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The Kansas City Star Sunday, December 22, 1991

Dole and Gingrich feud in fine fashion

By JAKE THOMPSON
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — As Congress adjourned last month with talk about cutting taxes for the middle class, there was a spicy dispute to one side of the debate.

Instead of Democrats and Republicans bickering, it was two sharp-tongued, wilful Republicans, one known for his acerbic wit, the other for his bluntness.

As they have before, Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, the Senate minority leader, and Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the House minority whip, were feuding. When the top Republican in the Senate trades jabs with the second ranking Republican in the House, it is intriguing because interparty disputes usually remain behind closed doors.

Not for these two. Gingrich led a group of House Republicans with a proposal to keep Congress in an overtime session until a tax-cut package could be passed, ostensibly to revive the economy.

Dole called him "The Gingrich who stole Christmas."

Gingrich rejoined, saying his plan showed a clear difference from ideas expressed by "pre-Reagan Republicans."

"Now when you consider that we were trying to create a million jobs and trying to cut taxes I think it's a little strange to thing of that as stealing Christmas," Gingrich added.

Dole followed, arguing that cutting taxes was a copout.

"Sen. Dole placed a higher value on not being in session," Gingrich said piously. "I placed a higher value on fighting for tax cuts and fighting for economic growth."

Dole, the pragmatic veteran insider, and Gingrich, the ideological firebrand outsider, have such different philosophical approaches to problems that their disagreements look personal.

though their staffs say they are not.

Dave Mason, a scholar at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, said the spat does not represent an old-line moderate Republican disagreeing with a hard-line conservative. It looks more like two leaders who just seem to not like each other.

But Burdett Loomis, a political scientist at the University of Kansas, said the Dole and Gingrich feud reveals differences between the two men. And it shows two approaches on how to conduct opposition politics against the Democratic majority in the House and Senate.

Dole, 68, generally works hard to make government work better, twisting, molding, hammering on the system from within and promoting Bush's agenda on Capitol Hill. Dole's shortcoming is that he doesn't come up with new ideas, but "looks for horses he can ride," said Loomis.

The Senate, with 43 Republicans to the 57 Democrats, can still offer a strong enough opposition to shape, kill or delay legislation.

After Dole's prostate surgery last week, it was unclear whether health concerns would influence his decision to keep fighting on by running for re-election next fall. But if he won — and that would seem almost certain — Dole's role as a partisan battler would certainly not diminish.

Gingrich, 48, elected in 1978, works among 166 Republicans and 268 Democrats in the House. The balance of power gives Republicans more of an obstructionist role than drivers of policy.

Gingrich has fashioned himself as a risk-taker, willing to throw bombs and argue for radical changes. Although an intellectual of boundless curiosity, Gingrich has been viewed as a gadfly. He favors cutting taxes, believing that will spur investment, then galvanize the economy.

Dole frets that tax cuts would worsen the deficit. His approach would be to cut government programs and spending. In 1985 he proposed a deficit-cutting plan that would have frozen cost-of-living adjustments and spending on a broad range of programs. Gingrich opposed Dole's idea.

Dole and Gingrich have a colorful history dating back to 1984, when Gingrich called Dole the "chief tax collector for the liberal welfare state," a jab that still rankles Dole.

Early last year the two sparred over the issue of loyalty to Israel's cause. Gingrich held a news conference to criticize Dole's

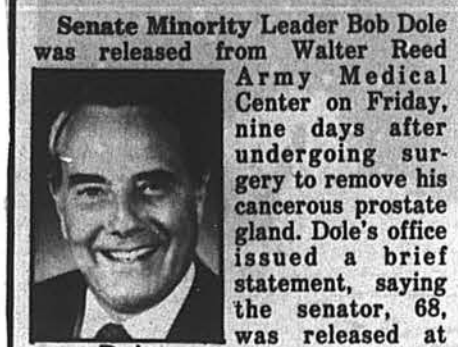
proposal to cut U.S. foreign aid by 5 percent to the top five recipients to free money for fledgling democracies in Eastern Europe. Gingrich and other House Republicans said it was the wrong time to trim aid to Israel.

"Normally, if I disagree with a fellow Republican, I speak to them privately about any problems, instead of holding a news conference," Dole wrote in a letter to Gingrich.

Dole added this acid postscript: "Apparently you've forgotten your private words of praise for my proposal to cut foreign aid earmarks which would have resulted in a 5 percent cut for Israel. Or weren't those words for public consumption?"

Hutchinson News Saturday

Dec. 28, 1991 Page 3



Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole was released from Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Friday, nine days after undergoing surgery to remove his cancerous prostate gland. Dole's office issued a brief statement, saying the senator, 68, was released at 1:30 p.m. CST and would spend several days at home. The statement said doctors had described Dole's chances of recovery as "excellent." Telephone calls to the senator's office were not immediately returned Friday. The Kansas Republican has been recovering from a Dec. 18 operation. Doctors found his prostate had a slow-growing localized cancer, which they said they completely removed. Dole spent Christmas Day with his wife, Elizabeth, at Walter Reed, a spokesman said earlier this week.

The Salina Journal Saturday

December 28, 1991 3

Dole released from hospital

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Dole, who has been in Congress since 1961, has yet to announce whether he will seek a fifth term in the Senate next year. He was elected to the Senate in 1968 after serving four terms in the House.

The Topeka Capital-Journal

Sunday, December 29, 1991 3-E

Dole cast his vote each time

WASHINGTON — Kansas Sen. Bob Dole posted a 100 percent record on roll call votes during the 1991 session of Congress. Other members of the Kansas delegation voted from 96 percent to 99 percent of the time.

The majority of lawmakers registered high attendance at record votes conducted in the two chambers, according to a survey by Roll Call Report Syndicate.

In the House, where 428 roll calls were held, the average member's voting attendance was 95.1 percent. In the Senate, which conducted 280 roll calls, the average was 97.4 percent. Lawmakers had to cast a yeay or nay vote to be counted in attendance.

Eight House members and 18 other senators recorded 100 percent attendance. Only 33 House members and four senators scored below 90 percent. Among Kansas congressmen, the totals were:

- Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, 98 percent.
- Rep. Pat Roberts, 1st District, 97 percent.
- Rep. Jim Slattery, 2nd District, 98 percent.
- Rep. Jan Meyers, 3rd District, 99 percent.
- Rep. Dan Glickman, 4th District, 98 percent.
- Rep. Dick Nichols, 5th District, 99 percent.

Political scientists see little connection between voting attendance and overall legislative competence. But they support the notion that incumbents who are excessively truant invite political trouble ranging from newspaper editorials to negative television commercials.

The lowest attendance among House members — 36 percent — was registered by Rep. Larry Hopkins, a Republican, who spent much of the year back home in a losing campaign for governor of Kentucky.

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The Salina Journal

Tuesday, December 31, 1991 3

Dole back at work after cancer surgery

U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan. and a Russell native, went to work Monday in Washington for the first time since he underwent surgery for removal of a cancerous prostate gland.

Dole worked about three hours, making telephone calls and going through a pile of mail that included hundreds of get-well cards, said Walt Riker, a Dole spokesman. He also reviewed staff memos on policy questions.

Dole was released from the hospital Friday. The surgery was termed successful.

From Staff and Wire Reports