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Dole expected to recover fully from prostate cancer

By The Associated Press
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"small and clinically localized within the gland." There was no evidence the cancer had spread beyond the prostate, the statement said. Dole, R-Kan., is expected to remain in the hospital for a week, and no follow-up treatment is planned. Congress has adjourned for the year and will not return to work until next month.

Dole, 68, has not announced whether he will seek re-election in 1992. He indicated several months ago his health would be a factor in the decision. He first was elected to the Senate in 1968. Before that, he served in the House for eight years. The prostate is a small gland in men that surrounds a portion of the urethra, the duct that carries urine from the bladder to the penis. The gland's normal function is to produce the fluid portion of semen. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer

in men, said Dr. Patrick Walsh, director of urology at the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. Walsh estimated 10 percent of men will develop prostate cancer during their lifetime. Walsh was not part of Dole's medical team, and he commented generally on the disease. Chances are 10 percent to 15 percent the cancer will recur over a 15-year period for a person of Dole's age, Walsh said. It usually takes at least six weeks before a person can resume a full work schedule after prostate surgery, he said.

Thursday, December 19, 1991

The Topeka Capital-Journal

Hospital trying to cure shortcomings

By MATT TRUETT
The Associated Press

Winfield Hospital and Training Center has begun to correct deficiencies cited by an inspection team earlier this month, an official of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services said Wednesday. George Vega, acting commissioner for mental health and mental retardation, said "appropriate action" was taken immediately by the south central Kansas hospital, which was found to be out of compliance with federal standards. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment inspected the hospital after officials learned that a mentally retarded patient had become pregnant. "We feel we made an aggressive response," Vega said. "We are taking all the appropriate actions."

KDHE on Wednesday released a report that said the Winfield hospital has failed to assure the safety of its patients.

The federal Health Care Financing Administration, which funnels Medicaid money to states, requested that KDHE do the inspection after federal officials learned of an alleged sexual assault on a patient by a former member of the hospital's staff. The report singled out the staff's failure to identify the condition of the sexually abused patient, who is profoundly retarded, until she was 24 weeks pregnant. "We were quick to admit what we did

The Winfield state hospital came under fire after a mentally retarded patient was sexually abused.

wrong, and we were quick to fix what we did wrong," said Dr. Tony Lybarger, the hospital's superintendent. "We have a system in place to correct these problems. We won't be asking for additional money or additional staff."

The patient has since been moved to living unit at the hospital where more medical attention can be provided, he said. She will remain there until delivery of the baby.

KDHE spokesman Greg Crawford said the inspection showed there were 11 violations of federal standards. He said if those violations aren't corrected by the hospital, then federal money for patients could be jeopardized. Mental health facilities must meet 400 federal standards to qualify for federal financing.

Lybarger was critical of the KDHE survey because inspectors only reviewed five patient charts in one of the six units at the hospital. "I disagree with the scope of the findings," he said.

Jeffrey Walker, 21, Arkansas City, the former hospital employee, has been charged in Cowley County District Court with sexual assault in connection with the incident. The alleged victim is unable to walk because of severe multiple handicaps.

Since the episode, every female patient of childbearing age has been given a pregnancy test. No other pregnancies were found.

The report said the facility failed to provide consistent, ongoing services for the pregnant woman. Her pregnancy was diagnosed on Nov. 19, but as of Nov. 25, none of the hospital records acknowledged the pregnancy.

"There was a lack of evidence that the risk management program has a system that is sensitive enough to consistently identify actual or potential risks for all clients' safety and well-being," the report said.

The Winfield hospital has about 350 patients, all of them mentally retarded.



Sen. Bob Dole Undergoes surgery

Cancerous prostate removed

By BARRY MASSEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., underwent surgery Wednesday for prostate cancer and doctors said chances were excellent for a full recovery.

Dole's prostate was removed during a 2½-hour operation at Walter Reed Medical Center.

In a statement issued by Dole's office, physicians said the cancer was "small and clinically localized within the gland." There was no evidence the cancer had spread beyond the prostate, the statement said.

Dole is expected to remain in the hospital for a week and no follow-up treatment is planned, said Walt Riker, the senator's spokesman. Congress has adjourned for the year and won't return to work until next month.

The statement from Dole's office said the senator's cancer was detected early, which greatly improved his chances for recovery. In addition, he was described as having a "robust physical condition."

Dole, 68, hasn't announced whether he will seek re-election in 1992. He indicated several months ago his health would be a factor in the decision. He first was elected to the Senate in 1968.

The prostate is a small gland in men that surrounds a portion of the urethra, the duct that carries urine from the bladder to the penis. The gland's normal function is to produce the fluid portion of semen.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, said Dr. Patrick Walsh, director of urology at the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

Walsh estimated 10 percent of men will develop prostate cancer during their lifetime and said that 70 was the peak age for development of the disease. Walsh wasn't part of Dole's medical team, and he commented generally on the disease.

Chances are 10 percent to 15 percent the cancer will recur over a 15-year period for a person of Dole's age, Walsh said. It usually takes at least six weeks before a person can resume a full work schedule after prostate surgery, he said.

Hutchinson News Thursday, Dec. 19, 1991

Dole treated for prostate cancer

By Barry Massey
Associated Press Writer

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The surgery was performed by a team of three physicians led by Col. David G. McLeod, chief of the urology service at Walter Reed. One assistant was Dr. Raymond Stutzman, a surgeon at Johns Hopkins and a native of Wakarusa. The two physicians helped perform kidney surgery on Dole in 1981.

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, and his daughter, Robin, were at the hospital for the operation.

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Dole in 'good spirits,' gets call from president

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., was in good spirits Thursday as he recovered from prostate surgery.

Dole was listed in good condition at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he underwent treatment Wednesday for prostate cancer.

Walt Riker, Dole's spokesman, said President Bush called Dole and spoke with the senator for about five minutes.

During the call, Dole turned the phone over to a nurse and doctor who were in his room and they briefly talked with the president, according to Riker.

Dole telephoned his office during a staff Christmas party and the call was placed on a speaker phone so the group could hear the senator.

"He was cracking jokes," Riker said.

Dole also asked for work and his staff shipped him memos on the economy, tax cut proposals and news articles from Kansas and national newspapers, Riker said.

Dole is expected to remain in the hospital for a week. So far,



Dole Bush

Riker said, Dole has received several telegrams, cards and flowers from well-wishers.

Former President Richard Nixon is among those who sent flowers.

"He's gotten everything from a telegram from Billy Graham to a flower arrangement from the Belleville, Kan., coffee club," Riker said.

The senator also received a portable cassette tape player and several recorded books.

Dole had breakfast Thursday with his wife, Elizabeth, and they later looked through Christmas cards that had been sent to their Washington home.

Dole also talked by telephone with Mrs. Dole's mother, Mary Hanford, in Salisbury, N.C.

THE WICHITA EAGLE Thursday, December 19, 1991

Dole's recovery prognosis good

By Angela Herrin
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole underwent surgery Wednesday for a "slow-growing cancer" of the prostate gland, aides said.

After the 2½-hour operation, during which Dole's prostate gland was removed, surgeons at Walter Reed Army Medical Center said the cancer was small and showed no signs that it had spread beyond the prostate.

"It's an excellent prognosis, and the surgeons couldn't be more pleased," said Dole aide Walt Riker. "Immediately after surgery, the senator was awake and in very good spirits. He read the press release about his own surgery in the recovery room and authorized it to go out. He's in full gear."

The 68-year-old Kansan's chances for complete recovery were "excellent," Riker said, because surgeons detected and removed the cancer early and because Dole was in "robust physical condition" before surgery.

Dole will be hospitalized for about a week, Riker said. Physicians did not recommend any follow-up drug therapy or radiation treatment, he said, because all the cancer was removed.

According to the American Cancer Society, early detection is key to the successful treatment of prostate cancer, the second-most common form of cancer among American men, after skin cancer. One in 11 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, with 80 percent of all cases reported in men over 65 years old.

The prostate is a small gland in men that surrounds a portion of the urethra, the duct that carries urine from the bladder.

There is an 85 percent cure rate among men with prostate cancer, a percentage that could be higher with earlier detection. Among the 122,000 new cases of prostate cancer reported in the United States during 1991, the cancer had already spread beyond the prostate in nearly 40 percent of the cases, according to the American Cancer Society.

"Without knowing all the details, it sounds like there was very early detection by Sen. Dole's physicians and it is common that such cases are successfully treated with surgery alone, without any radiation or drug therapy," according to Gerald Murphy, chief medical officer of the American Medical Association in Atlanta.

Dole underwent a comprehensive physical examination earlier this year and said in September that "everything looks good" based on the tests.

However, Riker said Wednesday that a later blood test, known as a prostate specific antigen test, signaled there might be a problem with Dole's prostate.

A number of members of Congress have recently announced they have been treated for prostate cancer, including Sens. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Alan Cranston, D-Calif., and Rep. J.J. Pickle, D-Texas. Sen. Spark Matsunaga, D-Hawaii, died in April 1990, several months after disclosing he had prostate cancer.

Dole was expected to announce his plans for re-election over the next few weeks, a decision which Wednesday's surgery could put on hold. Although most political observers thought Dole would run for a fifth term in 1992, Dole recently expressed doubts about leading a shrinking majority of Republicans in the Senate, triggering speculation that he might retire.

In September, Dole said health would also be a factor in his final decision. However, Dole's Kansas colleague, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, said Wednesday that Dole had a "prognosis for a complete and rapid recovery."

Some say it doesn't make sense to develop Forbes while other bases are being closed. What they ignore is the special construction necessary to house and maintain the B-2 bomber, facilities that do not exist anywhere. Kansas is worthy of our nation's finest technology, and I will fight to see that we get a fair shot at it.

The liberal House Democrats may ultimately get their way and kill the B-2 bomber, but if they do — and I will work hard to stop them — it will be a great loss for both our nation and for Kansas.

Bob Dole is a Republican senator from Kansas.

Viewpoints

B-2 bomber: Good for America, good for Kansas

By BOB DOLE
Special to The Capital-Journal

Contrary to popular belief, the B-2 Stealth bomber is not dead. And as long as it's alive, I will still be fighting to bring it to Kansas.

It is rare that I take public issue with the views of my colleagues, but I am puzzled by Jim Slattery's recent self-announced obituary for both the B-2 bomber and for our state's chances of becoming home to America's newest technology.

The fact is, when it comes to America's national security, no one can tell what will happen tomorrow, or next month, or five or 10 years from now. That is why we need the B-2 in our defense arsenal and not on the scrap heap.

Yes, the Soviet threat as we have

known it for more than 40 years has changed. But with instability and near chaos roving every corner of the former Soviet empire, I don't believe it is time to drop our guard and disarm America. Just this week, the prospect of nuclear tension intensified within the republics, even before the new commonwealth got off the ground. The president of the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, declared his republic would keep his nuclear weapons as long as the Russian Republic did. Foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze said "the threat of a right wing putsch is growing and becoming more and more real," while St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak warned that not only was a coup possible, but that this time it might succeed.

The world is now, and is likely to remain, an unpredictable and dangerous place. Remember, the Soviet republics still have the world's largest nuclear weapons arsenal; remember, fanatics such as Saddam Hussein and Moammar Quaddafi are



Bob Dole

going all out to develop nuclear bombs, and remember, Kuwait was just another oil state until more than 500,000 American men and women were sent there to battle a Middle Eastern madman.

Let's face it, if the United States isn't ready for any challenge, we might as well pack it in. If we have to ever send young Americans into battle, we owe it to them to make certain they are equipped with the best technology and firepower to adequately protect themselves and to win.

Contrary to the prepackaged anti-B-2 propaganda, the B-2's mission was never limited to nuclear strikes against the Soviets. The same design that allows the B-2 to penetrate the most sophisticated Soviet air defense systems will allow the B-2 to attack, unscathed, any target of any potential adversary, anywhere in the world. And that is the point.

Yet, it continues to amaze me how the critics of this 21st-century weapon are so certain of what the future will bring. They somehow know that

America will never need a modern bomber. They find it "cost effective" to keep our pilots flying B-52s, an aircraft that is older than most of its pilots, for another 30 years or more.

On the technical side of the B-2 debate, we've heard nothing lately but the same tired old litany trumpeted by the liberal media: "The B-2 doesn't work; it has no mission; it is too expensive." These lines may make clever press releases, but they obscure some important facts. These are also the same arguments that were used against nearly every high-tech weapons system which proved so effective against Saddam Hussein's vaunted Republican Guard, including the F-117 Stealth fighter and the Patriot missile, systems that not only led to the quick defeat of the fourth largest army in the world, but saved American lives.

No one doubts the B-2 is a very expensive proposition, and in these times of tight budgets we must be certain that our defense dollars are spent wisely. That means our tech-

nology must be tested and proven. I have insisted that the B-2 meet the important performance specifications that it operate as advertised. Unlike many critics who have long opposed the B-2, I have attended briefings on those test results, I have reviewed technical data on the performance of the B-2, and I continue to monitor the progress of this program. There is no doubt about it: The B-2, as it sits today, is the most advanced, stealthiest aircraft in the world. Those are the facts.

As for the B-2 coming to Kansas, let me just say that such things never just happen. They require hard work. Dismissing opportunities as impossible, unrealistic or ridiculous may make sense politically for B-2 opponents, but it doesn't diminish the real possibility of bringing the B-2 to our state.

If there is another wing of B-2s to be built, they have to go somewhere, and the Air Force agrees with me that Kansas makes a lot of sense. Our central location and good flying

conditions make Kansas especially attractive. In my view, Kansas bases deserve a good look as the Air Force considers locations for a second wing. That is why I recently drafted and passed legislation that would ensure our bases, including Forbes in Topeka, get every consideration. And I am confident that should there be a second wing of B-2 bombers, it will land in Kansas.

Some say it doesn't make sense to develop Forbes while other bases are being closed. What they ignore is the special construction necessary to house and maintain the B-2 bomber, facilities that do not exist anywhere. Kansas is worthy of our nation's finest technology, and I will fight to see that we get a fair shot at it.

The liberal House Democrats may ultimately get their way and kill the B-2 bomber, but if they do — and I will work hard to stop them — it will be a great loss for both our nation and for Kansas.