

According to New Hampshire, Dole Looks Like '96 Candidate

By ANDREW C. MILLER
Kansas City Star

WINDHAM, N.H. — On the dais at the Lilac Luncheon of the New Hampshire Federation of Republican Women, Sen. Bob Dole's lunch is growing colder by the minute.

But Dole isn't taking time to eat. He's working feverishly to conquer the greatest nemesis of his long political career — the quirky, conservative, anti-tax species of voter known as the New Hampshire Republican.

"Good to see you," the Kansas Republican booms, stopping at every table to greet the 300 Republicans.

For Dole, 70, the table-hopping trip could mark the beginning of

his third — and presumably last — campaign for president.

Months after his bitter 1988 defeat in the New Hampshire primary by George Bush, the Kansas Republican virtually wrote himself out of presidential politics, saying, "I think it's probably finished for me."

Yet even then he refused to let go, saying: "But you never know."

Now there is a new spring in his step, a new glint in his eye, and a new timbre to his voice. Standing in the sunshine after the Lilac Luncheon overlooking a picturesque lake, Dole acknowledged that he was considering a 1996 run. He said he would decide "probably after the first of the year."

Professing nonchalance, Dole referred to himself as the party's senior scout: "I come up and look around and report back to everybody who has an interest. It takes a while, because there are a lot of people who have an interest."

If his schedule is any indication, though, Dole is not so indifferent. Watching Dole race across a landscape of opportunity, in fact, you'd never suspect a whisper of doubt.

In had been eight months since the widely traveled Dole visited New Hampshire. But it is an important stop for any potential candidate. New Hampshire's primary, the first in the nation, traditionally plays a major role every four years in narrowing the field of presidential contenders. In a 24-hour trip, Dole gave a textbook lesson on maximizing time. He sponsored a fund-raiser for Republican Sen. Bob Smith. He granted interviews to the state's top newspaper, the iconic Manchester Union Leader, and a top television station.

He spoke at the 50th anniversary Lilac Luncheon, a must-do for aspirants in the past. Later he was the featured speaker at a



SEN. BOB DOLE

forum on health care. By sundown he was in Nashua, speaking to the state's premier Chamber of Commerce. Most of the time, he was squired around by the state's top GOP officeholders.

If Dole runs, though, it won't necessarily be easy. He undoubtedly

will face skeptical voters here, who want a younger candidate, a fresher face, a more strident ideological edge.

On the other end of the scale, he can raise big money, important in a system that favors deep pockets. He has name recognition. His political action committee, Campaign America, has hired a savvy operative who knows New Hampshire.

And he's no longer in the shadow of Ronald Reagan or George Bush.

Scanning the GOP field now, many Dole partisans argue that the Kansan is better positioned than ever before.

"There's a lot more electricity now for Bob Dole than there was in 1988," agreed Smith, surveying the lunch crowd. "Dole is perceived as the leader of the Republican Party. That works to his advantage when he talks politics."

Republican Gov. Stephen Merrill said the 1996 race starts off with a clean slate. "Certainly Senator Dole is the front-runner based on his national reputation

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and stature," Merrill said.

Nationally, Dole leads in early soundings. According to a Gallup Poll in March that included possible GOP candidate such as Colin Powell and Ross Perot, Dole was the first choice of Republican voters. He finished ahead of other possible candidates including Dan Quayle, Jack Kemp and Dick Cheney.

That combination of factors means that Dole probably can wait to announce later than other candidates.

"He has the luxury of waiting the longest," said Tom Rath, a GOP activist. "Support he has will wait the longest, because it's the most enduring."

Despite his advantages, Dole will have to fight questions about whether he is right for the times.

"He's had his chance," said Joyce Taylor, a Nashua Republican voter, who wants to give the next generation a look. Taylor said she respected Dole as a Senate GOP leader and voted for him in 1988, but she is ready to look at other GOP candidates.

Ruth Griffin, a GOP national committeewoman, isn't worried about the age issue, but she's heard it mentioned. "They wonder how old he will be in 1996 and at the turn of the century," she said. (He'll be 73 on Election Day 1996.)

More than anything, such worries illustrate potential obstacles for Dole in New Hampshire, a state that has been his Waterloo.

In 1980, coming off his time as a vice presidential nominee in 1976, Dole hoped for a surprise showing. But his organization faltered and he finished with a scant 607 votes — four-tenths of 1 percent, fewer than the write-ins, fewer than any other candidate.

In 1988, he blew out of the Iowa caucuses as a winner. But after surging to overtake Bush in some polls, Dole lost New Hampshire. He is remembered for his bitter reaction — "Stop lying about my record," he told Bush — but that doesn't seem to linger.

"He's not killed himself up here with his loss," said Marc Chretien, a Manchester lawyer who backed Dole in 1988 and is waiting to do so again. "The 1988 primary was hard-fought and George Bush's victory was handed to him with the single-handed assistance of (former Gov.) John Sununu. We don't have to contend with either of those people this time."

Other backers scoff at concern about his age, saying he has the energy of any three politicians.

"Dole is 70, but what really matters is getting the job done," said David Gray of Nashua, a sales marketing representative who sported a Dole button at the Nashua dinner. "At this point it's going to come down to ability, experience and knowledge."

Quayle apologizes for misquoting Dole

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Dan Quayle, whose verbal gaffes made him the butt of many a joke, has apologized for misquoting Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole in Quayle's just-published memoir.

"I am truly sorry for the inaccuracy," Quayle wrote to Dole, a potential adversary in the 1996 Republican presidential race.

Quayle, currently on a 36-city tour to promote the book "Standing Firm," attributed the error to garble in a newspaper article he read while doing research.

In the section on the 1988 presidential campaign and his surprise August selection as George Bush's running mate, Quayle wrote, "while I was at church,



Dole

Quayle

some members of my own party were zinging me on the national talk shows."

"When Bob Dole was told that Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania had made supportive remarks about me, he responded, 'I'll bet he was chauffeured to kindergarten, too.'"

In parentheses, Quayle added:

"Remarks like this are one reason Bob Dole has never moved from the Senate to the White House."

Last week, Dole read over the excerpt and fired off a letter to Quayle, saying that "the passage concerning me on pages 44-45 is not accurate."

Dole, R-Kan., said he checked transcripts of an August 1988 appearance on NBC's "Meet The Press" — Quayle's reference to the "national talk shows" — and found no such comment.

In an Aug. 22, 1988, story in the Los Angeles Times, however, Dole did utter the kindergarten quote, but he was referring to Bush, not to Quayle. The quote came during Dole's bruising primary battle against Bush for the GOP presidential nomination.

In a letter Thursday to Dole, Quayle said the mistake was traced to "a garbled version of the Los Angeles Times article which you referenced."

"The error I made will be corrected in future printings of the book and in paperback editions," Quayle wrote.

He also praised Dole for his emotional eulogy at former President Nixon's funeral and mentioned a get-together with Republican senators in the fall. The two shared a flight after Nixon's funeral.

"In the meantime, keep our team together," Quayle wrote. "We need you now more than ever."

There are several other sections on Dole in "Standing Firm," including a passing mention that even one of Quayle's children expected the Kansas Republican to be chosen as Bush's running mate in 1988.

Early in the book, Quayle describes Dole as "a complicated man."

"He is a smart political pro who is not driven by ideology," Quayle wrote. "The media dwells on his toughness but he has an emotional side, too."

Quayle admitted in the book making verbal gaffes while vice president, but blamed his reputation on a news media more concerned with "repetition of trivia, even untrue trivia."

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Dole: 'Smooth sailing' ahead for court nominee

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole offered high praise Friday and a prediction of "smooth sailing" through confirmation for President Clinton's nominee to the Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge Stephen Breyer of Massachusetts, Clinton's pick,

had been Dole's top choice among the three reputed leading contenders for Justice Harry Blackmun's seat.

"In Judge Breyer, President Clinton has selected a top-notch intellect and a person of integrity," Dole, R-Kan., said after Clinton announced the nomination Friday evening. "Unless something unforeseen happens, I see smooth sailing ahead for Judge Breyer's confirmation."

Dole questions Russian wheat policy

By Ray Hemman

The Hutchinson News

By not being vigilant in trade with Russia, the United States has frittered away the chance to make wheat sales to the country and could lose more opportunities if the proper action isn't taken, according to Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.

On Monday, Dole wrote a letter to President Clinton, outlining his concerns about the extension of credit for buying grain to the Russians.

"I said, 'Let's get our deal ready,'" Dole said of the letter Friday in a telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "They (Russia) had a couple little problems — had to ... pay some more interest. They didn't think that would be too much of a problem. It was only a few million dollars."

"But unfortunately, they just bought 750,000 metric tons (27.6 million bushels of wheat) this Monday from Australia. They've not resubmitted their bid for U.S.



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— Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.

wheat. Of course, when they bought that (Australian) wheat, it drove most U.S. grain prices down."

"My view is that we may have missed an opportunity because we weren't prepared."

The administration apparently believes that the Russians first must correct all their problems in terms of interest payments before credit packages will be prepared.

"My view is that we should have had a package and said, 'The minute you take care of this, this is what we will do.' In the meantime, we lost a sale."

Dole said he had not yet gotten a reply from the administration about the letter.

"We haven't heard back from the Russians, either," he said. "There are still some opportunities. They didn't seem to think, when I met with them, that they had any big problems — that they could work all this out. I think they want to do business with us because they have other interests. They'd like some of the other Aid to Democracy programs continued."

Also during the press conference, Dole said that the president should have received a clear

message from the Senate on the direction the United States needs to take with Bosnia. The Senate minority leader said he did not believe Clinton was being sent contradictory messages despite two votes on resolutions that could appear to be contradictory.

In the first vote Thursday, senators voted 50-49 to lift the United Nations' arms embargo against Bosnia unilaterally. The second vote, also on a 50-49 margin, requires Clinton to once more seek U.N. and NATO support for lifting the embargo before consulting Congress on further steps. "Many people who didn't vote for our amendment (the vote to lift the embargo) privately wanted to vote for it," he said. "They said afterwards publicly that we'd done the right thing. We either have to have a policy or say we don't have any policy. I think it's a pretty clear message that we are not satisfied with the way President Clinton has handled the Bosnian matter."

A letter from the prime minis-

ter of Bosnia asked the United States not to make the same mistakes as other countries have made in maintaining the arms embargo and to lift the embargo. The Bosnians have one rifle for every four soldiers and eight tanks to the Serbs' 300, the prime minister stated in the letter.

"I just can't understand why we won't let people defend themselves," Dole said.

On another international hot spot, Dole said he hoped the United States would not invade Haiti because doing so would be "bad policy." The United States has no significant interests in that country other than it would like to help the impoverished people there.

Dole suggested sending a non-partisan fact-finding mission to Haiti, similar to the commission that went to El Salvador, which, he said, "paid dividends."

Such a mission would look at the people and government and then make recommendations to Congress.

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Dole: U.S. must remain 'cop on beat'

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Leading by example isn't always enough: the nation must remain prepared to intervene in world affairs with military force and diplomacy, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole told The Citadel's graduating class Saturday.

"There will be times when America's interests are at stake, when freedom is threatened, when, like it or not, we are the only cop on the beat," said Dole, the minority leader in the Senate.

Dole, considered a likely presidential candidate in 1996, said although the burden of leadership is heavy, the United States can't be just another member of NATO or the United Nations.

"Military strength and diplomatic resolve are essential to successful leadership. Without them, our example — no matter how meritorious — will be rejected or ignored," Dole said. "And we also lead by using our economic and moral influence to bring about change as we did in South Africa."

Dole told the 419 graduating cadets that as a young soldier during World War II, he respected Gen. Mark Clark, who commanded the U.S. Fifth Army in Europe that included Dole's Tenth Mountain Division. Clark later became president of The Citadel.

Dole said D-Day marked the beginning of a half-century of American leadership that was worth its cost in money and lives.



Dole

Monday, May 16, 1994 THE WICHITA EAGLE 3A

Dole, Mitchell recommend sanctions against N. Korea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate's two highest-ranking lawmakers, responding to North Korea's latest disregard of international nuclear conventions, said Sunday they support imposing economic sanctions on the Pyongyang government.

"I believe that we cannot tolerate the actions that are occurring without any response at all," said Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine. He called economic sanctions "the most prudent and likely effective response at the current time."

North Korea said Saturday it has begun replacing fuel rods at an experimental nuclear reactor without international inspectors present, which would be a violation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The International Atomic Energy Agency had demanded a presence when the rods were replaced to determine whether North Korea had extracted plutonium, which can be used to make nuclear weapons, from the spent fuel.

"We've been in this cat-and-mouse game with North Korea now for about the last 15 months," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, who appeared with Mitchell on NBC's "Meet The Press." He said he still hoped the issue of North Korea's stonewalling over its reported nuclear weapons program could be resolved. "But failing that, I think sanctions should be imposed."

The Koreans withdrew the fuel from a 5-megawatt reactor at its



Of all the foreign policy problems around the world, Sen. Bob Dole said, "this is the most serious."

Yongbyon complex, widely considered Western intelligence to be the center of the Korean effort to build nuclear weapons.

The CIA has concluded that North Korea may have already diverted enough plutonium from fuel withdrawn in 1989 to make one or two nuclear bombs.

The agency, which is to send a delegation to Yongbyon this week to check other facilities, says that without taking samples of the freshly

removed spent fuel, it will be virtually impossible to tell whether North Korea has diverted significant amounts of plutonium.

White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty, speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, said the administration would wait for the agency's report from its trip before deciding whether to push for U.N. sanctions. "If that report is not what is should be, then we will consider all of our options, including sanctions, but right now we need more information."

Both Mitchell and Dole ruled out any immediate pre-emptive military strike on North Korea. But Mitchell said economic sanctions should be pushed despite North Korean threats and even if China, one of North Korea's few allies, objects.

North Korea has said that sanctions would be an act of war, but Mitchell said, "I don't think we can back off economic sanctions because they say that 'If you do that, we'll do something else.'"

Dole, R-Kan., said it is crucial that the United States enlist China's support for sanctions against North Korea, and that is one reason to end the link between U.S. trade policy and China's human rights record.

"We're talking about something here that could lead to an international conflict, and I think it's very important we try to bring China on board," he said.

Mitchell said China has not met all the criteria President Clinton set down a year ago in extending most-favored-nation trade status.