

Dole shows plenty of campaign vigor

Few were surprised when Sen. Bob Dole announced on Friday that he was seeking re-election this year to his fifth six-year term. The shock would have been if Dole, the consummate political insider, had decided to walk away from the action.



RICH HOOD

Despite the delay in announcing the campaign, Dole had given almost every signal that he intended to remain in political life. The strongest came from his "listening tour" to all 105 Kansas counties last fall.

No politician of Dole's national stature returns to his roots in that kind of marathon if he does not intend to send a clear warning to potential challengers.

The warning was clearly aimed at Dole's longtime pet annoyance, U.S. Rep. Dan Glickman. The Wichita Democrat has lusted for the Senate for nearly two decades but has not yet mustered the courage to take on a sitting senator.

Dole will be 69 in July, the same age Ronald Reagan was when he was elected president. But comparing the energy levels of those two men is as foolish as comparing the force of a Kansas tornado with the inchings of a snail.

Dole is not at full speed now. He is recovering from surgery last month for prostate cancer. He says the only thing that delayed his announcement was a question about his health, a question he says his doctor has assured him has been fully answered with good news.

But when I observed part of Dole's fall visitation, including the sight of aides one-third his age wilting by noon, the senator was clearly driving and thriving on the ordeal. Especially in Dole's original congressional district the pace was exhausting, but he warmed to the greetings of longtime friends. Dole's warning tour clearly had the desired effect on Glickman.

cion of the area chamber of commerce with a lengthy recitation of Dole's accomplishments — including millions in federal projects — for this area of Kansas. "He never strikes out for Kansas," Bond said. "He's our perennial all-star."

Dole's campaign will recite his accomplishments in gaining federal funds and favors for Kansas. But he also will echo his comments on Friday, calling for Congress to work for solutions to problems instead of posturing for political praise.

"The American people are fed up; they are frustrated," Dole said. "They are disappointed with what we are doing or are not doing in Washington."

Dole called for pragmatic compromise on such problems as national health care.

Some of the senator's critics contend Dole's compromises are clichés, that he has been inside the Beltway so long he is more part of the problem than the solution. John T. Bird, Democratic state chairman, makes that argument.

Bird contends the anti-incumbent mood in Kansas could be more powerful this year in Kansas than appreciation for the limited accomplishments he says Dole has to his credit.

"His only claim to fame is that he can pork barrel road projects and he co-sponsored a bill with George McGovern 20 years ago on food stamps," Bird said. "I think he would make a marvelous retired senator."

Now that Dole's health appears on the mend, it will take far more than rhetoric by a professional foe to accomplish the senator's retirement.

When it comes to rhetoric, there are few people inside or outside Kansas who can match the sharp wit and sharp tongue of Bob Dole.

Hood winks

Dole wisecracked about his prostate cancer during appearances Friday in Kansas.

Dole said one of those who called him after his surgery to indicate support was former President Gerald Ford, with whom Dole ran as GOP vice presidential candidate in 1976.

"President Ford called, said 'I had that done five years ago. Don't worry about it,'" Dole paused. "I wouldn't (have worried) if I'd had it five years ago."

President Bush called Dole to inquire about the senator's health. "I told him I was for him," Dole said.

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Dole holds out hope for repeal of luxury tax on small aircraft

By Angella Herrin Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — President Bush probably will recommend repealing the luxury tax on aircraft purchased for personal use when he sends his 1993 budget proposal to Congress this week, Sen. Bob Dole said Monday.

Earlier this week, there were reports that Bush would ask for a repeal of the 10 percent luxury tax on boats priced at more than \$100,000 — a tax that boat-builders blame for a huge slump in sales.

But based on his conversations with White House officials, Dole said Monday he believed Bush would also seek repeal of a similar tax on general aviation.

"I think airplanes will be included in the repeal. I'll be disappointed if they are not," Dole said. "It was never a big revenue raiser ... I'd like to repeal it all."

The 10 percent luxury tax applies not only to boats and planes, but to jewelry, furs and expensive cars. In the airplane category, the tax is applied to planes that cost more than \$250,000 and that are used at least in part for recreation.

The plane tax generated only \$53,000 in fiscal 1991, according to the Internal Revenue Service. But aircraft companies in Wichita say it has hurt sales of mid-range private planes — and has cost several hundred manufacturing jobs — by encouraging pilots to opt for used airplanes, which aren't taxed as luxuries.

"It's a hell of an excuse to buy a used airplane," said Ed Stimpson, who heads the lightplane industry's lobbying association.

The accounting firm of Price Waterhouse figured that the tax applies to between 33 and 100 lightplanes per year, or less than 10 percent of the industry's total output.

Beech Aircraft Corp. officials in Wichita said they lost 52 sales in the first half of 1991 because of the tax, according to the results of the survey by Price Waterhouse.

"We had reported 53 airplanes (worth about \$97 million) in the first six months and Price Waterhouse was able to validate 52 of the 53," said Jim Gregory, director of corporate affairs for Beech.

"In the third quarter, we found another nine airplanes worth about \$15 million," he said.

Gregory said sales of Beech Bonanzas accounted for almost all of the \$53,000 revenue collected by the IRS.

Dole said Monday that he hoped to repeal the entire luxury tax, which was approved by Congress in 1990. "We put in this package to show we're going after the rich. There are other ways to do it that don't put people out of work," Dole said.

Also Monday, state Sen. Eric Yost, R-Wichita, said he had written Bush asking that the luxury tax on airplanes be eliminated.

Dole's Senate staff held a campaign kick-off party in his Capitol Hill office Monday, presenting him with cakes that said "Yes!" — the one-word statement that Dole used Friday to declare his bid for a fifth term in the U.S. Senate.

Dole said he had been "tilting" toward running again for months, but he held back a final decision until two weeks ago, when doctors

assured him that he would need no further treatment following his recent surgery for prostate cancer.

The Kansas Republican said he told no one except his wife, Elizabeth, on the way to the airport Friday, because he did not want advance word to leak out. Dole traveled to Topeka to make his announcement.

"Obviously one way for people to think you forgot where you came from is not to be there when you announce something," Dole said.

While preparing to announce his state campaign organization next week, Dole said, he had been watching the media coverage of the personal life of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton. Dole was a sharp critic of the news media after his 1988 presidential bid, complaining that reporters focused too much on personal inquiries and not enough on issues.

After the 1988 campaign, there were rumors that Dole and Elizabeth, the head of the American Red Cross, were not getting along — rumors which surface from time to time, but are never true, Bob Dole said.

"I'll tell you it's not true, but what do you do?" Dole said. "When you get two careers, she's off doing her thing and I'm off doing my thing, we can't always be together."

"... You got a public life and a private life and there ought to be a wall between. But it's hard to do that."

Contributing: Tom Webb, of The Eagle Washington Bureau, and Dave Higdon, of The Eagle

Dole has \$2 million to pay for campaign

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., had slightly more than \$2 million available for his re-election campaign at the start of the year, according to new financial reports.

That is six times more than the campaign money held by Rep. Dan Glickman, a Wichita Democrat who is considering running for the Senate.

Glickman had a cash reserve of \$312,161 in his campaign treasury at the start of the year, according to a summary of his financial report provided Friday by the Glickman campaign.

Dole listed cash balances of slightly more than \$1 million in each of his two campaign accounts, according to reports filed this week with the secretary of the Senate.

Dole has been raising money with his 1993 re-election campaign committee, but also has money left over in his 1986 Senate campaign



Dole

Dole expects K-State to get funding

Kansas shouldn't worry about Kansas State University losing federal funding for the \$27 million Throckmorton Plant Science Center, Sen. Bob Dole said Friday.

Last year, Congress provided \$1.6 million to continue work on the building. For the government to keep funding half the \$27 million project, another \$4 million would be needed.

That funding and money for such other projects as alfalfa and canola research and the international meat and livestock program at K-State was considered in jeopardy after President Bush's State of the Union speech Tuesday.

Bush unveiled proposals for cutting or

eliminating more than 300 programs.

"In my view, Congress will find some way to provide the funding," Dole said. "I'm 99 percent certain that Congress will make certain we have the funding there."

Dole said he plans to become a spokesman for the American Cancer Society on the need for early detection of prostate cancer, from which he's recovering.

"We've got to get the word out that when men get to be 40 (years old), they need to start having annual checks for this."

He said 30 percent of American men over age 40 have treatable prostate cancer, and 38,000 men die every year from the disease.

account. The Federal Election Commission said most leftover money can be used in future cam-

paigns. But Dole has said that some of the surplus will go to the FEC to settle a dispute over potential overpayment of federal match-

ing monies to Dole's 1988 presidential campaign.

During the last six months of 1991, Dole's campaign collected \$196,000 in contributions and spent about \$161,000. When the money was raised, Dole had not declared whether he would run again. He announced last week that he would seek re-election to another six-year term.

Political action committees, or PACs, provided 69 percent of Dole's contributions, or \$135,850.

PACs sponsored by agricultural or food industry groups contributed almost \$30,000 to Dole.

Among the top PAC contributors to Dole were those sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade, \$5,000; American Bankers Association, \$5,000; and National Food Processors Association, \$5,000.

Most of Dole's individual contributions came from people living outside of Kansas.

Of the contributions itemized on his report, about 10 percent, or \$6,000 came from Kansans.

Dole to meet Yeltsin in Washington

By Alan Montgomery The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole said he was scheduled to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at 2:30 p.m. today at the Russian Embassy in Washington.

"I met with a group of Russian Parliamentarians yesterday," Dole said Friday, in a conference call with Kansas journalists. "There are some pretty scary predictions of what might happen if things go sour in the former Soviet republics."

The concerns include "abuse or misuse" of the nuclear missiles they still have in the various republics, as well as threats of attempted coups by remnants of the Soviet KGB and Communist Party groups.

One "big if" is how long Yeltsin will remain in power, he said.

"The (U.S.) wheat market dropped yesterday because of a rumor of a coup, that they (Russia) had gotten a new leader," he said. "They're not out of the woods, yet."

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Dole

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PACs are formed by corporations, labor unions and trade groups to make contributions to federal candidates using money donated by their employees, members or stockholders.

and he is ready to go.

"I am prepared to do, after a couple of months of taking it easy, to do what I need to do to let the people know I am serious about being re-elected," he said.

Congress most likely will provide money next year for several university research projects in Kansas and to continue work on a plant-science building at Kansas State University, Dole also said. "My view is it's about 99 per-

cent certain that the funding will come," he said.

Dole did not criticize Bush's proposal to scrap the Kansas grants, but he predicted that Congress would ignore it.

"In fact, we're going to be pushing to make certain we get the funding out there," Dole said of the research and building projects. "I think it's pretty safe to say that it's going to happen."

Asked about renewed efforts to secure the release of Warren Commission files on the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy — spurred in large part by Oliver Stone's movie, "JFK" — Dole said he thought the files should be released.

"But I hope not just because some left-wing movie-maker has alleged a conspiracy ... that he dreamed up in some movie."

There are respected leaders in the country who say that the files should be opened, and he agrees with them, he said.

Asked whether he thought Kansas Attorney General Bob Stephan should resign in the wake of his being charged for perjury, Dole said it would be premature for him to comment because he had not had a chance to read about the basis for the charges and Stephan's response to them.