

Dole proving more agile than Gramm

By John King
AP Political Writer

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With deft maneuvering this week in the debates over tax cuts and President Clinton's choice for surgeon general, Dole reinforced his position as the more agile candidate, so far anyway, in the battle of the senators who would be president.

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Analysis

But he's hardly impartial. And Gramm says not to worry about him.

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Indeed, with seven months to go before the first votes are cast, it's far too soon to say whether Dole's apparent tactical edge will hold up. And Gramm, for all his troubles, is still the fund-raising



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leader among the GOP candidates. He is building respectable organizations in important early primary states.

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Nonetheless, there is a sense of urgency these days at the Gramm campaign.

Charles Black, a veteran of the Reagan and Bush presidential campaigns who has been advising Gramm, has been asked by the senator to take a much more active day-to-day role, and there is talk of a broader shakeup.

If the campaign is struggling, it is in no small part because of Dole's maneuverings in the Senate and on the campaign trail.

In engineering the defeat of Dr. Henry Foster's nomination for See DOLE, Page 2

Dole

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surgeon general with two swift votes Wednesday and Thursday, Dole stole from Gramm some of the thunder the Texan had hoped to get from staging a filibuster. And Dole did so in the face of a suggestion from a top Gramm aide that in bringing the nomination to the floor, Dole had cut some sort of deal with Clinton to "resuscitate" Foster.

"Dole had more to lose on this," said Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council, a conservative group that opposed Foster. "It was really up to him to deliver the votes and in the end he did. People will remember that."

Within hours of defeating Foster, Dole scored another apparent victory on an issue that has dogged him in the past and that many had predicted would cut Gramm's way in this campaign: taxes. Dole intervened personally in House-Senate budget talks and struck a deal with Speaker Newt Gingrich on a \$245 billion tax cut package.

Just Monday, Gramm had questioned Dole's commitment to tax cuts, called him "too com-

mitted to the old ways of Washington of tax and spend" and threatened to block his own party's budget. But by Friday Gramm had little choice but to give the deal his blessing.

It wasn't the first time Gramm was pulled along by Dole's budget maneuvering. After his own tax-cut amendment was crushed in the Senate, Gramm vowed not to support a "cut-a-deal" compromise backed by Dole. But in the end, Gramm voted for it.

These episodes run contrary to predictions that Dole would be hamstrung by his responsibilities as majority leader.

"That was the conventional wisdom," said James Thurber, an American University political science professor who studies Congress. "But Dole so far has done a pretty good job handling both roles and keeping Gramm in check."

Given Dole's mastery of Senate rules and his past national campaign experience, "I'm not surprised greatly at the current situation," said Morton Blackwell, a veteran conservative activist backing Gramm. "But what counts is not what happens in June but what happens next February and March."

Dole's deft maneuvering gives him a tactical edge

Scoring with taxes, Foster, Dole looks like early leader over Gramm in GOP race

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The Associated Press

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An analysis of Sen. Bob Dole's and Sen. Phil Gramm's week.



Bob Dole



Phil Gramm

Goldwater's choice: Powell, then Dole

Conservative elder says he would also take them as running mates.

By WALTER R. MEARS
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — From the vantage of his house above the city, and of his 86 years, Barry Goldwater looks over the valley and talks political heresy: Given the right presidential candidate he might just turn into a Democrat.

And his right candidate isn't the one he has endorsed. It's Colin Powell, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who hasn't said which party he'd run in, should he decide to enter the 1996 campaign. Goldwater guesses Republican but said that independent or even Democrat, Powell would be his first choice for the White House.

His old Republican establishment won't like that, but so what? "I just sit out here and say to hell with them," Goldwater said. The man whose name long was a synonym for conservative Republican was cantankerous in his heyday, and he's more so now. It's been 31 years since he was trounced for the White House, nine since his final farewell to the Senate. The step is slowed, the memory not always reliable, but the voice and the profile are firm and unmistakable.

He's talking politics, at his desk beside the glass wall that looks out over the Phoenix skyline, territory he remembers as open desert, now worth \$1 million for 2 acres. He knows, he said, because he just sold a lot down the hill.

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gathering of fat cats," he recalls. Even so, he would prefer Powell, describes him as the challenger with the best chance of leading a Republican ticket that would beat President Clinton.

"If Powell decides to run, he'll get elected president," Goldwater said in a conversational interview, politics interspersed with reminiscences. "If he runs as a Democrat, I might turn into a Democrat."

His theory, though, and he was chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is that Powell really is a Republican, because most military men tend that way although they won't say. "I was trying to get him to tell me," Goldwater said, but Powell wouldn't do it.

Absent Powell, Goldwater said, "then Dole will get it," at least the nomination. "We're not going to have an easy time beating Clinton," he said. "This guy makes a hell of a good speech. He's a good thinker."

So Goldwater ventures another option: Dole and Powell on the same ticket. "The next time around they could just switch places," he said.

Goldwater enjoys blunt talk and obviously enjoys the fallout. He's caused stirs by backing abortion rights and gays in the military, by endorsing a liberal Democrat in an Arizona congressional race in 1992 — she won but lost two years later. Conservatives, some of whom wanted his name erased from the state party headquarters, suspected his second wife, Susan, 31 years his junior, was influencing him with her liberal views.

In his newly published biography, *Goldwater: The Man Who Made a Revolution*, author Lee Edwards notes that he never was a model of consistency. He is "sometimes a traditionalist and sometimes a libertarian," writes Edwards, communications director in his 1964 campaign.

"People say that I'm more of a libertarian than a Republican," Goldwater said. "I don't think there's a lot of difference."

Goldwater backs Dole, but he prefers Powell

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