earlier this week granting active duty personnel an extra 180 days to file their returns.

Dole said he and the rest of the Republican leadership had a 70-minute meeting Thursday morning with Bush, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, Secretary of State James A. Baker, Gen. Colin Powell, NSC adviser Robert Gates and others.

"I guess the indication is, everything's on schedule," he reported. He said the massive use of air power will continue "in an effort to bring Saddam Hussein to his knees. They're going to use ground troops only as a last resort."

Dole also said it was too early to tell when ground troops might be ordered in, but he thought the destruction was taking its toll on Iraq and the air strikes ought to continue.

Dole warned Desert Storm isn't like a movie, but more like a miniseries.

"It may last for weeks or months. This man has the fourth most powerful armed forces in the world. He's been preparing for years, spending billions and billions of dollars, so it's not going to be easy — but if we can keep our casualties to a minimum, I think people will continue to support the president," he said.

The senator said both the secretary of the Army and the Army chief of staff had praised Fort Riley's First Infantry Division (Mech.) to him in briefings, and said "if there is any ground attack, they'll probably be part of it. They're a good outfit."

Dole added the Big Red One now is fully deployed in Saudi Arabia. After collecting the Army's most modern weaponry from prepositioning sites in Germany, Dole said its combat power is beyond even what it was in Kansas.