

# Kansans welcome Soviets

## Ovations greet visitors during tour of Dodge

By Ray Hemman  
The Hutchinson News

DODGE CITY — While it was billed as a way for the Americans to show the Soviets democracy in action, Sunday's town meeting at Dodge City quickly became the visitors' arena.

"I want to talk about these feelings that tie us together," said Yevgeny M. Primakov, chairman for the Council of Union for the Supreme Soviet. "We have been in the United States for a couple of days. I get the feeling we are very much like Americans and Americans are very much like ourselves — by our openness and frankness, by the health and soul of heart, by the desire to have peace, by the love of children and by the hospitality."

• Soviet Ambassador drops by Wichita  
• Primakov's wit  
See Page 3

The Soviet and the others in his delegation used an interpreter throughout the town meeting. Primakov occasionally made private comments to Americans in English.

Primakov received a 15-second standing ovation from the crowd of 1,000 at the Dodge City Civic Center. It was the second of three standing ovations Primakov received during the 1½-hour town meeting. The first was when he was introduced; the final was when Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., led the crowd in singing "Happy Birthday" to commemorate Primakov's 60th birthday, which was Sunday.

A delegation of 10 Soviet officials visited Kansas Sunday and will continue its tour of the state today. Sunday's visit included Wichita and Dodge City. The group will tour PMS Foods and Union Equity in Hutchinson today before traveling to Haven for lunch at the farm of George and Lois Schlickau and then flying out of McConnell Air Force Base at about 2 p.m.

The delegation was invited to Kansas by Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan. After arriving in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, the group spent Saturday in Maine at the invitation of Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine. Dole, Senate minority leader, is hosting the group in Kansas. Dole and Mitchell had met the



Photos by Chris Ochsner



## Glasnost on the prairie

Above, Yevgeny M. Primakov, chairman of the Council of the Union of the Soviet Union, center, reaches across a fence to shake hands with Bill Titus, left, Kinsley, while Sen. Bob Dole stands by Sunday at Front Street in Dodge City. Titus was watching the Soviet group's tour of the Western attraction from outside the confines of the park when Dole and Primakov came over to greet him. At left, Anatoli A. Sobchak, U.S.S.R. people's deputy, takes time to pose for a photo with Front Street can-can girls Mischel Miller, left, Gwen Nelson and Stephanie McCullough.

Soviets a year ago on a tour of that country.

During Sunday's town meeting, the Soviets were asked all but one question. That sole question was whether the U.S. should grant the Soviets "most favored nation" status. Such a move would make American markets more accessible to the Soviets, and the Kremlin has made no secret it wants the status. Dole, in answer to Dodge City Galen Hubb's question, replied that given the situation in the Soviet Union, he could see no reason not to give the status to the Soviets. The status had been denied to the nation because of restrictive emigration policies. Anatoli A. Sobchak, member of the Supreme Soviet, gave the Soviet's feeling about the emigration issue.

reminded you that your original wheat was brought from Russia," said Nikolai Y. Petrakov, deputy chairman of the Council of Union. "Somehow in the Soviet Union in the last 70 years, wheat did not grow the same way. We started making more tractors and fertilizer, but somehow it wouldn't grow.

"So some of the economists thought about it. They thought maybe it didn't grow because we don't pay (Soviet) farmers in U.S. dollars. Now we are paying in U.S. dollars and it grows. We try to pay dollars to see if it will grow back. Things are getting better. But don't worry. It won't be a while before we stop buying U.S. wheat." The Soviets had asked for a mock gunfight to be held, but security officials for the event vetoed the idea. The guns used by Boot Hill gunfighters were checked at the outside gate by a Dodge City police officer for ammunition — blanks or real.

Dodge City's Miss Kitty, Mischel Miller, distributed the marshal badges to the delegation. Primakov gave the Dodge City woman a big hug. "You can't tell the difference between the Russians and our people," she said after the event. "It was amazing the warmth I felt in their kisses and handshakes.

"The Russians wanted to see this, the cowboys and horses. We've never had anything like this where we take time out to honor a group. We have a lot of tourists. What was special is they (the Soviets) asked for us."

One of the questions at the town meeting asked whether the wind blew as much or as hard in the Soviet Union. It does, Primakov said, and deferred to Bisher for a full answer.

"It does blow, mostly from the west," Bisher said. "And I hope in the future as before the wind from the west carries good news and good words from the people of Kansas."

Continued from Page 1  
remains one legal detail, and we already have prepared legislation on emigration. In order for us to do this, it must be changed by the Congress of the People's Deputies. That is what we are doing. The Congress of the Peoples deputies meets next in May or June.

During an interview after the town meeting, Kansas Gov. Mike Hayden said trade would be on the agenda in a meeting between the Soviet delegation and a group from Kansas that included himself and Dole. The meeting is set for 8 this morning in Wichita.

Not all the questions were as easy. Hutchinson's Veronika Tarm asked when the world would see the "Soviet occupation forces" withdrawn from Estonia and the other Baltic republics. Ms. Tarm is a native of Estonia.

Like many other Estonians in the United States, Ms. Tarm feels the Soviets are illegally occupying Estonia as the result of a secret agreement between

Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin in 1944 that gave Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia over to Soviet control. The American Estonians want independence for their homeland.

"I don't think Minister (Eduard) Shevardnadze has said there were occupation forces in those countries," said Primakov, who is the Soviet equivalent of the U.S. speaker of the House. "Or maybe this is the way your media has shown that. We would like you not to interfere with what is going on in our house. We will not get in your affairs in Kansas."

Primakov's answer was met with applause. The Soviets also told the crowd there is little chance of them not coming to U.S. markets for wheat in the near future. Perestroika — restructuring — is changing the way the Soviets do business, but it will take time for the changes to have a major effect. "I want to remind you as the chairman

## Primakov wins stand-up showdown at Boot Hill

By Ray Hemman  
The Hutchinson News

DODGE CITY — Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., found a humorous match on Boot Hill Sunday.

Dole, known worldwide for his quick humor, presided over a meeting Sunday where Yevgeny M. Primakov, chairman of the Soviet Council of the Union, displayed his quick wit at the Dodge City Civic Center. Primakov opened his town meeting presentation with a monologue that would make Johnny Carson smile.

"When Congressman (Pat) Roberts got up and told you everything he knows about me and when Sen. Dole got up and told all the statistics about the Soviet Union, I didn't think there was any reason for me to get up," Primakov said to open his presentation.

"I got slightly concerned when Sen. Dole said the two countries had similar population, but we have 15 republics and you have got 50 states,

and I wondered if he had some territorial intentions. But he calmed my fears. He told me not at all.

"When Sen. Dole said we've got 10 million cars and you have 110 million, I realized we don't spoil the environment as much as you do.

"Then when we set foot on Kansas soil, I found out we were clairvoyants. Way back then, we knew we would send you some wheat and we'd get a tremendous harvest one day."

Primakov referred to the Russian Mennonite immigrants to Kansas who brought Turkey wheat with them. The hard red winter wheat, originally from the Soviet Union, has made Kansas a top wheat producer.

Then Primakov threw his political weight behind Dole.

"Sen. Dole is a good man. When he ran for president, we were going to go out and campaign for him. Not everything is lost. Maybe you'll be a little smarter next time."



Photo by Chris Ochsner

Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, left, and Gov. Mike Hayden, right, listen as Yevgeny M. Primakov talks about the things that Kansas and the Soviet Union have in common during his speech Sunday in Dodge City.