

Soviet trip could delay Dole's political plans

Dole wants Soviets to stop giving Cuba aid

By Harris News Service
WASHINGTON — A trip to the Soviet Union could postpone an announcement by Sen. Bob Dole concerning his political plans.

Dole, R-Kan., said Friday that he hoped to make an announcement about whether he would run for re-election by the end of October. The decision, however, could be put off for a week or more, because Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, has asked Dole to participate in a mission to the Soviet Union.

"Senator Mitchell would like to go on a leadership trip that would leave Oct. 6 and be back the 11th," Dole said during his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "If I go with him on that, it would mess my plans up a bit. Since we haven't had a leadership trip, he thinks it is important. So that could delay it a week or two."

Leading up to Dole's announcement has been a series of town meetings across Kansas. The Senate minority leader visited several Kansas towns Saturday and was to be in Salina today at the dedication of Asbury-Salina Regional Medical Center's addition.

By the end of his trip, Dole hopes to have visited all 105 counties of Kansas. Should Dole go with Mitchell, they will not focus solely on the food needs of the Soviets. At the same time, Dole believes the Bush administration needs to make a firm statement

about what the U.S. will do for the Soviets.

"The administration needs to say, 'This is what we are going to do. This is going to be our share.' We want some coalition cooperation from other nations. We also want to make sure they (the Soviets) are going to end their aid to Cuba and that there are going to be Soviet military cuts."

Assistance to the Soviets will include more than raw commodities, such as wheat and corn, Dole said.

"It's going to be value-added products. In some cases, it's going to be poultry, beef (and) pork. We need to decide how much and just get on with it."

Dole also said that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan is asking Congress to waive a requirement of the credit-guarantee law that requires the beneficiary of the credit to be credit-worthy.

The American people have said they want to give economic assistance to the Soviets, but further credit would not be possible under the law because of the poor economic conditions in the Soviet Union.

The Kansas senator also said he did not believe U.S. military involvement in Iraq was likely in the near future, but said he would not rule out military force at some point.

"Someone said yesterday that we are dealing with a man in Saddam Hussein who knows two words — cheat and retreat," Dole said. "I don't know how many times this can happen before someone will do something. ... It (military force) is pretty unlikely now, but as I've said, Saddam Hussein will push you to the brink every time. It is a question of how long patience will last."

Dole also said that Clarence Thomas will be confirmed for a seat on the Supreme Court

Re-election decision on hold, Dole says

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Also during the press conference, Dole restated his belief that Clarence Thomas would be confirmed for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court and that Bob Gates would be confirmed as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Hutchinson News Saturday, Oct. 5 1991 Page 8

Dole wants aid assurances

By Ray Hemman

The United States needs explicit assurances from the Soviet Union that America isn't indirectly subsidizing Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Friday.

Specifically, Dole would like the Soviets to publicly announce that they are not sending aid to Cuba.

"We're getting reports from State Department people that they (the Soviets) are doing that (cutting off Cuban aid)," Dole said during his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "I say they ought to say it out loud, then. Maybe they don't want to offend Castro ..."

"We need to send a message that we wouldn't send money directly to Castro, so why should we send something to (Mikhail) Gorbachev or (Boris) Yeltsin, save them money so they can take that saved money and send to Castro? It doesn't make any sense to the Kansas people I've talked to."

— Sen. Bob Dole

"There are a lot of people in this country who need help. This is another example of why should we write a blank check to the Soviet Union even though we sympathize with the people. We want to be helpful. It might even help American farmers a bit, though not a great deal in the early stages."

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Dole said he does not oppose aid to the Soviet Union in the short or long term. He simply wants positive assurances from the Soviets that they no longer are helping the Cubans.

On another issue, Dole said he had supported having no set-aside requirements for feed grains for the 1992 crop. Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that farmers who participate in the 1992 feed grains program will need to idle 5 percent of their crop land.

When Dole flew with Agriculture Secretary Ed Madigan from Washington, D.C., to Kansas for the Kansas State Fair, the senator lobbied for no set-aside requirements. Dole said he suspected that the decision was made to have a 5 percent set-aside for feed grains because the previously announced wheat program also has a 5 percent set-aside.

Dole said the nation needs the grain production.

"If we are going to be in this game with all these emerging democracies all looking for food and all the things they will need, then we're going to have to have enough supply next year," Dole said. "... But 5 percent, I haven't heard much criticism of it."

A 0 percent set-aside also would have sent a message to the European Economic Community that the U.S. was serious about obtaining a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade pact that reduces trade-distorting subsidies.

"I've sort of joined those people who say, 'Hey, we know there are limits and we know there are budget problems, but we've got to make them understand that we're serious about being competitive in world markets.'"

"We are not going to continue to lose market share and become a residual supplier."

Page 2—The Russell Daily News, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1991

Talking With Kansans

Senator Bob Dole



Soviet Revolution

With the stunning collapse of the Soviet Union we are witnessing one of the major turning points in history, as the empire that promised to "bury us" is now burying itself.

One year ago I sat across the table from Boris Yeltsin in Moscow. I was impressed by his commitment to real reform, his fierce independence, and his confidence in getting the job done, despite the tough odds.

I left the Soviet Union convinced that Boris Yeltsin was for real.

Still, I don't believe anyone could have predicted how fast Communism and the hardliners in the Kremlin would hit the skids. Nor how fast Mikhail Gorbachev would be out, and Boris Yeltsin in.

Although democracy has passed a critical first test in the U.S.S.R., challenges remain for the Soviet people, for their leaders, and for United States' policymakers.

Clearly, the Soviet state as we have known it is finished. After the initial euphoria of democracy's triumph, Russian President Yeltsin and central government President Gorbachev will have to face the hard realities of leadership.

American Policy Goals

America, meanwhile, should shape its policies to improve the chances for Yeltsin and the reformers to succeed.

— First, let's deal on the basis of principal, not personalities. As Gorbachev was precariously perched on the "twin tigers" of real reform on the one hand, and a reversion to Stalinist-style oppression on the other, we tried to stand on his shoulder above the fray. When he fell, he almost brought us down with him. We cannot afford to make that mistake again, not even with Yeltsin.

— Second, we should make sure we are not seen as straddling the fence on fundamental issues such as democracy, self-determination and free-market reform, while we remain cautious in our commitment of material and monetary aid.

If a food crisis emerges this winter in the Soviet Union, it will probably make sense to respond with additional food aid, particularly in the form of additional agricultural credits. The one thing that could unravel the dramatic gains of the past few weeks is widespread shortages, which would almost certainly produce widespread disorder.

However, any American aid must be conditioned on a firm commitment to economic reform and adherence to standards of human rights and self-determination.

— Third, let's insist on a "cold turkey" termination of the \$4 to \$5 billion in annual Soviet aid to Fidel Castro's Cuba; a rapid reduction in Soviet military spending, including an end to development of new weapons of mass destruction; and a realistic game plan for free-market reform.

No Time to Raid U.S. Defense Budget

— Fourth, let's keep our eyes wide open and our guard up. The Soviet Union remains the second most powerful military force on earth — one that could still break up precipitously and chaotically. Does anyone really know whose finger was on the nuclear missile button during the headline coup attempt? America can't afford to start raiding our defense budget while the only certainty in the Soviet Union is uncertainty.

Democracy has passed its first big test. But it remains a time of testing for all of us.

Stay tuned.

Hutchinson News Saturday, Sept. 28, 1991 Page 3

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The Topeka Capital-Journal 2-B Saturday, October 5, 1991

Dole to require groups to prepay food bills

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Friday he is adopting a new policy for Capitol Hill receptions because of a flap over House members with unpaid congressional restaurant bills.

The Kansas said he will require any groups, including constituents from Kansas, to prepay their food bills when they ask his office to reserve a room in the Capitol or Senate office buildings for a reception.

As GOP leader, Dole said his office receives many requests to reserve rooms in the Capitol complex. "If you get caught in that maze and they end up having the reception but they don't pay their bill, that's a reflection on me," he said.

"So we're going to start a new policy. When Bob Dole reserves a

room for some group, I don't care whether they're from Kansas or somewhere else, they're going to pay in advance so we don't get into this kind of a fix," he said.

Earlier this week, it was disclosed 300 current and former House members owe more than \$300,000 in unpaid meal bills at a half dozen restaurants in the Capitol and House office buildings.

The debts were for food the lawmakers personally ordered and when they signed for meals served to groups of constituents who later failed to pay.

Dole said his office kept its "bills paid currently."

Asked about the uproar over the restaurant debts and a controversy over House members writing bad checks, Dole joked, "Thank goodness we don't have a Senate bank."

The Salina Journal Saturday, October 5, 1991

Dole will guard against free lunches

By The Associated Press

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Asked about the uproar over the House restaurant debts and an earlier controversy over House members writing bad checks, Dole joked, "Thank goodness we don't have a Senate bank."