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Dole elected to top Senate post

By Jake Henshaw
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Sen. Robert Dole, the 1976 GOP vice-presidential nominee, won a hotly contested race Wednesday to succeed retiring Howard Baker, R-Tenn., as Senate majority leader.

The 61-year-old Kansan, who briefly sought the presidency in 1980, defeated his closest rival, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, 28-25 in a secret ballot cast in a closed meeting. Dole said his primary goals would be to retain the GOP's Senate majority in the 1986 election, when Republicans have 22 of 34 seats up for re-election, and to support President Reagan's program.

"I think the deficit has to go to the top of everyone's agenda," Dole said. Reluctant in the past to rule out the need for a tax increase to cut the deficit, Dole downplayed that option Wednesday.

"I share the president's view that (a tax hike) is only a matter of a last resort," Dole said.

The election of Dole was immediately assailed as "an unmitigated disaster" by New Right leader Richard Viguerie, publisher of the Conservative Digest.

"Conservatives have often referred to Dole as the Walter Mondale of the Republican Party" for his support of the tax increases that would abort the recovery," Viguerie said.

Three other candidates for the majority leader position —

New GOP leadership for the Senate

Senate Republicans have new leaders after the election of Bob Dole as majority leader. (Power couple, 1A; Dole profile, 2A)



Bob Dole, Kan., Majority leader; Alan Simpson, Wyo., Majority whip; John Chafee, R.I., Conference chairman; Wm. Armstrong, Colo., Policy chairman; John Helms, Pa., Campaign chairman

New committee chairs	Existing committee chairs
Armed Services: Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.)	Agriculture: Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)
Commerce: John Danforth (R-Mo.)	Appropriations: Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.)
Finance: Bob Packwood (R-Ore.)	Banking: Jake Garn (R-Utah)
Foreign Relations: Richard Lugar (R-Ind.)	Budget: Pete Domenici (R-N.M.)
	Energy: James McClure (R-Idaho)
	Environment: Robert Stafford (R-Vt.)
	Gov't. Affairs: William Roth (R-Del.)
	Judiciary: Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.)
	Labor: Orin Hatch (R-Utah)
	Rules: Charles Mathias (R-Md.)
	Business: Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.)
	Veterans Affairs: Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.)

USA TODAY

2A - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1984 - USA TODAY

NEWSMAKERS

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PEOPLE IN THE HEADLINES

Years have mellowed Senator Dole

Kansas Sen. Bob Dole's victory as Senate majority leader came on the fourth ballot Wednesday, and his own explanation of it was vintage Dole.

"I think I promised two or three guys I'd pick them up every morning," he joked in allusion to the chauffeured limousine that is one requisite of his new job.

Dole, 61, is widely known for at least three qualities: a sharp wit, a sometimes sharper tongue and an off-and-on ambition to be president.

Tough fights are nothing to Robert Joseph Dole. A small-town boy from Russell, Kan., where he was a high school basketball star, Dole needed three years to recover, substantially but not fully, from paralyzing injuries while an infantry platoon leader in World War II.

He learned to write anew as a left-hander but finished college and law school at Topeka's Washburn Municipal University largely because of his memory and a tape recorder. It is to Dole now that Reagan must look for cajolery and whip-cracking on Capitol Hill.

He'll need to show far more finesse than he brought to Washington in 1961 at the start of eight years in the House. A sarcasm that some think was born of insecurity about his disability gave Dole a reputation for meanness that followed him to the Senate in 1969.

He was called "Nixon's Doberman pinscher" during Watergate. In 1976, as Gerald R. Ford's running mate, Dole tried to accuse Democrats of responsibility for "all the killed and wounded in all the Democrat wars in this century."

Such vituperation came to be blamed by many, including Ford, for their loss to Jimmy Carter. Recognition of it has been called one of two turning points in Dole's political rehabilitation.

The other, by many accounts, was his 1975 marriage to Elizabeth Hanford, a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and White House lawyer. Dole's first marriage to Phyllis Holden, his veterans hospital nurse, ended in divorce. The couple had one daughter, Robin, now grown.

Elizabeth Dole, now transportation secretary in the Re-

"Traditionally a full-time leadership position has not been helpful when running for a presidential nomination," Glickman said.

"He becomes spokesman for the Reagan administration in the Senate, at least for the next two years."

"If the economy goes south or the agricultural economy continues bad, or worsens, that may not be helpful to his presidential ambitions."

Glickman said he believes Dole would have had more flexibility in seeking the 1980 Republican presidential nomination if he had remained chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

"He was able to be a bit of a gadfly," he said. "So I'd say he would have had flexibility as chairman of the finance committee, but in terms of raw political power, he'll have more of that as majority leader."

Walt Riker, Dole's press secretary, said the Kansas senator will take over his new leadership position

Jan. 3, the day the new Congress goes into session.

The post will give Dole and his staff new, more prestigious offices in Washington. He'll move from a Senate Office Building into the Capitol Building.

Riker said announcement of who won the Senate majority leader's race was covered by one of the largest press turnouts ever in Washington.

"I'm told there were 32 television cameras and there were about as many at the press conference we had at 3 p.m.," Riker said.

Riker said Dole will retain his seats on the Senate Finance and Agricultural committees, though he will no longer be chairman of the finance committee. As majority leader, Dole is banned by Senate rules from leading any panels.

Riker said Dole received calls of congratulation from President Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Senate Minority Leader Rob-

ert Byrd, D-W.Va., his wife, Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole, plus former presidents Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon.

Nixon ousted Dole as chairman of the Republican National Committee in 1973 during the midst of the Watergate scandal.

Kansas

Continued from page 1

Governors' Association I will be working closely with Washington, and I look forward to working with Sen. Dole in his new position.

Stephan said, "The election of Sen. Dole as majority leader brings honor to Kansas and the Midwest and will enhance our image throughout the world."

"Sen. Dole has had a brilliant career in public service. It is fitting and proper that he should be majority leader of the most prestigious body in the world. "If I were Bob Dole, I'd be a damn happy man today and I'm sure he is."

But Glickman also said it depends on Dole as to how helpful his new position of congressional leadership will be to the state of Kansas.

"If he uses his clout to push for Kansas projects and Kansas needs, then it will be helpful," the congressman said. "If he uses his clout on national issues primarily, it either won't make much difference to Kansas or it may not be helpful at all."

Glickman said Dole's new leadership post will not affect his own decision on whether to run for the Senate against Dole in two years.

"Whether I run against him is going to be based on the political climate and the national picture at the time," Glickman said. "We'll all make our own political plans in time."

Glickman has said he will conduct some polls next year to ascertain his chances in a race against Bob Dole, and will not make a decision on whether to run for the Senate until he has results from those surveys.

Glickman and Cheshro agreed that Dole's election as Senate majority leader should have a beneficial impact on the Kansas senator's bid for re-election in 1986.

Cheshro said, "I put Sen. Dole in a stronger leadership position that he's been in."

Glickman said, "I think over the short term it has to be helpful because of the sense of pride it gives Kansans."

But Cheshro said he's uncertain what impact Dole's new position will have on the Kansas senator's expected bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 1988.

"I don't believe I'm qualified to speculate on that," Cheshro said. Glickman said he doubts the new post will help Dole much if he seeks the GOP presidential nomination in 1988.

Dole well known for his quick wit, skillful handling of legislative matters

L.A. Times-Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., who was elected Senate majority leader by his Republican colleagues Wednesday, has been called Congress' most effective and adroit legislative craftsman, one of its toughest competitors and its quickest and most biting wit.

He once jokingly referred to three former presidents, Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon, as "see no evil... hear no evil... and evil."

A tall, trim man who was a high school athlete, Dole was severely wounded in World War II. His right shoulder was shattered and his neck broken, and he lost a kidney and the use of his right hand.

Friends say the mental and emotional strain caused by the wounds and by spending 39 months in a hospital left their mark, making him disciplined, intensely competitive and a strong advocate of the rights of the handicapped.

During the 1976 campaign, in which he was the GOP vice presidential nominee, Dole told United Press International, "When I was 18, 19, 20, my primary interest was how fast I could run and how well I could do out on the basketball floor, whether I could catch a football. That seemed to be the greatest goal in life."

"Then suddenly I became a member of another class, when someone fed me and someone dressed me and someone turned me around... I learned to understand that I was pretty fortunate... that it's ability that counts, not disability."

In addition to running for vice president, Dole briefly ran for president in 1980 and is a possible 1988 presidential candidate.

Philosophically, Dole fits the old-fashioned definition of an economic conservative, abhorring deficits and trusting the free market.

He has been less at home with the New Right's conservative agenda and supply-side economic theories espoused by the Reagan administration. But, despite misgivings, he has been a team player during the last four years.

As Finance Committee chairman, Dole was instrumental in shepherding President Reagan's 1981 tax cuts through Congress.

Robert Joseph Dole was born in Russell, a town of about 5,000 in northwest Kansas.

After recovering from his war injuries, Dole attended Washburn University in Topeka, where he got a bachelor's degree and a law degree with the help of his first wife, Phyllis, who took notes for him.

While in law school, Dole successfully ran for the Kansas legislature. He was first elected to the U.S. House in 1960 and to the Senate in 1968.

In 1976 Ford selected Dole as his running mate after several others turned down the position. It was during that race, in which Dole's acerbic wit was first on national display, that the label "hatchetman" was spread from coast to coast.

Today the hatchetman image has faded and Dole is thought of as one of the GOP's most effective leaders. According to friends, Dole mellowed after being divorced and in 1975 marrying Elizabeth Hanford Dole, now secretary of transportation.

She was a member of the Federal Trade Commission under Ford and a Reagan adviser before being appointed to her present post in 1983.

At his wife's Senate confirmation hearing, Sen. Dole told the Senate Commerce Committee, "I've known the nominee for about 10 years, and I regret that I have but one wife to give to my country's infrastructure."

BOB DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATE

December 7, 1984

Dear Friends and Family:

Thank you for your warm and enthusiastic response to news of my election as Senate Majority Leader. I feel privileged and pleased to have the opportunity to represent Kansas in this leadership position in the 99th Congress.

The attention generated by your notes, your telegrams, your telephone calls, the cookies, and the congratulatory banner is overwhelming. Sentiments from Russell add a special meaning to every occasion.

We are grateful for the emergency cookie delivery. I hope to be with you to celebrate in the near future.

Elizabeth and I send our warm wishes for a joyous holiday season and good health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

Residents of Russell
c/o The Russell Daily News
Russell, Kansas 67665