

GOP senators keep Dole as leader

Democrats elect Daschle as their minority leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans chose Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., as majority leader today but dumped Sen. Alan Simpson as whip in favor of a younger and more conservative Sen. Trent Lott.

Democrats selected Sen. Thomas Daschle today as their minority leader, opting for an amiable lawmaker with scant experience in the national limelight.

Daschle, a two-term South Dakota Democrat, defeated the more feisty, combative Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., to succeed Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, who is retiring. The vote was 24-23.

"We will offer constructive alternatives, not gridlock," said Daschle. "We stand to offer vigorous opposition to

extreme proposals. We will fight against proposals that are meanspirited."

Lott, R-Miss., who won on a 27-26 vote, said he was "honored that I will be able to serve with our majority leader (Dole) ... he's been such a fantastic leader ... I also am committed to working across the aisle, to working with the leadership there."

"I'll do anything he has in mind to assist him in his work," said Simpson. "He is what the party has asked for at this time, a change in leadership and change perhaps in style."

The leadership votes today by lawmakers who will begin official business in January could affect the tone and politics of the chamber for the next several years.

The tall, gangly Simpson has been Dole's No. 2 man since 1985. Now 63, his relaxed manner is spiced with a sharp, folksy wit that has sometimes

gotten him into clashes — frequently with the press.

His credentials are mostly conservative, although he has favored abortion rights.

Lott, 53, is a hard-charging former House whip with close ties to incoming House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. He is also an ally of Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who is likely to challenge Dole for the GOP presidential nomination in 1996.

Lott's combative style is in tune with the Senate's growing cadre of younger, more conservative Republicans.

Since March, Daschle, 46, has been campaigning for the leader's job methodically and behind the scenes — which has long been his style.

A senator since 1987 after eight years in the House, his work for agriculture and veterans programs has gained him little public attention.

Dole a major GATT advocate

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Once a skeptic, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole is now a key proponent of a new world trade treaty, but others in the Kansas congressional delegation remained undecided Monday as a House vote neared.

In the House, Republican Reps. Pat Roberts and Jan Meyers indicated that they would support the 123-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which was scheduled for a vote Tuesday.

Among the two lame-duck Democrats, Rep. Jim Slattery was undecided and Rep. Dan Glickman remained opposed, aides said Monday.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., was studying Dole's agreement with President Clinton aimed at addressing several key issues, including GATT's impact on U.S. sovereignty.

Despite critical newspaper ads and threats from Ross Perot to start a third political party if GATT is approved, Dole said he expects that there will be 60 votes in the Senate needed to pass the treaty Thursday.

A key feature of the Dole-Clinton agreement is establishment of a way for the United States to back out of GATT's World Trade Organization if rulings in trade disputes threaten U.S. interests.

"My intention was always to fix it, never to kill it," Dole said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" program.

Meyers said the changes ensure Congress has sufficient oversight of GATT and that other countries will not be able to undermine U.S. environmental and labor laws.

Dole attending NATO meetings

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole is visiting London and Brussels for two days of meetings on the post-Cold War role of NATO, the war in Bosnia and the deployment of U.S. Army divisions in Europe. One of the key meetings will be Wednesday in London with British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Dole will discuss U.S. differences with Britain over the Bosnian conflict.

"One of the keys to a healthy alliance has been close U.S. and British ties," said Dole, R-Kan. "I hope we can narrow our differences over Bosnia and reaffirm

our commitment to a credible NATO."

At North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters in Brussels, Dole will meet Tuesday with NATO Secretary General Willie Claes and Supreme Allied Commander George Joulwan to discuss the alliance's future in light of the Bosnian war.

"NATO's inability to respond to a war of aggression in southeastern Europe raises serious questions about NATO's ability to expand to central and eastern Europe," Dole said. "Without strong American leadership, NATO cannot bridge the differences within the alliance."

Dole plans to return Wednesday night to Washington.

"These safeguards on the authority of the WTO ease my concerns with the sovereignty question and make me much more comfortable with GATT," Meyers said.

As for Perot — who last week staged a major anti-GATT rally in Wichita, Kan. — Dole said the treaty was not much of an issue during the recent political campaigns.

"He can certainly start a third party, I hope he would not," Dole said. "He asked for Republicans to be elected. He didn't say ... if they oppose GATT. He didn't make that a condition."

Of perhaps greater interest in Kansas, Dole extracted promises from the Clinton administration not to cut agricultural subsidies to a

greater extent than any other government programs. Dole obtained commitments to improve the Export Enhancement Program and for oilseed products to be get export promotion funds.

"We're willing to go on the block like everybody else, but we don't want all the cuts coming out of agriculture," Dole said.

National Association of Wheat Growers President Judy Olson said Monday that White House support for the EEP program was crucial for wheat producers.

Glickman, who was defeated in his bid for a 10th term, opposed the agreement before the election and had not signaled any change of heart by Monday.

King of the hill

Dole faces juggling act as majority leader

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas was elected unanimously Friday by Senate Republicans for his second stint as majority leader, but this time he faces an incredible balancing act as he nulls a third try for the White House.

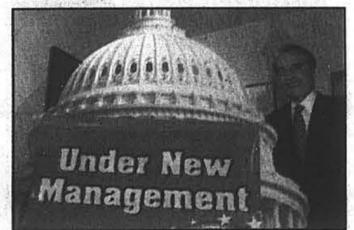
"Everybody knows it won't be easy," said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., who was chosen as Dole's chief deputy. "He knows it better than anybody."

Complications abound for the 71-year-old Dole, who has been minority leader for eight years.

There's the conservative, aggressive GOP leadership in the House led by incoming Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who has never been a Dole ally. There's a stronger conservative wing among the Republican senators led by a presidential rival, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas.

And there's President Clinton. Dole won't want to give the Democratic White House too many legislative victories, yet he doesn't want to be blamed for gridlock or appear unable to accomplish anything in Congress.

Lott's election as GOP whip signaled the rise of the conservatives within the party. By a single vote, Lott toppled Dole's choice for the No. 2 job, Sen.



Associated Press photo

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole meets reporters on Capitol Hill on Friday.

Alan Simpson of Wyoming.

Dole, who was not challenged for the top position he previously held from 1984-86, will have in the 53-year-old Lott a much younger deputy who is an ally of Gramm and Gingrich.

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Dole

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Gramm said he did not see the whip race as a contest between him and Dole.

"I always thought Senator Simpson's portrayal of the race as a contest with Senator Dole was not fair to Senator Dole," Gramm said. "I never sought that contest. It doesn't give me any greater say."

But if Dole runs for president — he promises to decide by March — Lott will essentially run the Senate while Dole campaigns around the country. Dole, asked by reporters if that prospect worried him, said, "I don't think so."

"I can always adjourn the Senate," he said with a chuckle.

Dole, who also sought the White House in 1980 and 1988, said he didn't see the whip race as a referendum on his leadership.

"All this stuff gets started around here. Al Simpson was done a good job for me. I didn't see any

Highlights of Bob Dole's career

- The Associated Press**
- Some highlights in the long political career of Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas:
- 1952, elected Russell County (Kan.) attorney. Re-elected 1954, 1956, 1958.
 - 1960, elected to U.S. House of Representatives. Re-elected 1962, 1964, 1966.
 - 1968, elected to U.S. Senate.
 - 1971, chosen chairman of Republican National Committee by President Nixon.
 - 1972, replaced at RNC by George Bush.
 - 1974, re-elected in closest race of Senate career, defeating Democrat Bill Roy by 13,532 votes.
 - 1976, GOP vice presidential nominee on ticket with President Ford. Defeated by Democrats Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.
 - 1980, unsuccessfully seeks Republican presidential nomination. Defeats Democrat John Simpson to win third Senate term.
 - 1981, assumes chairmanship of powerful Senate Finance Committee.
 - 1984, elected Senate majority leader.
 - 1986, elected Senate minority leader after Democrats take over Senate. Re-elected to fourth Senate term.
 - 1988, fails in second try to capture GOP presidential nomination.
 - 1992, Clinton victory makes Dole nation's top Republican elected official. Easily wins fifth Senate term.
 - 1994, elected Senate majority leader after GOP takeover of Congress.

reason why he shouldn't be re-elected," Dole said.

Lott said he is not seeking the majority leader's job and pledged he would work with Dole and not against him despite the backdrop of presidential politics.

"Bob Dole is the majority leader. I'm pledged to him. I looked at him and said, 'You're the leader. You're my leader,'" Lott said. "We love Bob Dole. Without Bob Dole, we wouldn't be in the majority."

Sen.-elect John Ashcroft of Missouri said his support for Lott should not be seen as lack of commitment to Dole.

"Bob Dole is a great leader," Ashcroft said. "I have the highest respect for Bob Dole."

Yet the man Ashcroft will replace, retiring Sen. John Danforth, said Lott's selection will pull Dole further to the right as he acts as leader for the 53 Republican senators.

"If a majority of them are of one persuasion in the Republican Party, he's going to have to speak to that constituency and lead that constituency," Danforth said.

Dole was nominated by fellow Kansas GOP Sen. Nancy Kassebaum for election to the Senate's top job. Kassebaum has sometimes split with the GOP leadership on key votes, most recently in supporting the Democrats on the crime bill.

"I said that while my judgment may be questioned by some on some votes, no one can question my judgment in putting in the nomination of Bob Dole," Kassebaum said.

"Through the best of times and the worst of times, he's really dedicated himself to the party and the country," she added.

Dole pledged to work hard to "make a smaller government work better" and said his elevation to the top Senate post "gives me a unique opportunity to promote the interests of Kansans."

"Whether it's agriculture, tax fairness or job creation, I will be on the front lines fighting for Kansas," Dole said.

Dole aide: Election drew political lines

Senator will continue to seek funds for Sterling College

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

STERLING — A top aide for the nation's top Republican placed the ball squarely in the court of his own party Friday.

Daniel R. Stanley, administrative assistant for Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said the November elections that threw both the House and Senate into GOP hands for the first time in 40 years is only one step for America.

The aide spoke at a "Friday Focus" at Sterling College.

"America is truly at a crossroads," Stanley, who directs the senator's staffs in Washington and Kansas, said. "We have taken one tiny step down a new path. And it remains to be seen if this direction is the way the electorate really wants to go."

"How deftly and responsibly Republicans wield their newfound power will have much to do with whether we continue down this course or lurch off into another direction."

"I submit to you that while

change is good, continuous change is simply chaos."

Stanley said the election was not simply change for the sake of change. If it were, both Republican and Democratic incumbents would have been ousted.

Not one Republican incumbent who ran for re-election was sent home.

"For the first time, every freshman in the Senate will be a Republican — all 11," the fifth-generation Kansan said. "Eighty-four of the 97 freshmen representatives in the House are Republicans. Contrast that to '92, when 71 of the 114 freshmen were Democrats."

"Republican gains in the state houses and state legislatures, specifically in the South, equally dramatic. And also governorships — coveted by national parties. Governors control state parties, and thus have great influence in the electoral votes. This was not lost on President Clinton, who campaigned heavily for governors in states critical for his re-election — California, Texas, Michigan, Minnesota and New York. But he lost them all."

The 1994 election drew distinct lines between the two parties, Stanley said. Voters looked carefully at their own incumbents,

dissecting votes and bills on which Congress had acted.

In the past, an incumbent had a 98 percent chance of returning to Washington — a better work guarantee than most Americans have. Regular trips home and constituent services pacified voters.

But this time, voters looked at records.

"The American people have finally dispelled the myth about their level of engagement in the political process," the aide said. "The fact is, there are very clear differences between the parties. The fact is, we fundamentally disagree about the role of government — its size, its purpose. And it's what elections should be all about — clear choices."

"The move rightward in 1994 described by the media reflects one of those choices. I submit this move was more of referendum on government than it was on any contract or any single policy or bill or any person. It was a referendum in some ways on President Clinton, but not as a person but as the man who embodies the philosophy that believes government can solve the problems. That bigger government can solve bigger problems, and that the biggest problems can be solved

by the biggest government.

"Republicans and Democrats fundamentally disagree about the role of government."

Stanley reminded the group to keep in perspective what exactly happened on Nov. 8 and how fortunate the United States is to have the system it does. In effect, the balance of power shifted in the country on Nov. 8 but not a shot was fired; no army was brought in to stabilize the government and there were no tanks in the streets of Washington.

Yet, he noted with a smile, that the first call he received on Nov. 9 was not from a fellow Dole staff member or media. It was the Pentagon.

"Now on Wednesday morning (the day after the election) ... I was awakened at 8 a.m. in my room at the Topeka Ramada Inn," he said. "Now this is true. The caller was an assistant secretary of defense who wanted to know what all of this meant and had to call from Washington to Topeka, Kan., hunted me down at a Ramada Inn. The Pentagon wanted to know what all this meant."

"Had Newt Gingrich (new House speaker) somehow overthrown the federal government? Should the Pentagon go on nuclear alert? I assured the caller

nuclear alert was unnecessary. I mean, after all, it was the Republicans, not the Russians, who had just executed a first strike."

During a question-and-answer period after his speech, Stanley was asked about the prospects for federal money to renovate Sterling College's Cooper Hall. Funding for the project drew fire earlier this year because it was attached to a bill that provided money to restore historic buildings at the nation's black colleges. Sterling College's student body is composed of about 4 percent African American.

Stanley said the controversy offended him.

"When you are attacked for seeking an authorization for a building on the basis of race or cynicism, that flies in the face of my heritage. That flies in the face of what Kansas is all about. The people just don't understand that here — people who aren't running business by quotas and by numbers and percentages and that's how you define social responsibility."

The bill died in October when Congress adjourned before acting on it. The measure was not brought back up during the recent lame duck session.