

172. 1981

Dole reported 'fine' after kidney surgery

By our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., was reported resting comfortably Friday after undergoing surgery for removal of a kidney stone, a spokesman for Walter Reed Army Medical Center said.



"He came out of surgery about 3:30 (p.m.) today. He is fine, no complications," reported hospital spokesman Peter Esker.

The severe war wounds Dole suffered in World War II left him with one kidney.

Esker said the Kansas senior senator will remain in the hospital until next week, but declined to set an exact date.

Dole's office said he awakened about 2:30 a.m. Friday in what was characterized as "extreme discomfort." He had retired for the night with no sign of a problem, a spokesman said.

The pain grew worse so Dole's wife, Elizabeth, called his personal physician, who recommended they go to the hospital.

"There was evidently a stone that had been there since World War II, and it just moved. The hospital didn't see it as anything unusual," said Dole press secretary Bill Kats Jr.

Dole, 57, had a physical examination last week that showed he was in good health, the spokesman said.

Saturday, 21th 1981 Topers Op. 17th

Chicago Sun-Times, Wednesday, May 20, 1981

Reagan tax plan

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Reagan's proposal to cut personal tax rates across the board is not dead but needs to be adjusted to make it "more acceptable" to Congress, Senate Finance Committee chairman Robert J. Dole said Tuesday.

"I think there's a lot of support" for the proposal for an across-the-board cut in tax rates, the Kansas Republican said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

But "I think what we need to do is fine-tune the president's package to make it more acceptable to some who resist the so-called 10-10-10," Dole said, referring to the president's three-year plan to cut individual tax rates 10 percent a year.

LEADERS OF THE SENATE and House tax-writing committees met privately Monday in an attempt to reach a compromise before drafting a tax bill.

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, termed the meeting "worthwhile" and said, "It opened a dialogue."

Acting White House press secretary Larry Speakes said Tuesday "no decisions were made, no deals were struck." He said Dole, who reported to White House chief of staff James Baker Monday night, gave "just a factual report" of the meeting.

Speakes said the administration does not feel it is behind schedule in getting a tax cut proposal through Congress.

Dole said quick agreement on the tax provisions could result in "a tax bill by mid-July. Otherwise, we're looking at August or September."

On the other part of the proposed tax cut—dealing with accelerated depreciation writeoffs for businesses—Dole said "there's been no real problem."

Although he said timing of the tax cuts also is open to compromise, Dole said he thinks the business writeoffs will be retroactive to Jan. 1, as the president requested. The president wants personal tax cuts to take effect July 1.

During the last week, the administration has sent signals that it is willing to compromise on the Kemp-Roth tax cut, named for its congressional co-sponsors, Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) and Sen. William V. Roth Jr. (R-Del.).

But the president remains firm that any tax cut should stretch over several years and should encourage private and business investment.

CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVERS said it was unprecedented for tax-writing leaders to caucus before writing a bill. Usually, such sessions are reserved until each side has written its own version and a compromise must be struck.

Rostenkowski said his committee will begin working on a tax bill after it completes hearings later this month on Reagan's proposals for reforming Social Security.

He said he would like to see the House finish with the tax bill and send it to the Senate as soon as possible, "to put the ball in their court."

needs fine-tuning, Dole says

COVER STORY

Robert and Elizabeth Dole The Powers That Be

Robert Dole, Senator from Kansas, is chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee. His wife Elizabeth is Ronald Reagan's assistant for public liaison. Next to the President and First Lady, the Doles carry more clout than any couple in Washington.



Grand Old Party: The Doles and staff celebrate his Presidential candidacy.

By Jane Nevins

The Senator leveled a steady gaze on the smiling Presidential adviser seated beside him.

How should he react to the fact that the President had asked this aide to have a "talk" with him? Slowly but firmly, the Senator spoke: "I'd say have him call me himself. If he wants to talk to me," he paused with a slight smile, "I'll give you my number."

The President's assistant laughed outright.

The Senator smiled, too, no offense taken. The White House assistant is also his wife, and the notion of the President seeking her intercession is only one of the intriguing "what if's" suddenly buzzing around the couple.

Unexpectedly, Robert and Elizabeth Dole have emerged as the second-most powerful couple in Washington. He is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee; she is assistant to the President for public liaison. They preside over an astonishing concentration of influence.

Dole's Finance Committee rules all legislation in the Senate affecting business and income taxation, the national debt, savings, pensions, investment policy, energy and agricultural taxation, estate and gift taxes, Social Security, welfare, Medicare and Medicaid.

As for Elizabeth, she is the President's official link to the public. Almost all interest groups with a stake in national policy are assigned to her care. She must present their problems to the President, measure their response to him, help them understand

Jane Nevins is a former assistant city editor of the Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

4 ■ FAMILY WEEKLY, March 29, 1981

icans should do to rebuild. "Change the name of the party," Dole shot back.

The 1976 campaign gave the Doles the Presidential itch. Early in 1979, they decided to go for it, and Elizabeth resigned from the Federal Trade Commission to hit the campaign trail.

It was a disaster. Dole finished the 1980 New Hampshire primary with a humiliating 608 votes and promptly withdrew from the race. It still hurts a little, but Dole can't resist: He was, he says, tied down by a heated Senate vote and Elizabeth campaigned in his place. "She was leading me in all the polls, so I decided to drop out."

They didn't nurse their wounds long. They headed for Kansas, filed his papers for re-election to the Senate and held a news conference to endorse Reagan. Then Elizabeth became a full-time volunteer for the Reagan campaign, heading its voter-groups section group and joining the "truth squad" that pursued the Carter campaign around the country.

In November, it all paid off. What they are thinking and doing has become intensely interesting to official Washington. The society press looks for them on the social circuit. Reporters need interviews; Cabinet members are on the phone; the President is on the calendar.

Their spirits are high. The White House abounds with old friends from past party wars. The frenetic activity around them is necessary to hold the mandate together, to get everything going while the mood is right. For Robert Dole, the mandate means staying in close touch with the budget and tax cutters and meeting with the President on the one hand; and closing himself with other Senators to line up strategy and votes on the other.

"I see myself as sort of the ball carrier," says Dole. "They [The White House] send up the package and it is my responsibility to run with it. I may not want to run straight with it. I might want to bend with it, change it a little bit and alter the course, but we hope to cross the goal line and get it passed. I hope, by July."

Elizabeth's role is indisputable. The President puts in an appearance at the large meetings to underscore the importance he attaches to them, and later, it is she who will bring a scaled-down delegation to his office for more discussion. She attends any Cabinet meeting affecting what she is doing. Says Elizabeth, "It is a major interface with the public. We're going to be responsible for developing a consensus for Reagan Administration policy and programs."

Elizabeth's power will be measured in the continued parade of pressure-group spokesmen up the White House driveway; in their continued confidence that they are being heard and considered; in their continued willingness to announce that "everyone has to make sacrifices;" and, most of all, in their telling Congress the same thing.

As individuals, the Doles have long been highly regarded in Washington. Now, combining their separate power centers, they are positioned as never before. They are unafraid to lean on

each other's importance, to parlay their power for results, just as they did in the appointment of Midwesterner John Block to be Secretary of Agriculture. Block served on Elizabeth's advisory council during the campaign. It was she who recommended him when the front-runner for agriculture was an alumnus of Reagan's state administration. Bob

Dole found a map of the U.S., drew a big red circle around the Midwest and sent it to Block, a member of Reagan's inner circle. The message got through; Block was appointed.

How do the Doles feel about being called the second-most powerful couple in Washington? Dole answers, "I've been telling people that suggested that, 'it depends on what we

produce. If we're effective, then you could say we made a contribution, not just to politics, but to Government, the taxpayers and the people who can't afford to pay taxes."

He pauses. Grins. He can't help himself. "Anyway, I think it just happens that one of us wanted to be in the White House, and she ended up there."

(Return to Miss Marmalade)

If their entreaties are spurned, galvanize their support regardless.

A feeling has hatched in Washington that the Administration's fate may depend on what Congress does to Reagan's economic package and how well the President keeps the public behind him. That has made the Doles far more than the sum of their parts. The Reagan plan can go nowhere without them.

The 57-year-old Senator and the 44-year-old Presidential assistant are a handsomely matched set. Elizabeth is doll-faced and radiant; Bob is handsome with a glowering brow. She is warm and animated and speaks with a faint North Carolina drawl. He is intense and sometimes bitingly humorous. Together for an interview, they sit a few inches apart, touching only once when she puts her hand on his shoulder.

Bob Dole has a dramatic background. His right arm is almost useless, carried bent at his waist and subjected to gentle tricks of camouflage. He may enter a room carrying his coat draped from it, or stand in conversation with a pen tucked between his fingers.

It is the only remaining sign of a burst of machine gun fire in Italy near the end of World War II that shattered his right shoulder and left him totally paralyzed. His doctors thought he would never walk again, but with the financial and moral support of his hometown of Russell, Kan., he was back on his feet in three years.

Kansas sent Dole to Congress in 1960, and to the Senate in 1968, where he quickly emerged as a zesty political fighter, with a special knack for barbed wit. He hit his stride as a national figure in 1971, when President Nixon named him chairman of the Republican National Committee (R.N.C.)

Elizabeth's unquenchable drive made her a liberated woman long before there was a movement and kept her single long after her contemporaries were putting braces on their kids' teeth. But she wasn't lonely.

Elizabeth says it was a time in which she was busy, happy and not thinking about marriage. If she was searching at all, friends say, it was for someone she could respect, who could hold her attention. It wasn't easy. Her high intelligence and fiery ambition had been overwhelming men as far back as Harvard. Inevitably, it would come to a Robert Dole, who like her, considered his horizons limitless and had the unbounded determination to reach them.

They met in 1972, but it was two years later that they realized how special their relationship was. Dole was forced to spend months back in Kansas fighting off a serious reelection challenge, and he came to depend on Elizabeth.

"When he was out campaigning," Elizabeth explains, "he used to call me when he would get to the end of the day... I felt that would be my little contribution to the campaign," she throws him a teasing glance, "even if it was two or three in the morning, fine, go ahead and call..."

They married in 1975, a second marriage for him at 52, her first at 39. In eight months, Dole was (again) on the campaign trail, this time as President Gerald Ford's running mate, and now with Elizabeth at his side. He took the lead in harsh oratory, but he was also funny, at times describing the Vice Presidency as "a great job — it's all indoor work and no heavy lifting."

The Ford-Dole ticket was beaten, but not Dole's sense of humor. At a dinner soon after, Tim McNamara, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, recalls, a fellow guest gravely inquired what the Senator thought Repub-

(continued)

Elizabeth at the President's right hand: First in his "avenue of trust."



4 ■ FAMILY WEEKLY, March 29, 1981

There is lively interest in how Dole will perform. He is the first Republican finance chairman in 20 years, and his 20-member committee contains the full spectrum of ideologies, left and right in both parties.

Unlike his Democratic predecessor, Senator Russell Long of Louisiana, he is not expected to rule Finance with an iron hand. Rather, he is seen as a coalition builder, a leader who will reach for bipartisan votes.

Mid-April through July will be a good time for Dole-watching in the (continued)

4 ■ FAMILY WEEKLY, March 29, 1981

Senate. The tax package will be moving and Dole will try to keep it closely linked to the spending cuts, which Capitol Hill observers say will provide a test of his skill. Senator Paul Laszall of Nevada thinks Dole's prospects are "excellent."

Throughout the 1970's, Dole fought hard against what he feared was his party's negativism from years of being in the minority. Now the initiative is theirs, and he is anxious. "We are still in that stage where all we need to do is say something, but we'll need to do something in which the people can see some movement. They're not asking for the moon... just a little bit of movement."

He looks at Elizabeth, "And that's where I think it puts more of a focus on her role, because you can't do it unless the American people are a majority supporting you."

Elizabeth has a staff of 18 to care for interests as diverse as business, consumers, minorities, the elderly and women — and management skill is crucial. FAMILY WEEKLY wangled a corner in one of Elizabeth's Cabinet room meetings to watch her in action. The men around the huge oval table were among the most powerful in the nation, heads of companies like Exxon and General Telephone, attending in their roles as chiefs of their industrial associations.

Presiding from the chair beside the President's, she carefully sketched her role, calling it the President's "avenue of trust. When you have needs, suggestions, my office will be your official avenue," she told the group.