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Dole goes back to work but limits schedule

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Tuesday his recovery from prostate surgery has gone well but that he's limiting his schedule for a few weeks.

"I'm still a little weak ... but getting better," Dole, R-Kan., said in an

impromptu news conference in his Capitol office.

It was the senator's first meeting with Kansas reporters since he was released from the hospital slightly more than three weeks ago. He appeared relaxed.

He joked that his lighter schedule

wouldn't apply to his staff.

"They've got to work harder," said Dole, who's known for his long office hours and grueling travel schedules.

The senator said his doctors had advised him "don't do anything for six to eight weeks" after the surgery. But doctors consider his recovery "extremely good," he said.

"I'm not going to push myself. I'm going to be here every day. But no early morning meetings for a while or no late nights — sort of a daylight warrior," Dole said.

Dole, 68, underwent surgery to treat prostate cancer last month and was released from the hospital after Christmas.

He said he won't require further treatment and that his doctors found the cancer hadn't spread.

"It's over. I'm feeling good. I think we got it all," Dole said.

The senator has been coming into his Senate office since the beginning of the month.

Asked why he came back to work so soon, Dole said: "We have a little apartment. You get tired of sitting

around there. I needed to make a lot of phone calls."

A blood test in August first alerted him to a possible prostate problem, and more tests were done. A biopsy in November confirmed there was a tumor.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers in men, and Dole said he hoped his example of early detection and treatment could serve "to alert men to be on the lookout."

Dole said he still hasn't set a time for announcing whether he'll seek re-election this year.

"Fairly soon. I don't know. I really haven't focused on that for the last few weeks," he said.

In addition, Dole said it remained uncertain whether he'd travel to the state and attend Republican activities at Kansas Day this weekend.

In a speech later on the Senate floor, Dole said, "Congress has one simple assignment: do something and do it quickly for a change."

Hutchinson News Saturday, Jan. 25, 1992

It's official: Dole will run

By Lew Ferguson
The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Bob Dole ended a moderate degree of uncertainty about his political future Friday, announcing to a room crowded with supporters and news-media representatives that he would seek election this year to a fifth six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

Dole, 68, said his decision had been delayed by his battle against prostate cancer during the past five months.

He said he had been given a clean bill of health as a result of surgery Dec. 18 to remove the cancerous gland.

"I really feel pretty good," he said. "But you do get a little tired."

Dole had told no one of his decision, he said, until he called



his wife, Elizabeth Dole, from the airport just before leaving Washington on Friday morning. His staff and Kansas Republican

'I thought about (running for re-election) a lot. I wanted to be sure I was in good health. I got this little wake-up call in August or September (when the prostate problem was discovered). ... I wanted to be healthy.'
— Sen. Bob Dole

Party officials had no advance information. President Bush called Dole at the hotel where he made the an-

nouncement to congratulate the Senate minority leader.

"The president didn't even know," said Walt Riker, Dole's press secretary. "He was only told that Dole was making an announcement."

Riker quoted the president as telling Dole, "Thank God you're running. America needs you. I'll do anything I can to help you."

Dole offered to help Bush in the New Hampshire primary, Riker said, but it would be premature to speculate on what form that help might take.

In Washington, Sen. Phil Graham, R-Texas, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said in a statement, "This is great news for Republicans in the Senate and for America. Bob's decision also will be a big morale booster for Republican

candidates everywhere."

The only major potential opponent known to be looking at challenging Dole is Democratic U.S. Rep. Dan Glickman of Wichita.

The first question posed to Dole, the Senate minority leader, at a news conference at a downtown hotel where he attended the annual Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas dinner Friday night was whether he was going to run again.

"Yes," he replied, and loud applause broke out from 75 to 100 Republicans in the room.

"Nobody knew that," Dole said of his decision.

He said that he hinted to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum a couple of days ago that he would run and that he had been leaning toward running all along.

However, he added, he did not tell anyone — even members of his own staff or President Bush — that he had decided to run until he called his wife as he was leaving Washington.

"She said maybe she should come out here," Dole said. "I told her, no, she needed to continue her work raising money for the Red Cross."

Mrs. Dole, a former cabinet secretary, now heads the American Red Cross.

Because of his surgery less than six weeks ago, Dole remains on a limited schedule. He has returned to his Senate duties, but he told reporters Friday that his regimen included no early-morning or late-night work.

"I thought about it a lot," Dole said of his decision to run. "I wanted to be sure I was in good health. I got this little wake-up call in August or September (when the prostate problem was detected)."

His health, Dole confirmed, "certainly was a factor. I wanted to be healthy."

He said that he asked his physician whether he could come to Kansas to make the announcement and that the doctor approved the trip. Dole also attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at an Environmental Protection Agency regional office building in Kansas City, Kan., and spoke at a luncheon to the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce before coming to Topeka for his announcement.

Flashing some of his famous wit, Dole said that he "ought to be the prostate vote," and that statistics showed that meant one out of every 10 men should vote for him.

Kim Wells, state Republican chairman and a Dole aide in the senator's past campaigns, said Dole had a campaign organization in place but was not prepared to announce who would head it at this time.

Dole said that he did not know who his Democratic opponent would be but that he hoped he would not have to raise much more money for a campaign.

The senator does have opposition in the Republican primary on Aug. 7. He is Richard Rodewald, 55, a retired General Motors worker who now farms near Lawrence.

Dole announcement throws a curve into Glickman plans

The Associated Press
TOPEKA — U.S. Rep. Dan Glickman said Friday that Sen. Bob Dole's decision to seek re-election makes more difficult his own decision whether to challenge the senator or seek re-election.



Glickman

"Now I have a more difficult decision, but I am not being coy when I tell you I have not made it yet," Glickman said in Washington.

The Wichita Democrat said in a statement that he will make a decision soon, but gave no timetable.

If Dole had chosen to retire

from the Senate, Glickman said, he would have eagerly made the race.

According to campaign financial reports, Dole had cash reserves of about \$981,000 in his 1992 re-election committee as of June 30, 1991, which is the latest information available. Glickman's campaign committee had a cash balance of about \$316,500.

The senator's 1986 campaign account had cash reserves of \$979,000, and the Federal Election Commission says most 1986 leftover money can be used in a future political race. Dole has said he expected some of the surplus 1986 campaign money to be paid to the FEC, to settle a dispute over potential overpayment of federal matching money to his 1988 presidential campaign.

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EDITORIALS

We're Behind You Bob!

Good news today ... Bob Dole, Kansas' senior member of the United States Senate, announced in Topeka Friday that he will seek re-election in the primary to be held in August, and, hopefully, in the November general.

This is great news for Russell, for Russell County, for Central Kansas, for all of Kansas, and for the United States.

Dole is the greatest political asset Kansas has ever had, especially since he has mellowed in recent years and turned a little from the far right.

The best part of the news, of course, is that Dole's health has improved to the extent that he can stand the race and the rigors of the office. A healthy guy, he has been through a lot in his lifetime, and it is heartening to his friends to know that he is again healthy and well. He underwent surgery on a cancerous prostate gland on Dec. 18. Luckily, the cancer was in the early stages of development and his surgeons have assured him that they got all of it.

In the last few years Dole has accomplished many things for Central Kansas, for Wichita, for Topeka, and for other cities and counties within Kansas.

Dole will be running for a fifth term. He was first elected to the Senate in 1968, when Sen. Frank Carlson of Concordia retired. He is the Senate minority leader.

We are not surprised at the announcement. We had been of the opinion for some time that if Dole's health permitted, his hat would be in the ring. He's been too close to the nation's capital, had so much power for so long, and loves politics so well, that we could not see him dropping out of the race.

We knew that he could go into private law practice or to work for a large corporation and earn much more than he can as a senator, but we did not feel this would satisfy his interests.

Dole is a driven man, a competitor. He starred in football, basketball and track when he attended Russell High School, and in track during the two years he attended The University of Kansas, and he always fought hard to win.

Two things about Bob define his character: His service record during World War II, and his love of politics.

He suffered wounds on a mountain-side in Italy in 1945 that left him paralyzed, then 39 months and eight operations later he left the hospital with only one kidney, a withered right hand, and a fierce determination to demonstrate his independence.

His war injuries may account for an anomaly in Dole's character. He often shows compassion for the little guy — a cornerstone of his senatorial and presidential campaigns. But he hates to cede control, and can be ruthless to his own staff when members mess up.

Dole, who when he entered KU in 1941 thought he wanted to be a doctor, later chose politics to test himself. He was 26 and a student at Washburn University Law School in Topeka.

"I couldn't go out and play or shoot baskets or play touch football," he later said. "I wanted to get into something in which I could compete — and win."

Bob jokes that he ran his first race as a Republican, bucking his Democrat parents, because the Republicans in the county outnumbered the Democrats.

From his lone term in the Kansas Legislature, Bob climbed the ladder — county attorney for four terms, 1953 through 1960; congressman 1961 through 1967; U.S. senator 1969 to present; vice-presidential nominee in 1976; and presidential candidate in 1980 and 1988.

During the past decade or so there has been widespread agreement that he has matured politically. "He has shown a real capacity to grow," a Democrat strategist says. "You've got to admire that in any politician, because it's so rare."

But one thing hasn't changed: Dole remains, in the words of a GOP col-

league, "One of the most driven men I have ever seen."

His reputation turns on his talent as a master legislator who reconciles the causes of others. He also has shown a flair for expediency.

For many years Dole tacked to the right. He sided with Ronald Reagan on most of the president's favorite issues.

When Dole ran against George Bush for the Republican nomination for the presidency three years ago, he said: "I'm a leader, I'll lead ... people are looking for a leader who has been making decisions for a long time. I make decisions."

But Dole swung on and missed in the New Hampshire primary, and Bush won the White House. During the National Republican Convention in New Orleans, some thought Bob would be picked for the vice-presidency. But Bush passed over him for Dan Quayle.

One of Dole's biggest problems in securing the Republican nomination was that he advocated raising taxes to cure the humongous deficit, and very few, at any time, are ready for increased taxes — unless they are to be paid by someone else.

For some time after the 1988 election, Dole had a deep resentment toward Bush, but he got over it long ago, and has since supported Bush at almost every turn.

Bush and Dole jockeyed for position in their careers for a long time.

Bush was a favorite of Richard M. Nixon, who almost named him as his running mate in 1968. Later Nixon named Bush to chair the Republican National Committee, replacing Dole, who had wanted to keep the job.

Both men wished for the vice-presidency when Spiro Agnew resigned in disgrace, but Nixon picked Gerald R. Ford.

Both hoped again when Ford tagged Nelson Rockefeller for the vice-presidency.

After loyal service as Ford's Central Intelligence Agency director, Bush was crushed when Dole got the call in Kansas City to join Ford on the 1976 ticket.

Four years later, Bush and Dole went head to head again, as both sought the GOP nomination won for the first time by Ronald Reagan. Reagan then picked Bush for the second spot on the ticket.

Dole poured everything he had into his campaign for the presidency in 1988, but he was defeated by New Hampshire's governor, John Sununu.

Bush had been a top athlete in school, the youngest pilot in the Navy, a war hero against the Japanese in the Pacific whose plane was shot down, an oilfield wildcatter, a congressman from Texas, an ambassador to the United Nations, a liaison officer to China, and a politician.

But Dole has given allegiance to the president, to the commander-in-chief of our armed forces, and he has worked diligently for his country and for his party. There's probably no one in the Republican ranks who doesn't owe something to Bob Dole, and the president needs his help and support, and knows he will get it.

Bush wired Dole in Topeka Friday: "Thank God you're running. America needs you. I'll do anything I can to help you."

Bob's decision to run again is not only great news for Kansans and for Republicans in the Senate. It also will be a big morale booster for Republican candidates everywhere.

Good luck Bob! We know that although you will have an opponent in the primary, there's no one who will knock you off track.

In the future, Russell will be able to continue boasting that it is the only city in the United States that has two United States senators, as the county continues to boast that it is the only county in the world with both The Garden of Eden and Paradise located within its borders, and Angels who live in Paradise. — A.D.E.

The Russell Daily News, Saturday, Jan. 25, 1992

Bob Dole's Hat in Ring For a Fifth Senate Term

TOPEKA (UPI) — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, recovering from cancer, Friday ended months of speculation about his political future, confirming that he will run for a fifth term in the U.S. Senate.

The Kansas Republican made the announcement during a brief news conference in Topeka Friday afternoon. In response to a reporter's question on whether he would run again, Dole replied simply, "Yes."

Dole's political plans have been the subject of a political guessing game for months. After a Republican loss in a special senatorial election in Pennsylvania, Dole publicly hinted he might retire. He said the Democratic majority in the Senate was becoming so strong he was no longer enjoying his office.

Dole avoided the issue through the fall, saying he had yet to make a decision on seeking another term.

In December, the 68-year-old

underwent successful surgery for cancer of the prostate and has kept a limited schedule while recovering. He has recently said doctors have pronounced the surgery successful, and he recently began working nearly full days in his office.

Still unclear is whom the Democrats will run against Dole in the fall.

Democratic Congressman Dan Glickman of Wichita has been considering the race. He said he'll make a decision soon on whether to run for the Senate, or seek another term in the House.

Dole traveled to Topeka Friday to participate in annual "Kansas Day" activities. The events, sponsored by the Republican Party, are a traditional time for political announcements from candidates.

In addition to his news conference, Dole also attended the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas annual dinner and left for Washington today.