

176. 1982

ton Post, "even if it doesn't fall in his jurisdiction."

The senator's jurisdiction is broader than the Post suggested. Besides chairing the finance committee, he serves on the judiciary and rules committees and is the senior Republican member of the agriculture committee. Working these power centers on Capitol Hill and those "downtown" at the White House, in the USDA, and other departments of government, Dole can influence just about any important government decision he chooses.

He chooses to bring a good deal of influence to bear upon agricultural policy and programs. Dole is one of the few powers-that-be capable of making an impression on Secretary Alexander Haig whose State Department is not one of the senator's favorite agencies of government.

"There are people at State who have been there forever meddling in farm policy without knowing what it is all about," Dole told his Senate office. "Too often memos from the bowels of that department are narrow and do not take into account the position of producers and others."

"I have talked to Al Haig about this," the senator went on.

State Department "foot dragging," he charged, was responsible for the loss last year of several millions of taxpayer dollars on

See DOLES on Page 19

... Dole

(Continued from Page 13)

U.S. butter sales to New Zealand. The "paramount" farm issue of recent months has been high interest rates, said Dole, a problem that he told President Reagan "must be addressed." Without steady decline in these rates, said the senator, "it is going to be devastating for farmers, especially cattlemen, hog producers and others who borrow on short term."

Noting that federal spending has been cut substantially, and will be cut some more, Dole said, "We're trying to get government out of the money market, and that in itself ought to dampen interest rates some."

Most of the important compromises that seemed necessary between Congress and the Reagan Administration to pass a new farm bill were engineered by the senator from Kansas. When colleagues in Congress balked at reducing the growth in federal outlays for agriculture, Dole reminded them of the presidential veto power. In turn, he cautioned the White House against overstepping the bounds of reason in demands for an austere farm budget.

HE USED his influence and storied wit to placate those who opposed him, not to cut them up. Commenting on an amendment to increase guarantees for wheat and feed grains, Dole heaped praise upon its author, Democratic Sen. John Melcher of Montana. Melcher, said Dole, has a vast knowledge of farm programs, had given invaluable help to all members of the agriculture com-

mittee and is altogether an admirable public servant.

Then he moved to kill Melcher's amendment which was done by a heavy majority of 65 to 23.

The senator led his congressional fellows step by step to compromises on wheat and rice, feed grains and a dairy deal that brought final agreement at last on a veto-proof measure. "We are out of money," he said in the course of the dairy debate. "We have been on a 20-year spending binge in Congress and are starting to sober up around here."

Throughout, Dole hammered away on the spending issue — to bring down the projected cost of the farm bill to a level, he said, that would be acceptable to the President. The initial bill brought to the Senate floor could be passed "with ease," he said, "except for one thing: It costs too much money. . . . If we send down a bill even \$100 million above the Administration ceiling, 'the President is going to veto it.'"

Defending lower farm guarantees than many of his colleagues favored, Dole said: "I don't believe that 90% of parity would serve the farmer in the long run. That money comes from taxpayers. Furthermore, we need urban and suburban votes to pass these farm bills. We're not going to be able to do that if we are perceived to be loading up the legislation with sweeteners to help farmers farm the Treasury and not their land."

Earlham, Ia.

Farmers Cooperative Elevator Co. Sales, 912-680-471, see page 3, 15-82. Meeting was held 9-26-81 for fiscal year ending 6-30-81. New director: William Ory, Garlan Mueller is the general manager.

Farmers find little sympathy at meeting with Senator Dole

Overproduction behind low market prices

By SHARON BOWLES
Far-Mar-Co Staff Writer

THE CHAIRMAN of the Senate Finance Committee was not overly free with sympathy for economically-depressed farmers during a public meeting Feb. 19 in Far-Mar-Co's Hutchinson, Kan., headquarters.

Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), who is also the second ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, made it clear that in his responsibility on the Finance Committee he'd be taking a hard line on budgets and deficit spending in hearings which began the week of Feb. 22.

"There is no way the federal government can solve everyone's problems," said Dole.

DOLE HAS been traveling around the country — California, Texas, Nevada, Kansas — to get a feeling about current economic proposals before Congress. "There is a general feeling of optimism, with the exception of high interest rates. What are we going to do about high interest rates?"

"What are we going to do about the deficit? Because in my view, the deficit is directly tied to the high interest rate," he asserted. The senator said the national budget is in excess of \$700 billion and his Finance Committee has jurisdiction over \$400 billion-plus of that budget. "Unfortunately,"

added Dole, "\$100 billion of that is in interest costs to finance the national debt."

Noting that this is an election year, Dole said Congress was already coming under pressure to start opening up programs. "If we don't resist, we'll be back where we started. Having been in Congress quite awhile, 21 years, I can't recall a single time when Congress has ever cut federal spending. For this year, in fiscal '82, it has cut \$36 billion; next year it gets up to \$44 billion and then on up to about \$60 billion."

ILLUSTRATING programs that will come under scrutiny by his committee he used Medicare, a program that will affect every American. In 1970 Congress was told that Medicare could cost as much as \$9 billion by 1990. "The cost in 1982 is \$52 billion," said Dole, "and the cost in 1990 could be \$115 to \$127 billion. Now we've got to change the program."

"We have a \$91 billion deficit this year if — that's a big 'if' — Congress cuts spending, closes some loopholes and imposes some user fees to raise \$56 billion," continued Dole. "Then we can get the deficit to the \$91 billion. But Congress won't do all that. Whether we should or not is not the question; it just won't happen in an election year."

Dole emphasized he wanted drastic action taken to raise revenues, such as a minimum tax on corporations as well as individuals, because "I think everyone should have the chance to contribute to economic recovery, even the rich."

He added that he was not suggesting there would be additional taxes, that the tax bill now in place will, in fact, reduce individual taxpayers' obligations by \$750 billion. Nor will Dole support the current move to eliminate the tax cuts, although that would raise revenues. Such a move, said Dole, would only serve to take the pressure off Congress to cut spending and that would be the painless way out.

Although real estate, financial institutions and other businesses were well-represented in the crowd of about 100 who attended the public meeting in Hutchinson, the majority of questions came from agricultural producers.

HOWARD WARD, St. John, Kan., farmer and president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers,

asked Dole why the government continued to allow producers to keep exporting their grain for market prices \$1.50 a bushel below production costs.

"Because we are still operating in a free marketing system," answered Dole, indicating he felt producers were partly at fault for continuing to overproduce.

Dole said the Reagan Administration is seeking to attract more producers into the set-aside program, but five million more acres in Texas and two million more in Kansas had been put into production in the current marketing year. He also expressed concern about the amounts of grain moving into the reserve system, saying, "Someday it is going to haunt farmers."

Dole acknowledged the problems agricultural producers and others face in international trade. "We have a trade deficit with Japan of \$20 billion a year and are headed for a deficit of \$50 billion by 1990. . . . The EEC subsidizes agriculture to the point where we are not competitive."

Conceding that the U.S. needs a more aggressive export policy, Dole said that his Finance Committee would address that issue, but added, "I don't think we can fix (grain) prices to make it work."

"Let's take the dairy program," Dole offered. "We're going to give away 70 million pounds of cheese this month and take in 200 (million pounds). That's not a disaster. . . . Farmers aren't going to reduce their herds if the government buys all their production."

NOTING that he won approval for target prices by only two votes by lowering the proposed levels, the senator said, "We understand the importance of agriculture, but we also understand that nobody can be exempt if we're going to try to get a hold of the federal budget. Even if we could pay \$1 higher target prices to every farmer — even if it were good policy and it's not good policy — some way you've got to lower production."

"We amended the 1977 farm act three times in four years and nothing says we can't amend the '81 act, but I don't think the time is yet. If everyone wants to pull the plug, we might as well declare national bankruptcy."

Dole summed up, "I think we're on the threshold of a real opportunity for the economy of this country, but it's not painless."

Page 2—The Russell Daily News, Monday, March 15, 1982

Russell's Robert Dole: 'King of the Jungle'

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a three part series on Russell's contribution to the U.S. Senate, Bob Dole.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — If you pay taxes, get Social Security or Medicaid or food stamps or if you eat — and that includes every American — you life is touched by a man who gained immense power with the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan and a Republican Senate.

Sen. Robert Dole, a Kansas Republican with 21 years in Congress, 13 of them in the Senate, did not get as much power as he sought. He ran for president in 1980, billing himself as a younger and more experienced alternative to Reagan.

His presidential campaign never caught fire, but he received an exceedingly attractive consolation prize. With GOP takeover of the Senate, he became chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, where he played a major role in steering tax cuts and

budget cuts through Congress last year.

"He's running the country," were the words of two Dole observers: Neal Gillen, a lobbyist for cotton merchants, and Rep. Pat Roberts, a freshman GOP congressman from Kansas, who said Dole gives his state more national clout than it has ever had.

Is Dole satisfied or does he wish he were president?

"Well, nobody knew I was running for president but me, so I guess it's no big problem," he said. Then he added, with the perfect timing characteristic of his well-known wit, "My wife knew. . . . close friends and relatives."

"But it's sort of the way it turned out. I think I've had an opportunity; I have a lot of input on nearly every problem. I'm certainly not unhappy. I think we've been able to do it without breaking the furniture and losing any friends in the process."

With Reagan proposing additional budget cuts and Congress scrambling to find ways to reduce the deficit, Dole is a key player on domestic issues again this year, and in some areas, he and the administration are in less harmony than they were last year.

Dole is outspoken about a need to reduce the projected fiscal 1983 budget deficit of 91.5 billion, which the Congressional Budget Office projects to be \$121 billion. In a speech to an agricultural group, Dole described Congress' relationship with the administration for 1982: "We're not sheep. You didn't elect sheep to come to Congress."

Dole is unanimously described as a smart, ambitious legislative tactician with an uncanny ability to sense exactly what legislative proposals Congress can swallow.

His tone is often highly partisan, but he strives for a middle ground between positions and he usually wins with compromise.

"If all the senators are political animals, he's the king of the jungle," said William Taggart, a Washington consultant who handled agricultural and political chores for Dole for nearly a decade. "He's also a Leo."

Dole himself attributes his ability to win legislative battles to good staff work, respectful cooperation with other senators and many years of experience. "If you've watched a lot of successful, effective senators, you just have to get along with people," Dole said in an interview. "You just can't run over people."

Dole's highly sensitive political antennae keep him more responsive to constituents than might be expected of someone who has lived near the Potomac River for 21 years. They keep him responsive also to interests important to his state — from petroleum to general aviation to agriculture. He is also known as a close friend of veterans and the handicapped. His friends say he pays no heed to formal positions of interest groups, but he listens closely to individuals in those groups. Legislatively, the interest groups might like what he does and he will clear amendments with them, but they never get just what they want.

The closest Dole ever came to being a spokesman for a group was when he fought Nixon administration's fuel allocation proposals that would hurt aviation, Taggart said, because Beech, Cessna and Lear aircraft are produced in Kansas.

Totally devoted to his work, Dole never relaxes, Taggart said, and drives himself and his staff up to and beyond their limits.

The Russell Daily News, Tuesday, March 16, 1982

Bob Dole Straddles Political Spectrum

By United Press International

Dole, 58, was born in Russell, Kan., where he was a high school athlete. He quit pre-medical studies at Kansas University to enlist in the Army in 1943. As a 2nd lieutenant in the 10th Mountain Division he was wounded by German machine gun fire in Italy.

He suffered a shattered right shoulder and a broken neck. During 19 months of hospitalization, he lost a kidney and fought off a serious lung infection.

He was forced to abandon his dream of being a doctor. With help from neighbors, who raised money for successful experimental surgery and a therapist who later became his first wife, he recovered sufficiently to enter law school.

Most people believe a large part of his determination stems from his war injuries, still evident because of his crippled right arm.

While still in law school, at age 26, he was elected to the Kansas legislature, then served as Russell County attorney before being elected to the House in 1960. Dole was dogmatically conser-

vative when he first arrived in Washington. He is now regarded as moderate to conservative, but liberal on civil rights. His more liberal tendencies are reflected in staunch defense of food stamps and other federal nutrition programs.

Dole and Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., who was considerably to the left of the Kansas before his defeat for re-election in 1980, worked well together on both farm and nutrition issues. Dole gave McGovern credit for getting him interested in food programs and for creation and development of federal nutrition programs.

At first, Dole said, he thought the nutrition panel was "another boondoggle, just another platform for some politician who wants to run for president."

But hearings in Florida and California and exposure to malnutrition of Americans gradually changed Dole's mind.

Dole has been on the Senate Agriculture Committee longer than any other member, so he could be chairman. But he gave

(Continued on Page 6)

up his ranking Agriculture position in 1979 to become ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, putting him in position to take over the Finance chairmanship in 1981.

Yet, he remains the major Senate figure to be reckoned with in agricultural policy.

Dole was the force behind selection of John Block, an Illinois hog farmer, as agriculture secretary. When Block's chances of getting the job waned, Dole showed Reaganites a U.S. map, with a large gap showing that no Cabinet members had been selected from the Midwest.

Dole played a key role during long, difficult congressional con-

sideration of last year's farm bill. Always seeking consensus, Dole worked for price supports more generous than the administration wanted, but not so expensive that they would be rejected by Congress or vetoed by Reagan.

The senator, whose state is the nation's No. 1 wheat producer in most years, is sensitive about farmers' criticism of his role in trimming wheat target prices from levels passed by the Senate Agriculture Committee.

John Block initially wanted to eliminate target prices, which provide direct payments to farmers if market prices at harvest

fall below targets, but Dole and others resisted.

To get prices as needed, he said, to pressure administrations, no matter what party, to promote farm exports to avoid paying large sums to farmers. Target prices survived the Senate Agriculture Committee by one vote and the full Senate by two votes.

"We would not have had anything had we not been willing to make some cuts," Dole said. Besides, he said, farm prosperity is dependent on reducing interest rates and inflation, not on target prices.