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Dole mentions VP possibilities

Kansas' list includes Kemp and Powell

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Bob Dole said Sunday he "has been tested in a lot of ways," giving him a sound background for another run for president.

He mentioned several possible running mates, including Jack Kemp, Colin Powell and governors from California and several other states.

Dole, the Kansas Republican who grew up in Russell, said he will announce his candidacy in April, around the 50th anniversary of one of his most severe tests, a World War II injury.

Dole will be 73 years old in 1996, making him older than any president at the start of his first term if he is elected. In light of that, he was asked on NBC's "Meet the Press," whether he would commit to only serve one term as president.

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File photo
Sen. Bob Dole says he will announce his candidacy in April.

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Dole sought to identify himself with the ideas of Kemp, the conservative who says Republicans should create economic opportunities and reach out more to minorities.

There has been speculation that Dole could name his selection for vice president when he announces his candidacy, and Dole was asked whether he would consider tapping Kemp, who recently bowed out of the presidential race.

Dole said he would consider Kemp and went on to mention former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell and Gov. Pete Wilson of California.

"You know, it's not really a short list," he said. "It includes a number of people. We have a number of outstanding governors: Governor (George) Voinovich (of Ohio), Tommy Thompson (of Wisconsin), who is thinking about running, Jim Edgar (of Illinois), Bill Weld (of Massachusetts), Governor (Christine) Whitman (of New Jersey).

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Dole to announce bid for presidency in April

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Dole said he would announce his presidential bid around April 14, the 50th anniversary of receiving a serious wound while fighting with U.S. forces in Italy.

Asked if this was a way of emphasizing how he differs from President Clinton, who has been attacked for avoiding military service in Vietnam, Dole said, "Some people might suggest that."

But he said he picked the date "because I thought it was a fairly important experience in my lifetime, and it's not aimed at anyone else."

He said voters would turn to him if they are "looking for someone with experience, someone who has been tested in a lot of ways and somebody who gets up every morning and knows that people are going to have difficulties."

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All-but-official '96 bid has Dole talking ticket

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press

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Dole cites experience, mentions VP possibilities

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Has affirmative action gone too far? Dole asks

Los Angeles Times/
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican lawmakers have begun to study whether affirmative action requirements in federal laws should be dropped on grounds that they may discriminate unfairly against white males, Majority Leader Bob Dole said Sunday.

Dole, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," said he has asked the Congressional Research Service to supply him with copies of all federal legislation that promotes affirmative action, or the use of racially oriented hiring preferences in an effort to help minorities improve their economic status.

The Kansas Republican said his voting record gives him credibility in looking at the issue. He said he was unsure whether those who want a job or a raise should "have to pay" for the workplace legacy of slavery or for discrimination practiced by generations "before they were born." "It's something we're looking at," he said.

"Has it worked? Has it had an adverse, a reverse reaction? Why did 62 percent of white males vote Republican in 1994?" Dole asked. "I

think it's because of things like this, where sometimes the best-qualified person does not get the job because he or she may be one color. And I'm beginning to believe that may not be the way it should be in America."

"We did discriminate. We did suppress people. It was wrong. Slavery was wrong. But should future generations have to pay for that? Some would say yes. I think it's a tough question," Dole said.

In California, conservatives who are angry about "reverse discrimination" against whites and males are pressing for a ballot initiative that would eliminate all affirmative action requirements in state law. A Senate Republican review of the issue could intensify the national debate about affirmative action requirements.

The Supreme Court has had a mixed view of affirmative action, knocking down some state law preferences but giving special deference to preferences in federal law. Now the court, which has become more conservative in recent years, is taking up a challenge to a federal law that gives preference to socially disadvantaged people, including racial minorities.

Senators balk at intervention

Congress asked to settle baseball strike

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Baseball owners and players must settle their differences at the bargaining table and not look to Congress for a solution, Kansas' two senators said Wednesday.

"As disappointed as we may be at the lack of progress so far, we must let the parties work it out themselves," said Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican who chairs the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

President Clinton, after failing to gain a settlement Tuesday, said he wanted Congress to approve legislation forcing the owners and players to submit to binding arbitration. Kassebaum said the proposal is unprecedented under the National Labor Relations Act.

"Our labor laws were designed to provide a framework for parties to resolve their differences at



The Associated Press
Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (left) and House Speaker Newt Gingrich (right) gesture while standing with special mediator W.J. Usery.

the bargaining table," Kassebaum said.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said he had no intention of moving quickly to force an end to the six-month strike.

"The magic solution can only be

found at the bargaining table," Dole said.

Dole said his office received about 1,400 telephone calls about the strike by midafternoon Wednesday and they ran 5-to-1 against intervention.