

THE WICHITA EAGLE Thursday, September 24, 1992

✓ Dole promises to attend two debates in October

By John Hanna
Associated Press

TOPEKA — Sen. Bob Dole plans to participate with his opponents in two October campaign forums sponsored by public broadcasting stations, his campaign said Wednesday.

The first is Oct. 11, produced by High Plains Public Radio, station KANZ-FM in Garden City. The second is Oct. 17, produced by television station KTUU in Topeka.

Officials at both stations said they hope the events will have a statewide audience.

through broadcasts on other public stations in Kansas. Under their plans, four journalists would question the candidates.

Gloria O'Dell, the Democratic nominee, has repeatedly criticized Dole for what she said was his reluctance to participate in forums. She has agreed to participate in the two events. Libertarian Mark Kirk also has accepted the stations' invitations, but independent candidate Christina Campbell-Cline has not yet agreed to participate.

"I hope these debates will give Kansas voters the opportunity they deserve to

find out where all of the candidates stand on the issues," Dole said in a statement.

The two events apparently are the only ones in which Dole plans to participate. Kathy Peterson, his campaign spokeswoman, did not say Dole would not accept others but added, "We think two is an excellent number."

O'Dell also has criticized Dole for not participating Sept. 19 in a Hutchinson forum sponsored by United We Stand, America, supporters of former presidential candidate Ross Perot. Dole said the event's format was unfair.

O'Dell has repeatedly tried to paint Dole as a career politician whose nearly 30 years in Congress have left him out of touch with ordinary Kansans. She indicated she has no plans to stop trying to make forums an issue.

"Why aren't there more?" she said. "Two debates? Shame."

Colleen Condron, KANZ's news director, said Campbell-Cline had declined the station's invitation to participate in the forum because it would not let her review the journalists' questions in advance.

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Dole hints he has more coattails than Clinton

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

Reports that Sen. Bob Dole would win a two-way race for president with Bill Clinton should be good news for fellow Republicans who are seeking office in 1994.

"I don't think polls mean a great deal at this time," the Kansas Republican Dole said Friday during a telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "But it is an indication of his weakness, not his strength necessarily. Clinton is vulnerable, no doubt."

"I just saw one of my Democratic colleagues, Sen. Kent Conrad, running an ad in North Dakota that he votes more like Bob Dole than he does Bill Clinton. That's not an accurate ad, but there's a feeling that Clinton can't help them that much this year. When a Democrat starts relying on a Republican in a Senate race, there is something



Dole

happening out there."

For Dole, the encouraging signs in a poll released earlier this week were that his "negatives" were low and his "positives" are high — both indicators of how the public perceives the Russell native. Dole is considered by many as a likely candidate for president in 1996.

The only potential candidate with higher positives was Gen. Colin Powell, who hasn't declared a party affiliation or even if he is interested in the presidency.

"His favorable ratings were out in the stratosphere because he hasn't taken a position on any of the issues," Dole said. "When you are the leader of the Republican Party, you have to take a lot of heat. So I've had to pay a price for leadership, but the American people expect us to do what we have to do."

The poll also showed that if there were a three-way race among Dole, Clinton and independent Ross Perot, Clinton would win. Dole said he did not believe that Perot would run again for the presidency.

Nevertheless, candidates will have to deal with the Perot factor.

"We are meeting with the United We Stand people," Dole said. "Some of the surveys have shown that 80 percent of the Perot voters are voting for Republican candidates for Congress. That's very encouraging. Perot is still a factor. He likes what he is doing. He's always able to criticize anybody in government or anything the government does. So he has an ideal platform."

Perot may have a chance to criticize Congress for inaction in the fall elections. Dole said he does not believe most of the front-runner issues facing Congress will be acted upon before the October recess.

And the October recess probably will be an adjournment for the session, Dole added.

"We are told this morning that Sen. (Ernest) Hollings (D-S.C.), chairman of the Commerce Committee, said that the telecommunications legislation was dead for the year," Dole said. "I met with all the major telephone companies this morning. We'd like to deregulate, not re-regulate all these things. So we are working with Senator Hollings, but unless

he accepts our regulatory amendment we couldn't help him."

"I think Superfund is dead for the year because it is a tax bill, and a lot of people are concerned about tax bills. They can be amended on the floor. Health care, Democrats may not say so, but yesterday was the first-year anniversary. My view is that it is not going anywhere. ... Campaign finance will not go anywhere this year because it is designed to help the Democrats."

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is a possibility, and Congress will pass the regular appropriations bills. Oct. 7 is "D-Day — Departure Day" for Congress and only an international emergency such as Haiti might convince congressional leaders to return for a session after the Nov. 8 elections.

As for GATT, Dole said it would not hurt to wait on passage of enabling legislation until 1995 even though Clinton has made it his top priority. At 22,000 pages, nobody has looked at GATT in its entirety.

"Will it pass? I think it could pass, but it will be close," he said.

The Salina Journal
Saturday, October 8, 1994

Congress given mixed assessments

Little legislation passed in final hours

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress praised itself Friday, denounced itself and complained that the public misunderstood it, while crawling toward adjournment with hardly any votes on anything.

The most decisive action was a Republican victory. The Senate voted not to vote on legislation requiring lobbyists to register and report who pays them and prohibiting members of Congress from accepting gifts and golf junkets. The measure died after the Senate fell 10 votes short of the 66 needed to break a Republican-led filibuster against the bill, which the House passed last week.

Then the Senate moved on, wallowing in four more Republican filibusters, against three Air Force promotions and a bill to protect the California desert.

All day long, more energy and imagination went into analyzing the results of the 103rd Congress than legislating. Indeed, the analyzing began at midday even though no one knew whether the legislative record for this Congress (except for the scheduled post-election session on trade legislation) would be completed Friday night, Saturday or even Sunday.

Sen. George Mitchell of Maine, the majority leader, said, "We believe the record of the 103rd Congress will be one of significant accomplishment, particularly in four areas: economic growth, trade, education and crime."

Like most Democrats who sounded off Friday, he accused Republicans of adopting "a policy of total obstruction."

Republican leaders in the House also claimed success, but from a very different perspective. "We can be proud of this session," said Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, the deputy leader. "We were able to stop the big spending last spring. We were able to stop the worst parts of the crime bill."

"It is not obstructionist," Gingrich said. "It is interpreting the will of the American people."

Speaker Thomas Foley of Washington also claimed great, though misunderstood, accomplishment. "In area after area, this Congress has done extraordinary, even historic work," he said. Asked why the public did not appear to share that perception, he lashed out at the press, saying Congress had been "poorly reported."

"We pass record, historic education bills, they go on page 8, or they go on page 4," Foley said. "On the other hand, if something is blocked in the Senate, again, it goes on page 1."

Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, the Republican leader, was one of the very few to offer a mixed report card. He recalled bipartisan cooperation with Clinton, from the North American Free Trade Agreement "to the Russian reconstruction program to approving all the appropriations bills before the new fiscal year to rapid approval of the president's Cabinet and Supreme Court nominees — there were many areas of bipartisan cooperation."

He continued: "It goes without saying that there were also issues of disagreement. The so-called stimulus package. The budget. Health care reform. The crime bill. Campaign finance reform. Republicans make no apologies for trying to protect the American taxpayer from bad legislation in each of these areas."

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Dole: Oil makes the difference between sending military troops to Kuwait, Haiti

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

As Kuwaiti leaders met Friday in emergency session to discuss a buildup of Iraqi troops near their border, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said there clearly was a difference in America intervention in Kuwait and U.S. operations in Haiti.



Dole

"We shouldn't be doing any of this alone," the Senate minority leader said during a telephone press conference Friday. "That's what bothers me. ... In Haiti, we say we've got all this multinational force. We've got 260 people down there from 17 islands. We've got 20,000. That's supposed to be a multinational force."

"There is a national interest in the Kuwait area because of the oil fields. You don't drive oil prices up to \$100 a barrel. That would wreck our economy. So there is a big, big difference between the Gulf and Haiti. There isn't any national interest in Haiti. Zippo. There's none. But in that part of the world (the Middle East), we've got big-time interests, economic interests. Sometimes you have to fight for those interests."

Dole said he was following developments in the Middle East closely. If Saddam Hussein persists in building up forces near the Iraq/Kuwait border, the Iraqi leader will have to accept the consequences, Dole said.

"I think Saddam Hussein may not be on his last legs, but he is still reeling from the Gulf War, which was successfully carried out. But I would hope he has learned his lesson. There is no question in my mind the international community will have to respond. That means the United States will be involved."

The Kansas continued his criticism of Clinton administration policies in Haiti. Dole said he thought congressional resolutions on Haiti were "fairly specific" even though they did not include any dates for withdrawal.

Setting a date in the resolutions would be "buying into" the president's "flawed" policy, he said.

"As far as we are concerned, the troops shouldn't be there today. They shouldn't have been there yesterday. And they ought to be home tomorrow. Our position is, there is no American interest in Haiti, no national interest, no security interest, no

American lives threatened. We are going to spend hundreds of millions of dollars there. We've got 20,000 troops there."

"I must say (that) the same Democrats who are up here now (and who) say what a great effort this was, in the Reagan years were not willing to let us send 55 Americans to El Salvador. That's the most we could ever have there. That country now is democratic. You can't have 55, but it's all right to have 20,000. I think President Clinton made a mistake, and he was bailed out by Gen. (Colin) Powell and President Carter. But it was still a mistake."

Also during the press conference, Dole said he hoped Clinton would find a replacement quickly for Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy even though he understands the administration wants to wait until after the election. Espy announced he was resigning the position on Monday, effective Dec. 31, because of an investigation into gifts he is alleged to have taken from corporations the Department of Agriculture regulates.

Dole said he hopes Clinton might find a candidate from the Midwest who would be sensitive to issues related to the 1995 farm bill.

The Salina Journal Thursday, September 29, 1994 5

Dole: Let's deal with health care in '95

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers "ought to be whacked" if they don't pass a scaled-down, bipartisan health bill next year, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Wednesday.

But this time the White House should let Congress initiate the legislation instead of producing a "gigantic package that people don't understand," he said.

Democratic leaders on Monday gave up on health legislation for the year and accused Dole and other Republicans of blocking the path to reform. The GOP leader countered that the public just didn't buy President Clinton's approach.



Dole

proach.

Dole, addressing the Generic Pharmaceutical Industry Association, was asked about a pollster's suggestion that nothing will happen on health reform in 1995 because the Republicans don't want to hand Clinton a victory.

"I don't see it that way at all," replied the Kansas Republican. "We're prepared to be responsible and responsive."

There may be a few Republicans "who don't want to do anything," he acknowledged, but there are also some Democrats "who want to do everything."

"Write me down as somebody who wants to deal with the issue," Dole said. "Different people have different agendas. But I think if we don't respond ... we ought to be whacked."

"We've got health care problems. ... Why don't we fix them?"

he asked, singling out insurers' restrictions on people with pre-existing conditions, lack of portability of coverage, malpractice litigation and small-business difficulties buying insurance.

"I've left my fingerprints on a lot of health care legislation when Jimmy Carter was around and other Democratic presidents," Dole said. "It won't work if they 'try to force feed us and overdose us.'"

Dole told the generic drugmakers that President Clinton "is in a trough" and the upcoming elections look good for the Republicans.

"That's the way it works. You have good cycles and bad cycles. This is our good cycle," Dole said. "We may not have another one for 100 years. ... We want to take advantage of this one."

But "regardless of the makeup

of Congress ... let's let Congress initiate" the health reform legislation next year, Dole said.

He said Congress also needs to do something to contain costs. He questioned why taxpayers subsidize 75 percent of the Medicare Part B premiums for all the elderly, including millionaires.

Earlier, the Senate Finance Committee rejected attempts by Dole and other Republicans to attach to the Superfund environmental cleanup bill an amendment reviving a 25 percent health insurance deduction for the self-employed.

The deduction expired at the end of 1993 and was supposed to have been expanded as part of health reform.

Leaders in both parties say they intend to get it back on the books, if not this year then early in 1995.

6-C The Topeka Capital-Journal, Friday, October 7, 1994

Kansas bloc tries to spare drinking water bill from Dole

■ Senator's provision over property rights could kill bill helpful to small water systems

By CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With time running out for compromise, a Kansas coalition is mounting a last-minute effort to persuade Congress to pass a safe drinking water bill that would reduce rules on small water systems.

The coalition, which includes environmentalists, cities and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is urging Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole not to allow the measure to die in the waning days of this congressional session.

"We are united in our belief that the current law must be reformed," the coalition wrote to the Kansas Republican in a letter dated Tuesday.

The measure, the groups wrote, "will provide much needed relief and cost savings to the state of Kansas and the consumers of the 1,300 Kansas public water supplies, particularly the many small systems."

Rep. Jim Slattery, a Kansas Democrat who is running for governor, said Dole and Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., have included amendments to the drinking water bill that could jeopardize its final passage.

"The support for this bill is truly unprecedented," Slattery said. "We have forged a solid consensus on an important bill that should be enacted this year. I don't want to see all of our time and effort go to waste."

Congress is scheduled to adjourn today.

Dole hasn't voiced opposition to the drinking water measure, but it is among President Clinton's high-priority environmental bills. And Republicans haven't been kind to the president's agenda in recent weeks.

The amendment Dole attached to the Senate version involves the effect of government regulation on private property rights.

Dole favors the Senate version and supports the "ongoing dialogue" to reach compromise, spokesman Clarkson Hine said.

The groups signing the letter to Dole were the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Kansas Association

of Counties, the Kansas Sierra Club, the Kansas Rural Water Association and the Kansas Section of American Waterworks.

"We urge you to allow passage

and to resist any extraneous amendments which might diminish the chances to pass safe drinking water reforms this year," their letter said.