

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Monday, December 2, 1991

## Hints of Dole retirement stir talk in Washington

**■ Senator's uncertainty on whether to run or retire leaves politicians pondering**

By BARRY MASSEY  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The political network in Kansas and on Capitol Hill is buzzing about what once was almost unthinkable: a Congress without Bob Dole.

Dole, 68, says he hasn't decided

whether to seek re-election in 1992 to another six-year term. But there's increasing talk in political circles about the possibility of his retirement.

"Obviously, if for some reason he decides not to (run again), it's going to be a dramatic moment. It will send the seismograph needle right off the charts," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, his Republican colleague.

Dole says he may make a decision by the end of the year.

Several months ago, Dole said he was leaning toward running again. But now he says he's looking at GOP chances for the '92 elections before deciding what to do. He has hinted of

retirement if it appears Republicans might suffer election losses dropping them into the 30s in Senate numbers. Democratic Rep. Dan Glickman of Wichita is expected to run for the Senate if Dole doesn't seek another term. That, some political observers say, could affect Dole's decision.

"What just might keep him from doing it (retirement) is the belief that Glickman will replace him. I don't think he wants to turn his seat over to Dan Glickman and the Democrats," said Thomas Mann, director of governmental affairs at the Brookings Institution.

Meantime, Kassebaum and others already are pondering what it would

mean for Kansas, the Senate and even President Bush if Dole decides to end a congressional career that began with his election to the House in 1960. Dole was elected to the Senate in 1968.

"It would be a blow to the Republican Party in the immediate sense because it is not a given that they would retain Dole's seat," said William Schneider, an analyst at the American Enterprise Institute.

"The immediate result is it would demoralize a lot of Republicans who are clinging to whatever hopes remain that they can make big gains in 1992," he said. "That's beginning to look less and less likely."

Democrats hold a 57-43 majority in the Senate. Twenty Democratic and 15 GOP seats in the Senate are up for grabs in the '92 elections.

A Dole retirement will start a mad scramble in Kansas of candidates running for his seat. Jockeying also will begin inside the Senate among Republicans interested in succeeding Dole as the GOP leader.

Dole was majority leader in the Senate in 1985-86, when Republicans controlled the chamber, and has been Senate minority leader since 1987.

Kassebaum and Schneider say

Dole would be sorely missed by Republicans in the Senate.

"He has a unique ability to be trusted by both moderates and conservatives," Schneider said. "That means they lose a figure who has a kind of special stature, a special role in the Republican Party."

Kassebaum says Dole provides a certain tie that enables them to get something done in a constructive way.

"He is one who is able to take an issue and shape it in a sound, sensible manner," she said. "That is extremely important as we tend to become more divided within the party."

The effect on Kansas of a Dole retirement?

"It would be a big negative for Kansas," said Burdett Loomis, a political science professor at the University of Kansas and the author of a book on Congress.

"He's in on every major piece of the legislation that goes through the Congress," he said. "You might overstate his importance somewhat, but this is a guy with a tremendous amount of clout."

Loomis describes Dole as "one of the three or four best legislators of the last 20 or 30 years in terms of getting things done, wanting to bring things to fruition."

Even President Bush, if he wins a second term in 1992, could feel the effects of a Dole retirement, Kassebaum says.

"It would be a real blow to George Bush to see him leave," she said. "He has been very constructive in trying to carry forward President Bush's agenda, and sometimes it hasn't been easy."

Analyst Schneider agreed.

"In the second term of a Bush administration, I think the unraveling process would accelerate," he said. "They need somebody who has stature there in Congress and who has been loyal to the president, which Dole has, to hold this whole operation together."

But Mann of the Brookings Institution doubts the effects of a Dole retirement would be so dramatic.

"You don't demean Bob Dole's career and success by saying that the state and the Senate will survive his departure," he said. "That's the definition of an institution. It's not dependent upon a single individual."

"Dole has been an excellent senator, he's a first-rate politician, and if he decides to leave he will be personally missed," Mann said. "But the state and the Senate and the country will go on."

B-4 The Kansas City Star Sunday, December 1, 1991

## Article blames Dole for GOP situation

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tive move. Reviewing the substance of Barnard's firing, Sachs concluded that the action was administrative, affected only one person, and was not an act of public policy.

He reinstated all the legislators as defendants in the suit, and now Barnard has filed another complaint seeking compensatory and punitive damages from the legislators.

— Tom Jackman

## 'Cats to dine with Finney

Gov. Joan Finney has invited members of Kansas State University's football team to stop by Cedar Crest for dinner this week.

The Tuesday night dinner at the governor's mansion on the north-west edge of Topeka is to honor the Wildcats for defeating the University of Kansas on Oct. 12.

The Wildcats slipped by the Jayhawks 16-12.

As a result, K-State won the Governor's Cup, which goes annually to the winner of the intrastate clash.

The governor's office noted that the dinner will be a private affair. Other K-State fans will have to wait outside.

— John Petterson

## Dole is a target of article

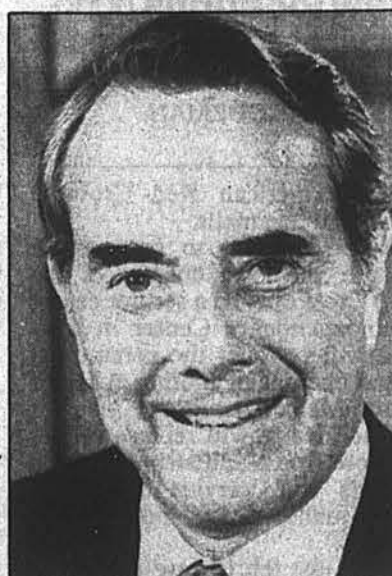
On the cover of the Dec. 2 issue of the *National Review* is a drawing of Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole and House Minority Leader Robert Michel peering through a magnifying glass at a small elephant.

The magazine, founded by conservative intellectual William F. Buckley, carries a cover story with the headline, "Honey, we shrunk the Party!"

The lengthy article inside blames the Kansas Republican and the Illinois Republican for the dwindling GOP numbers in Congress. It argues they have been too conciliatory to Democrats and too shy of purely partisan politics that would better define the GOP.

At the outset of the Reagan administration, there were 53 Republicans in the Senate and 192 in the House; today there are 43 Republican senators, 166 in the House, the article notes.

Dole and Michel were asked



Sen. Bob Dole  
... hadn't read article

about the article at a news conference last week after Congress completed its work. Dole said he hadn't read it. A reporter asked how Dole could have missed it.

Dole said he only read "reputable" publications.

— Jake Thompson

## Push for tax caps renewed

The Kansas Association of Realtors doesn't give up easily in its quest to persuade the Legislature to adopt a constitutional amendment placing caps on residential and commercial property taxes.

The association made a similar attempt two years ago but failed, although it attracted thousands to its cause.

Now, in an effort to make a comeback, it has scheduled citizen meetings across the state to spread the work of property tax caps. Meetings already have been held in Wichita and Topeka, and three more are scheduled for December in Salina, Overland Park and Newton.

The Overland Park meeting will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at Johnson County Community College.

At the Topeka meeting on Monday, Realtor lobbyist Karen France told the approximately 200 people who showed up, "You're the few, the proud and the brave. It takes a lot of courage to come back."

— John Petterson

SUNDAY ■ DECEMBER 1, 1991 ■ THE HAYS DAILY NEWS ■ 7-A

## Dole to president: Do something now

WASHINGTON (AP) — It would be a mistake for President Bush to wait until his State of the Union address in late January to offer his ideas for solving the nation's economic problems, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said.

Dole said Friday that Bush should "start right now" on a plan to revive the economy and questioned Bush's endorsement of a tax cut plan pushed by House GOP Whip Newt Gingrich.

"With Congress out of town, it's all his," Dole said. "I think this is a real opportunity for President Bush because he is a single voice in Washington. He's got six weeks to demonstrate leadership."

In a telephone conference call with reporters, Dole urged the president to call congressional leaders to the White House soon and said he should "seek a consensus" on how to spur business growth and

create jobs. Dole also said he was puzzled by Bush's belated endorsement of Gingrich's plan, which the Georgia Republican advanced in the waning days of Congress.

Gingrich called for a sharp cut in the capital gains tax rate, from 28 percent to 20 percent, and a tax cut for people who make under \$50,000 a year and earn interest on savings accounts.

Dole defended Bush against accusations he has flip-flopped on a host of domestic policy issues in recent months, but did question one Bush move.

Conceding that economic hard times have caused ruptures within the Republican Party, Dole said, "I think the president probably went too far in enthusiastically supporting it (the Gingrich plan). ... I think the president is in rough shape right now."

The Salina Journal  
Sunday, December 8, 1991

## Dole aims for more spending

**Kansans in Congress back spending plans**

By The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — Kansans in Congress are proposing legislation that would increase government spending an average of \$6 billion a year, according to a study.

The National Taxpayers Union Foundation found that House and Senate members from Kansas on average proposed \$16 in spending increases for each \$1 in budget cuts they suggested.

"The pressure for more spending is bipartisan and universal," said Paul Hewitt, the foundation's vice president for research.

The foundation is the research arm of the National Taxpayers Union, a non-partisan group that advocates cuts in federal spending and taxes. The study examined the potential costs of all bills sponsored and co-sponsored by members of Congress during the first eight months of the year.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., supported bills estimated to cost \$10.6 billion a year, which was the largest amount in the state's delegation. The cost of Dole's bills ranked 59th in the 100-member Senate.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., sponsored measures estimated to cost \$3.1 billion, which was 90th in the Senate and the lowest in the Kansas delegation.

Rep. Jan Meyers, an Overland Park Republican, proposed measures estimated to cost \$9.2 billion a year, which ranked 276th in the 435-member House.

Meyers and Dole said the study presented an incomplete picture of a lawmaker's record. For example, the analysis does not consider votes by members to cut or increase government spending and taxes.

Meyers said it was a "flawed study" but maintained that its findings showed the Kansas delegation was "doing fairly well" compared to other states.

The study estimated that measures sponsored by Kansas' five House members would cost an average of \$6.8 billion a year if they were implemented. Only four state delegations in the House had lower averages.

Kansas' senators proposed legislation costing an average of \$5.8 billion a year. That ranked 45th in the Senate.

The study looked at bills projected to increase or decrease spending by \$10 million or more a year.

Hewitt said the study was designed to "cut through the rhetoric" of lawmakers.

"The workload is vastly skewed toward proposals to increase spending. And yet many lawmakers go back home and create the impression or make assertions to the effect that the deficit can be controlled by spending cuts," said Hewitt.

The most expensive item proposed by Dole was a \$7 billion-a-year program to help the elderly cover costs of long-term health care.

Meyers proposed a change in the Social Security system to allow retirees to earn more income while eligible for benefits. The measure was projected to cost \$5.5 billion a year. She took issue with the cost estimate, contending that the measure could be "revenue neutral" because retirees would pay some taxes on their extra income earnings.

Rep. Pat Roberts, a Dodge City Republican, proposed legislation that would produce net spending increases of \$5.9 billion a year. That ranked 352nd in the House, according to the study. He also backed a Social Security earnings limit bill.

Rep. Dick Nichols, a McPherson Republican, proposed legislation estimated to increase spending \$5 billion a year, which ranked 376th in the House.

Rep. Jim Slattery, a Topeka Democrat, proposed legislation estimated to increase spending \$4.6 billion a year, which ranked 387th in the House. Rep. Dan Glickman, a Wichita Democrat, put his name on measures projected to increase spending almost \$4.1 billion a year. That ranked 400th in the House.

Hutchinson News  
Saturday, Dec. 7, 1991 Page 9

## Dole seeks equity in free-trade agreement

By Ray Hemman  
The Hutchinson News

The North American Free Trade Agreement must have safety, worker and environmental safeguards for it to be equitable, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Friday.

The United States and Mexico are negotiating a free-trade agreement. The agreement has drawn fire from certain farm and labor groups, including the Kansas Farmers Union, because of fears it could displace farmers both in Mexico and the United States or place U.S. workers at a competitive disadvantage.

"If we are going to start saying, 'Well, you can go down to Mexico or anywhere else and you can limit safety measures or work hours or whatever it is,' then we are in effect not doing what we said we would do," Dole said during his weekly telephone news conference with Kansas journalists. "President Bush said he would consult with Congress on labor issues, and this certainly is a labor issue that affects the well-being of working men and women whether they happen to be in Mexico or in the United States."

"And one way to lose jobs for the United States is to have lower standards in another country, particularly in this case Mexico. Whether it's environment, whether it's labor, whatever it is, we are going to have to insist that it is parallel."

Dole was asked whether the \$1.5 million federal fine on National Beef in Liberal for safety violations when coupled with the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement could prompt beef packers to leave the country as suggested by the Kansas Farmers Union.

The senator said that the federal government had to protect workers and that the violations were not the first for the plant.

Dole said that he wanted to keep the company in Kansas but that he also wanted it to comply with the law.



Dole

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The Salina Journal

## Free trade between U.S., Mexico must be fair, Dole says

By Harris News Service

The North American Free Trade Agreement must have safety, worker and environmental safeguards for it to be fair, said Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.

The agreement being negotiated between the United States and Mexico has drawn fire from some farm and labor groups, including the Kansas Farmers Union, because of fears it could displace farmers both in Mexico and the United States or place U.S. workers at a competitive disadvantage.



Dole

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The Farmers Union has suggested that the \$1.5 million federal fine on National Beef in Liberal for safety violations, when coupled with the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement, could prompt beef packers to leave the country.

Dole said the federal government had to protect workers and that the violations were not the first for the plant. He said he wanted to keep the company in Kansas, but that he also wanted it to comply with the law.

And Dole took exception to the Kansas Farmers Union being called a farm organization.

"I don't know who the Farmers Union represents — not too many farmers in Kansas," he said. "They are not much of an

organization nationwide. They've been shrinking over the years. They don't have any influence that I know of anywhere. They are entitled to their dues obviously, and that may be a good way to get membership....

"The Farmers Union is sort of a political arm of the Democratic Party, and I don't consider them to be a farm organization with any real program. All they do is criticize Republicans and praise Democrats. It is just part of the Democratic Party."

Ivan Wyatt, president of the McPherson-based Kansas Farmers Union, said his organization counted its memberships by family, and it has about 3,500 family member units in Kansas that could represent 10,000 or more farmers. All members are farmers.

Nationwide, about 250,000 farmers belong to the organization, he said.

Wyatt took exception to Dole's description of his organization.

"I think he may be a little incorrect," Wyatt said. "We find that Democrats generally support the policies of Farmers Union better than Bob Dole does. He may have been in Washington so long that he may not know what a real farmer is."

Wyatt said that he suspected some of his Kansas Farmers Union board members might be Republicans but that the organization did not screen its board members for political affiliation.

Dole also expressed reservations about proposed tax cuts.