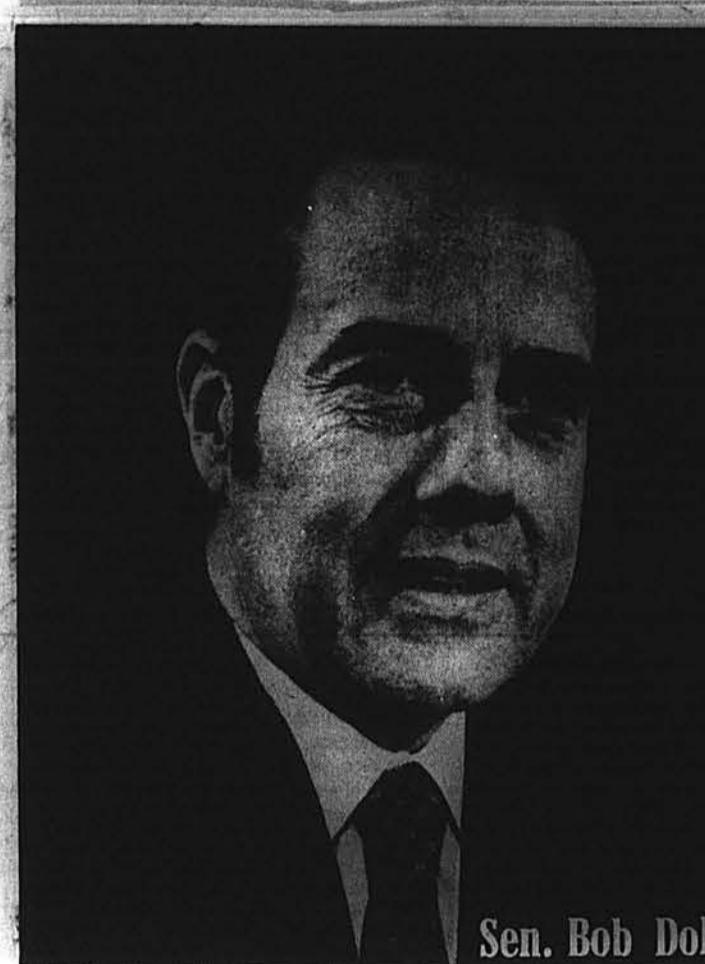


20. 1971



Sen. Bob Dole

Do you see anything developing in the new Senate that will make it more productive than the Senate of the 91st Congress?

PEARSON — I hope that there would be some modification in the rules. Sen. Frank Church and I will again this year — as we did two years ago — enter a resolution to amend Rule 22 which is the filibuster rule. Because there were several filibusters last year, and I think that session might be operating in a better climate to change the rules. But composition of the new Senate may be more conservative in nature, so I'm not sure that we have a better chance to change the filibuster rule. The Congressional Reorganization Act of last year did little for reforms, not so much in the rules of the Senate but in the procedures. So I am hopeful, primarily because I have to be.

DOLE — There will be some programs, of course, submitted by the President on Jan. 22. Welfare reform will be back again, the revenue sharing — we got some draft reform, governmental reform (in the last session) — so there are going to be greater opportunities for the Congress to do more than we did in the past. We are in agreement that there are no political campaigns right now, that at least eight Democratic senators — and maybe more — want to be President. But I think on balance there will be some progress.

What do you expect will be the principal features of the Family Assistance Plan when it's finally signed into law?

PEARSON — You're going to have what you can refer to as a guaranteed family income or a floor of some sort. But the concept is to provide payments which will encourage people to work or train. This is really an environmental and substantive new program which the Congress is most reluctant to undertake as they think about the history and experience of Medicare. You've heard comments that half the people in Mississippi are on this plan. So there are 40 million people who are on it. Well, millions more will go on. It'll cost \$4 billion more per year. The present welfare program is such a frustration and failure — it fails the recipient, it fails the taxpayer and it fails society. So we've got to have some reform.

DOLE — I think basically it will be a floor under the President's outline — a minimum of \$1,600 for a family of four. There is going to be more emphasis, however, on welfare reform. I think you'll find that the Congress is opposed to giving benefits to those who need benefits, but we also need reform, we need to eliminate some of the abuses. Certainly, some of us who have more conservative views want to support welfare reform in our state of Kansas; the costs have gone up 24 per cent in the last year. It's a total disaster. So, reform is needed. We can take care of some of these abuses it will pass the Senate and House without any problem.

What change, if any, do you anticipate in either the apparent or real leadership hierarchy of Senate Republicans?

PEARSON — I don't really foresee any change in the Senate leadership. When you have a Democratic Congress and a Republican administration, the minority leadership isn't too important. You have a spokesman of the administration

announcing administration policies and you have the majority leadership announcing what the schedule and the program in Congress is going to be.

DOLE — I could probably answer that question better next week. Insofar as any contest (for minority leader), I have made it clear to both Sen. (Howard) Baker and Sen. (Frank) Church and Sen. (Spencer) Abraham that I would not become involved. But I don't intend to be a muted voice in the Senate just because I may be national chairman.

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird has announced that the U.S. combat role in South Vietnam will end within a few months, but will that dampen the administration in the Senate toward the administration's Vietnamization policies?

PEARSON — There isn't a great deal of interest in the Senate to the President's Vietnamization policy. It is centered in a relatively small group of senators who have moved from a position of strong "Get out of Vietnam" to a position whereby they find that the administration is going to get out — they now say that when you get out, you must get out on a timetable publicly declared and religiously followed. I don't think the President is going to adhere to a timetable timetable because he will not be able to do that. To me, it will take all the credibility that he may have on both the diplomatic and the military field. I don't think Vietnam was an issue in the last election. I don't think it will be an issue in the forthcoming Congress to the extent that you will have another resolution along the Hatfield-McGoverne line.

DOLE — Probably not. There are a few doves still in flight. They don't fly as long and far anymore, but they have a basic disagreement that goes back as far as (President) Kennedy's time, probably even further. Get out of Vietnam is a time. But there will be less and less talk of Southeast Asia because President Nixon is succeeding. If something should happen and the Vietnam program blew up, then, of course, everyone must take advantage of it. I don't expect that Nixon is committed on the Congress. The present welfare program is such a frustration and failure — it fails the recipient, it fails the taxpayer and it fails society. So we've got to have some reform.

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REPORT FROM THE SENATE

January 17, 1971

The SST, Vietnam, the Middle East, deficits, national health care, and trade. These are among the issues expected to occupy the attention of the Senate when it begins its 92nd session Wednesday. In separate interviews this month, Kansas' two Republican senators, James B. Pearson and Bob Dole, were asked for their thoughts on the issues.



Sen. James Pearson

What's the outlook for the SST and what would it take to win over enough of its Senate critics to keep it alive?

PEARSON

— The SST was defeated substantially in the Senate. The vote was probably closer than the numbers indicate because there is a tendency, once a thing has gone, to go on its side. We have to continue to work with the people coming from the Senate. The SST is very troubled waters on the question of ecology which I think is gravely over-played and on the very serious question of priorities. The SST, for better or for worse, has really gotten to keep it alive.

How would you rate the prospects for a comprehensive national health care plan?

PEARSON

— I rate them rather good.

— And that because I think health care will be the great issue in the next Congress. I think the minimum that Congress would do is to do something in the field of catastrophic health problems.

And if they do that, they may put off for a time a more comprehensive national health plan. This will be interesting to

what the Bureau of Budget does or the Office of Management does on how these rules and regulations are set up so the Senate can pass legislation. It's one thing to get a bill passed in this Congress. It's quite another thing to administer it. I think this is a real test of Secretary Hardin. We really don't know how the farmers feel about him as an administrator. We know some farmers are unhappy with the SST bill, but Hardin has worked hard both with the Democrats and Republicans to get this through. I think the real test lies ahead.

Will the trade protection proposals of the 91st Congress rise again in the 92nd Congress and how will they be handled to maintain agriculture's interests in free trade?

PEARSON

— I don't really know whether they will come back again. The textile bill came out of the very serious economic situation for the textile industries in the South. There was a campaign run by (the) President. That's over with, though, there is nothing to just no way to open the door and let one (industry) out. Shoes would be attached, and steel and electronics and et cetera, et cetera. I oppose the trade bill. I recognize the Japanese and the Common Market have not kept their agreements (on trade negotiations), but I think free trade is still durable. I just have real doubts if they come back with (the trade bill), but if they do, one of two things will happen. Either they will fail to pass it or if they do pass it, it will just be a Christmas tree. And then I don't know whether the President will sign it.

DOLE

— The environment, of course, has interested every other issue in consideration of the SST. I remind my Democratic friends who again seem to zero in on SST as some way to get to Nixon or discredit Nixon: This goes back to the Eisenhower administration, at least in the idea. The concern was embodied in Kennedy, who was supported by Johnson and we're trying to complete it under Nixon. If we want to waste \$700 million and more, we can stop the program. Beyond that, I've said to (Sen. William) Proxmire and (Sen. Gaylord) Nelson and others who are pushing for import protection and then test all these problems and see if we can find the answer to the environmental question raised — side noise, sonic booms, etc.

Let's not condemn it until we have tried it.

What's the outlook for Social Security benefit and tax increases?

PEARSON

— Excellent. Assured. The

most positive statement I could make in the entire interview. Benefits will increase 10 per cent.

DOLE

— The Social Security (benefit)

increase will be enacted very quickly. I'd say in a month or six weeks that there will be a (benefit) increase of 7.75 per cent.

What proposals will be made by you or your party to strengthen the Food and Agriculture Act of 1970?

PEARSON

— I think the great effort

will be made in trying to strengthen our export position. We really aren't going to

entirely change the farm economy situa-

tion until we can somehow or other solve the export situation. The great

chicken or egg kind of proposal is

that we would have to have nations that

need grain and wheat but haven't got any

dollars and those nations that have

no dollars but want any wheat. I don't

think you will see any proposals for

major modifications of the agricultural

act. I think you'll see a lot of efforts for

rural revitalization. I introduced the

Rural Job Development Act again and it

made a little more progress this time

than ever before. The Rural Develop-

ment Bank to provide some credit

between commercial institutions and

small business. The Rural Job Act is

just an extension of the old

farm-to-market program, pulling a little

of that money out of the highway fund.

DOLE

— I don't think there will be any

legislative changes. There may be

some changes in the formula

so we have more cities on the brink of

disaster, and some states.

DOLE — It'll rise again and it is a very difficult question to answer. For example, we've made much on the part of the textile bill. We're not so strong on import quotas for shoes because we don't make shoes in Kansas. To say that agriculture is not involved in (trade) protection is really not an accurate statement. I think they can work out some type of voluntary agreements with Japan on textiles. Each prefers voluntary agreements to legislation, because you don't want to become a protection country. We believe in the concept of free trade and when we say that, we must get behind and support this (position).

What will you or your party do in the 92nd Congress to alleviate the difficulty of obtaining boxcars for grain transportation?

PEARSON

— Do everything I've done

in the past nine years again. There are

interesting things happening on the one

proposal we put in that was radical and

revolutionary. The proposal was to

appropriately administer the Defense Department to build its own

boxcars so that we would release all

those cars that the military now uses. We

would have a national fleet of govern-

ment-owned cars which could be leased

to shippers and carriers.

DOLE

— We'll probably all make

speeches and we have a boxcar derby

every year. Bill Avery used to win it

every time. He'd be the first

congressman to announce the boxcar

derby. Since he left, I don't know who

is the winner of the derby. But there is

still a shortage and there are announce-

ments of a shortage, but we never do

anything about the shortage. We have a

Kansan, Sen. Pearson, taking a lead in

the field. He's now on the committee

which handles the legislation and I think

we need to get behind his proposal,

in addition to making speeches.