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Dole supports Clinton with military

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican leader Bob Dole joined the nation's top military officer Sunday in disputing Sen. Jesse Helms' claim that President Clinton is not capable of leading the U.S. armed forces.

"I had some reservations early on, but I think he's up to the job now," said Dole, the next Senate majority leader.

Clinton's ability as commander in chief, long an issue because of his Vietnam era anti-war activities, was questioned again Friday by Helms, R-N.C., who alleged during a CNN interview that military leaders share his view that the president is not "up to the job."

That drew a quick response Saturday from Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. John Shalikashvili, who called The Washington Post and The New York Times to defend Clinton.

"I think it's important to me that this view not be represented as that of the military leadership, or for that matter, the view of the



The Associated Press
Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., says he supports President Clinton as commander in chief.

military as a whole," he said.

Shalikashvili said he did not want to "pick a fight" with Helms, who is in line to be the next chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

But Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., a member of the committee, charged that Helms was "coming close to aiding and abetting insubordination" of the nation's chosen commander in chief.

"I think it's very, very reckless. I regret deeply that he said it and I would hope he would apologize," Dole said.

Dole, R-Kan., who has been a sharp critic of the administration in such areas as Bosnia and Haiti, said, "Jesse was just giving his opinion."

Dole said his view is that "he is the commander in chief. I think he's done a little better with Haiti, maybe with the Mideast. I think he's doing better all the time."

Another conservative Republican senator, Orrin Hatch of Utah, said he has been "very alarmed and concerned by some of the foreign policies of this administration," and that he could understand Helms' feelings about Clinton's abilities.

"I personally believe the president has been doing better in for-

sign policy over the last while" and "we have to back whoever is president," Hatch said.

Clinton has long had a tenuous relationship with the military because of his history of protesting the Vietnam War and avoiding the draft when he was a young man. His support in the military further eroded early in his presidency when he tried to lift the ban on gays in the services and promoted deep cutbacks in defense spending.

Iran-Contra figure Oliver North, during his unsuccessful race against Democratic incumbent Chuck Robb for a Virginia senate seat, caused a stir when he said Clinton was "not my commander in chief." But the former Marine colonel's remarks won little support among his Republican colleagues.

Shalikashvili said he had worked with Clinton during "difficult deliberations and have always found him able to understand Helms' feelings about Clinton's abilities.

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WEDNESDAY ■ NOVEMBER 23, 1994 ■ THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

Dole backs GATT

Clinton changes will give U.S. a way out of world trade pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader-in-waiting Bob Dole delivered crucial support to a new world trade agreement today after the Clinton administration agreed to safeguards to protect U.S. sovereignty in trade disputes.

"I'm prepared to support it in any way I can," Dole told an appreciative President Clinton at a White House ceremony. He predicted a "big, big vote" for it in the Senate.

The Kansas senator also abandoned his earlier effort to link a vote on the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) with an unrelated measure to cut capital gains taxes.

"We have moved one step closer to gaining broad, bipartisan support for GATT," Clinton said.

Dole's support was a major victory for the Clinton administration, removing what had been a major potential barrier to approval of the pact next week in the lame-duck Congress.

Clinton has called the trade liberalization agreement the first test since the GOP landslide earlier this month of Congress' ability to reach bipartisan common ground.

Dole's effort to link the GATT vote with approval of a GOP plan to cut capital gains taxes could have torpedoed the trade deal, due for a vote next week.

Dole was quick to predict that the pact, which lowers tariffs and other trade barriers worldwide, would win Senate approval.

Clinton expressed "deep thanks" to Dole, but took no questions in the hastily-called Rose Garden ceremony.

For his part, Dole said that, with agreements by the White House on enforcement details of the pact, we have "fixed it as much as we can."

"It was never my purpose to kill GATT — I wanted to fix it," Dole said.

He said he would write letters to all Republican senators urging its approval. "In my view, we should all be in support of GATT when it comes up next week," Dole said.

Clinton said he had agreed to Dole's request for a mechanism to make it easier for the United States to withdraw from the World Trade Organization, which would be set up to police the accord reached under GATT.

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Clinton says no to Dole's deal on GATT for tax cut

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton rejected attempts by Senate Republican leader Bob Dole to link passage of a world trade agreement to a GOP-backed capital gains tax cut. "I disagree that there should be some deal cut," he said Tuesday.

But with a vote nearing on the historic accord, Clinton reiterated his pledge to work with Republicans after the Nov. 8 midterm elections that gave the GOP control of Congress. "There are a lot of areas where we can work together with the Republicans," he said.

"We can finish the battle that this administration began with the last Congress to change what I would call yesterday's government."

The president also clarified his position on school prayer, saying he opposed a constitutional amendment but favored the idea of allowing moments of silence in classrooms. The comment marked a break from incoming Republican

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who has embraced the amendment.



The Associated Press
President Clinton talks Tuesday during a news conference with Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma.

"I do not believe that we should have a constitutional amendment to carve out and legalize teacher or student-led prayer in the classroom," Clinton said at a news conference with Ukraine Presi-

dent Leonid Kuchma. "I think that is inherently coercive."

He left open the possibility last week of supporting a school-prayer amendment, but drew fire from civil libertarians and some in his own party.

On his meeting with Kuchma, Clinton said the United States' \$900 million two-year aid package will help Ukraine reform its economy and carry out its promise to get rid of all its nuclear weapons.

The Ukraine parliament voted last week to comply with an international nuclear accord, a move Clinton said "is a major step toward ensuring that nuclear missiles will never again be targeted at the children of our nations."

Domestic issues and politics came up repeatedly at the news conference.

Clinton addressed a potential dispute inside his Cabinet. Labor Secretary Robert Reich said earlier Tuesday that the administration was ready to take on what Reich called "corporate welfare," some \$11 billion in tax breaks handed out to American companies. But Commerce Secretary Ron Brown curtly said he did not know about the plan.

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White House balks at Dole demand

WASHINGTON — A global trade accord emerged Monday as a potent test between President Clinton and Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole, whose demand for a capital-gains tax cut escalated the issue beyond conservative concerns for American sovereignty.

No sooner had Dole suggested linking the two over the weekend than White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta shot down the suggestion. "I don't think he's going to get a commitment from us that we're going to suddenly support a capital-gains tax cut, par-

ticularly as part of" the trade accord, Panetta said.

Asked about the rebuff, Dole said Monday, "He only took one shot at it. He can fire again."

On political grounds, many congressional Democrats oppose a cut in the capital-gains tax, which is levied on the profits of sales of stocks and other assets. House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt said Republicans were interfering their "favorite giveaway for the rich" into the debate over a trade agreement. He said 72 percent of the benefits would go to taxpayers earning \$100,000 a year or more.

At the same time, Clinton has pushed hard for passage of the trade agreement, which is scheduled for a vote next week, and rejection would be a blow to his prestige.

Several White House officials said that while talks continue with Dole on other issues, Panetta's comments stand on a capital-gains tax cut. Lobbying for the accord during the day, Vice President Al Gore said, "This is a big fight. It's going to be hard-fought and close."

Capital gains aside, officials said Dole and the administration were making progress in addressing other subjects that would be included in legislation to be passed separately in 1995.

Dole also is seeking protection for the wheat industry that's important to the economy in his home state of Kansas, as well as for an oil seed industry that wants guarantees of federal help if exports drop.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole is offering support for continued foreign aid to Israel and the potential deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights.

Seeking backing from other leaders of the GOP-led Congress that will be seated in January, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was making the rounds on Capitol Hill. He also was meeting with Defense Secretary William Perry, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros and other Clinton administration officials on a busy two-day visit here.

On Monday, President Clinton assured Rabin he would ask Congress to keep U.S. aid at the \$3-billion-a-year level and to approve new funding for an anti-missile defense system.

Reports in Israel quoted U.S. officials as saying the United States will complete the transfer of \$250 million in money previously pledged to help undergird Palestinian rule in the Gaza Strip by the end of the year and seek release of \$125 million next week when donor countries meet in Brussels to discuss the Palestinian situation.

"We are going to have a very robust security relationship," Clinton said after an 80-minute meeting in the Oval Office that centered on lagging peace talks between Israel and Syria.

That view was echoed by Dole, R-Kan., who will become Senate majority leader. "I would hope and I would guess that at this time of great tension in the Middle East where we're trying to achieve peace there wouldn't be any effort to reduce the level of aid," he said at a meeting Monday with Rabin.

Reassuring Rabin on another point as well, Dole said he would be inclined to "work with the president and the prime minister" on deploying American troops on the Golan Heights as part of an international force to monitor any Israeli-Syrian accord.