

Statesman Senator Dole Revives U.S. Bipartisan Policy

Senator Bob Dole took a statesmanship-like leap over his main Republican presidential rivals with his support for President Clinton's plan to send United States troops to help maintain the fragile peace in Bosnia.

Although not completely agreeing with the mission outlined by the president, the Kansas senator said the nation should respect the decision and back U.S. forces. Dole's main point was that the U.S. has only one president and one secretary of state at a time, and they should have wide leeway to conduct U.S. foreign policy.

In effect, Dole is still following the bipartisan vision that was formed after World War II, when it was said that politics should stop at the water's edge. Although it led the United States into some disastrous failures — notably Vietnam — the policy also enabled American presidents to offer the strong leadership that was essential to winning the Cold War.

Bosnia is the first major test in Europe of U.S. foreign policy in the post-Cold War era. The president is basically continuing the activist approach adopted by Presidents Reagan and Bush in recognizing that the U.S. has a critical role to play in European affairs.

Even with a strong U.S. presence, success in Bosnia is no sure thing. Without it, there is no doubt that the conflict will worsen, possibly spreading into neighboring countries and reawakening old European rivalries — such as Russia's historic interest in the Balkans.

Dole is willing to give the president the benefit of the doubt in Bosnia. Clinton is attempting to assert U.S. leadership on a critical international issue. He is risking American lives and prestige in the belief that peace in Bosnia is important in an increasingly interdependent world.

By supporting the president, Dole offers a stark contrast to GOP presidential contenders who have criticized the president and put forth no credible alternative plan for Bosnia, other than claiming it's none of our business. The history of the 20th century has shown the folly of American isolationism, yet some Republicans are trying to revive old fears of foreign entanglements.

As a wounded World War II veteran, Dole understands modern history. He recognizes that global stability is impossible without dynamic American leadership, and that such leadership must start with the president.

Dole has raised his potential presidential stature significantly in the past few days. His bipartisanship on Bosnia shows that he is willing to put the nation's interest above party politics. — The Wichita Eagle

Kansan officially on ballot

Dole vows to win in New Hampshire

By The Associated Press
CONCORD, N.H. — Steaming into town aboard his "Balanced Budget Express," Bob Dole added his name to New Hampshire's presidential primary ballot Friday with a vow not to be derailed here as he was in his last White House campaign.

"Bob Dole can beat Bill Clinton in 1996 with your help — and it is going to happen," the Senate majority leader told backers who greeted a train that carried Dole and scores of supporters from Manchester to Concord. Offering his 1996 slogan, the Republican front-runner promised "better leadership for a better America."

As evidence of his determination to win New Hampshire's February primary, Dole launched a television advertising campaign Friday to coincide with the filing of his official candidacy papers.

Dole's filing was full of fanfare, including his train ride and a frosty afternoon stroll through downtown Concord. But he hardly had the place to himself: Hillary Rodham Clinton was in New Hampshire, too, to register President Clinton for the Democratic primary.

Following the path of many would-be presidents, Dole seated himself at an antique desk in New Hampshire's secretary of state's office to sign himself up as a candidate, then declared, "I feel it is a race between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole."

Clinton has wide lead

A national poll released Friday showed voters favoring Clinton over Dole in a head-to-head matchup. The CNN-Time magazine survey of 1,000 Americans showed Clinton favored by 53 percent, compared to 34 percent for Dole. The survey had a 3 percentage point margin of error.

Dole flew into Manchester and traveled to the statehouse in Concord on a train dubbed "Bob Dole's Balanced Budget Express."

He was joined in Concord by his wife, Elizabeth, and the train carried an impressive array of New Hampshire GOP supporters, including Gov. Steve Merrill, Sen. Judd Gregg and the state's two Republican House members, Bill Zelfi and Charlie Bass.

The show of strength was designed to make the point that 1996 will not be a repeat of 1988, when Dole won an impressive victory in Iowa's caucuses but was derailed in New Hampshire by George Bush, who went on to win the Republican nomination and ultimately the White House.

Polls show Dole with a big early lead here, with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, commentator Pat Buchanan, publisher Steve Forbes and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander well behind.

But their campaigns argue that Dole's support is soft.

Dole vows he won't be derailed in primary

By JOHN KING
The Associated Press

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Dole wins support of New Jersey governor

By The New York Times

TRENTON, N.J. — To the surprise of hardly anyone, Gov. Christie Whitman has decided to join Sen. Bob Dole's campaign for president.

Whitman's popularity and reputation as a tax-cutter and government-streamliner has caused several Republicans in the race to seek her support, but her backing of Dole, the Senate majority leader, was long expected.

She will endorse Dole at a new distribution warehouse in Edison on Monday. And she will assume an active role in the Dole cam-

paign organization, said Carl Golden, Whitman's chief of communications.

Republican leaders are hoping Whitman's moderate views will influence other middle-of-the-roads — Republicans and Democrats alike — who have watched a deeply conservative Republican field force Dole's campaign to the right.

Whitman supports abortion rights, affirmative action, gay rights and environmental protection measures is similarly at odds with the dominant Republican message in Congress.

N.J. governor to back Dole

By Thomas Martello

Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. — Gov. Christie Whitman will endorse Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's presidential bid on Monday, ending her neutrality in the GOP race and any thought of becoming part of a brokered convention.

Whitman and Dole will appear together for the endorsement Monday at a shop-

distribution center in Edison. A spokesman for Whitman said the popular first-term governor will

take "an active role" in the Dole campaign.

The endorsement is a boost to front-runner Dole, who has actively sought support from Whitman, the GOP's choice to deliver the rebuttal to President Clinton's State of the Union speech earlier

this year.

It is also a blow to New Jersey GOP candidate Steve Forbes, the magazine publisher who has known Whitman since childhood. Forbes was instrumental in convincing Whitman to make a campaign promise to slash New Jersey income taxes. Making good on that vow helped make Whitman a rising star in the national party.

Carl Golden, a spokesman for Whitman, said the governor felt the "time was right" to endorse Dole.

"The field is pretty well set, and she feels that now is the appropriate time," Golden said. "She feels Dole is the strongest possible candidate that the party can nominate."

Stumping in New Hampshire Saturday, Dole told a reporter he and Whitman were talking and that he didn't know if she would endorse him, but he told supporters he would see Whitman this week for a "special announcement."

Golden said Whitman believes Dole is "the more electable candi-

Dole's exit from Senate wouldn't shock some

Will he leave early to focus on campaign?

By Tom Webb

Eagle, Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Call it The Dole Scenario. Nobody knows if it's true — except for Sen. Bob Dole, who isn't saying much. But it has Kansas Republicans whispering the unthinkable.

Their scenario goes like this: If Bob Dole wins the Republican nomination, he'll resign this summer as Kansas' senator, in a gutsy all-or-nothing bid for the White House. Why would he consider something so unconventional?

"I never believed that Bob Dole would leave the Senate voluntarily unless he was elected president. It has consumed his entire life."

Howard Bauleke, former aide to ex-Rep. Jim Slattery, D-Topeka

and loses, he wouldn't have as much influence in the naming of his successor, or give a new Kansas Republican a powerful leg up.

And most of all, it would provide Dole a graceful way of ending his extraordinary Senate career, and going out on top. If he wins in November, he'll leave the Senate anyway. If he loses, that stinging prospect might be compounded by the loss of his Senate majority leader's job, and spending two bleak years, at ages 74 and 75, working under President Clinton.

The scenario is mere political speculation at this point, and Dole and his staff aren't eager to discuss it. For one thing, they're fighting to win the presidency, not discuss what-if-loses. For another, the first presidential primary is still two months away. So they're discouraging the chatter with this statement:

"Sen. Dole has no plans to prematurely depart

■ It would liberate him from the Senate at the frenzied peak of the presidential campaign. If Dole captures the Republican nomination, he certainly won't need his Senate job to get public attention, campaign money or television air time.

■ It would ensure Dole maximum leverage in the selection of his replacement as Kansas senator. If he stays senator, he would have as much influence in the naming of his successor, or give a new Kansas Republican a powerful leg up.

■ More neutral observers aren't so dismissive. One is Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political science professor, who has heard the talk in Kansas.

"The scenario remains so sensible," Loomis said. "There's a real logic to it that's undeniable."

Few know the demands of the U.S. Senate better than Dole's Senate colleague Nancy Kassebaum, or have witnessed close-up the burdens of the majority leader. Kassebaum has heard discussion of the Dole scenario, too.

"As someone who's very interested and supportive of Sen. Dole's presidential campaign, it would seem to me logical, though I have

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his leadership post or the Senate, unless, of course, he is elected president," said Clarkson Hine, Dole's press secretary.

To be sure, there are some who think Dole will never leave. Especially Kansas Democrats.

"I never believed that Bob Dole would leave the Senate voluntarily unless he was elected president," said Howard Bauleke, a former aide to ex-Rep. Jim Slattery, D-Topeka. "It has consumed his entire life. I'll believe it when he resigns."

Dole was first elected to Congress when Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House. Kansas elected him to the Senate in 1968, then reelected him in 1974, 1980, 1986 and 1992.

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"As someone who's very interested and supportive of Sen. Dole's presidential campaign, it would seem to me logical, though I have

absolutely no indication of Sen. Dole's thinking," she said.

Next September and October, the Senate will be working on the massive appropriation bills and other major legislation, she notes, at exactly the moment a presidential nominee would need to be campaigning full-time.

"He certainly could step down as majority leader and have his seat in the Senate," Kassebaum said. "But I guess I would be thinking he might consider then stepping completely down, rather than just stepping aside as majority leader. But on the other hand, I don't know."

"It seems to me that that would be something he would consider, and it would make a lot of sense to me."

Rep. Sam Brownback, R-Topeka, has also heard Kansas Republicans talk about the possibility of Dole's departing.

"There's a chance. I've heard that rumor being discussed as well, but I think that's quite an outside possibility," Brownback said. "Personally, when I've talked to the senator, I've discouraged him from doing that. But he's way up the food chain from me. He knows those things better than me."

Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Goddard, said, "If he does step aside, it will probably be from majority leader, and not his Senate seat." But, Tiahrt concurred, the possibility does have Kansas Republicans talking.

In short, the Dole Scenario has all the what-ifs that political devotees love, and all the intrigue that so many voters hate. But for Kansas in 1996, it's more than a political game.

Kansas has only four House members. And two senators, like every state. So, six people. By contrast the California delegation has 54 members, New York 33, Texas 32.

For years, Kansans have offset the state's small population by reelecting the same lawmakers and watching them accumulate power. Not now. Kassebaum, a 17-year veteran, announced her retirement in November. So did Rep. Jan Meyers, R-Overland Park, an 11-year veteran. Last year Glickman, an 18-year veteran, was defeated. All were committee chairmen. Slattery, a 12-year veteran, departed last November.

A little over a year ago, the six Kansans in Congress totaled nearly 100 years of congressional seniority. A year from now, if Dole leaves, the Kansas delegation may have almost no seniority at all.

If that happens, Kansans who want new faces in Congress and citizen legislators will get their wish in a big way.

Rep. Pat Roberts, the Republican congressman from western Kansas, set the party lines ablaze in November. For months Roberts was carefully laying the groundwork for a Senate campaign, raising money, traveling the state and boosting his political profile.

And then, suddenly, Roberts dropped a bombshell. He didn't want to spend 1996 run-



Rep. Pat Roberts has been talked about as a potential replacement if Sen. Bob Dole resigns to focus on his campaign.

ning for Kassebaum's Senate seat after all.

Well then, what about being appointed to Dole's Senate seat? It was no idle question. If Dole is elected president, Kansas Gov. Bill Graves would get to appoint a replacement for the final two years of Dole's six-year term.

This summer Graves was asked who he'd choose. He gave one name: Pat Roberts. (Graves' office no longer wants to talk about this, deeming the topic "entirely premature.")

But would Roberts accept such an appointment?

"Theoretically, down the road I suppose that's a possibility," Roberts replied in November. "But I think events of the day will determine that. That's a decision

to be made by Sen. Dole. I fully expect him to be the (Republican presidential) nominee, and obviously if that's the case, there'd be again more speculation down the road."

For several weeks now, the Kansas Secretary of State's office has been receiving mysterious calls. The callers don't give their names, but they have the same questions:

What happens if a U.S. senator resigns? And when would a replacement senator have to face election?

By now, Brad Bryant knows the answers well.

"When a vacancy does occur... the governor shall make a temporary appointment un-

til the next congressional election," Bryant says. At the next election, the voters get to choose.

The key question is, what's the "next election"? To hold an election, there needs to be time for candidates to get on the ballot, go through a party primary and run a campaign.

Given those necessities, the critical date seems to be June 10, 1996. That's the deadline for Republicans and Democrats to get on the August primary ballot in Kansas.

Says Bryant, "If a vacancy occurred after June 10, we would have to consult the Kansas attorney general to get some guidance."

Bob Stephan, the former Kansas attorney general, thinks the matter is clear-cut.

"I think if a person resigns after the last filing date, there's every reason to believe that the next available date would be the election two years hence," Stephan said.

A Senate primary would be crowded with candidates, Stephan explains, and opening one major contest would affect many other races.

"Are you going to open up the whole election process?" Stephan asked.

As for Dole, Stephan said, "We're talking about a very resilient man, and they've counted him down and out for many years."

On the other hand, "If Dole would resign at convention time, there wouldn't be a contest for that seat for two years — which would make it more desirable."

The Republican National Convention will be held in mid-August.

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