

Dole picks right time to take some heat

Foreign aid plan finds an uncommon niche

By Alissa Rubin
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — If ever there is a time and an issue over which Kansas Sen. Bob Dole can afford to take political heat, it is in January of 1990 over America's foreign aid policy, say political analysts and fellow politicians.

Dole last week proposed a 5 percent across-the-board cut in aid to Israel and other leading recipients of U.S. foreign aid. He would send the money to new democracies in Eastern Europe and Latin America.



Dole

The Dole plan was greeted at first with amazement in Washington, where merely suggesting cuts in aid to Israel is a sensitive topic. On Capitol Hill the Jewish lobby is renowned for its political clout and its multimillion-dollar campaign contributions.

But Dole has several advantages, said political analysts, who feel the proposal will spark discussion.

"He is uncommonly situated," said Ken Duberstein, a political consultant who was a congressional liaison and chief of staff in the Reagan White House.

"Dole clearly has close ties to the Bush administration, and as Republican leader, he has the pulse of the Senate, and Dole's always pushing a consensus."

Further, as a senator from Kansas he has little to fear from his Jewish constituency — less than 1 percent of Kansas are Jewish. As a political player, he is between sets: He has two years to go in his Senate term and no longer needs to be as worried about campaign contributions as he might have been when he was a presidential contender. Most important, the public has been overwhelmingly sympathetic to the cause of helping Eastern Europe.

Dole's office received 452 telephone calls in the three days after he outlined his proposal in an opinion article in The New York Times. His staff said that the calls were 97 percent in favor of his idea. There

were a dozen calls from Kansas. "More important than that he's from Kansas is that he's a Republican, and the Republicans are just less dependent on Israel," said Bill Schneider, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

The timing of Dole's proposal — on the eve of Congress' return from the Christmas recess and a visit from Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin — almost certainly was aimed at getting Israel's and Congress' attention, but may well lead to little change.

Dole's fellow Republican senator from Kansas, Nancy Kassebaum, a member of the foreign relations committee, said that although she welcomed the proposal she thought it addressed neither the complexity of America's foreign aid policy nor

the political reality that the majority in Congress supports the levels of financing that now go to a handful of countries. About \$9.5 billion, two-thirds of the foreign aid budget, is shared among just five countries.

"From a political standpoint, we probably won't do it," Kassebaum said of Dole's proposal.

Kassebaum, who favors a system that would coordinate American aid with that of other countries, also said that Dole's proposal to make cuts across the board would unfairly deal into the small amounts of money that go to the majority of countries. As a congressional leader, Dole came up with a typical legislator's solution, political scientists said.

"He's slicing off a little baloney on one side and putting it on another platter," said Burdett Loomis, chairman of the political science de-

partment at the University of Kansas. "This is essentially a legislative solution to a very complex set of problems."

That's the problem with the Dole plan, said David Farnsworth, a Wichita State University political scientist who specializes in foreign policy.

"The proposal he's made is a bit simplistic," Farnsworth said.

Egypt and Israel get more than a third of America's foreign aid in exchange for keeping the Camp David accords and giving the United States a strategic position in the Arab world, Farnsworth said. Similarly, the Philippines are strategically important to America in Asia.

"Dole is saying reallocate the money, but he's not looking at the reasons the money goes to those countries."

Hutchinson News Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1990

Dole king of network television

WASHINGTON (AP) — Among members of Congress, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., was the undisputed king of network television newscasts in 1987-88, according to a new study.



Dole

Dole, the Senate Republican leader and a contender for the 1988 GOP presidential nomination, was mentioned 486 times on the evening news programs on CBS, NBC and ABC — more than any other House or Senate member, according to an analysis released Monday by Joe S. Foote, chairman of the radio-television department at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Dole earned 276 network mentions in 1985-86, a period in which he served as the majority leader in the Senate. Foote's study showed how lawmakers greatly increased their network exposure by becoming presidential or vice presidential contenders.

For example, Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., led House members in 1987-88 with 253 mentions on the networks compared with 25 in 1985-86, when he was a key figure in tax simplification debates on Capitol Hill.

The analysis tracked the number of times lawmakers were included in a network film clip, in an interview or had their names mentioned in a report on a prime time news program.

Among the Kansas congressional delegation, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican, followed Dole with 25 network newscast mentions in 1987-88. Reps. Dan Glickman, a Wichita Democrat, and Jim Slattery, a Topeka Democrat, each had three mentions; and Rep. Bob Whitaker, an Augusta Republican, had one. Reps. Pat Roberts, a Dodge City Republican, and Jan Meyers, an Overland Park Republican, had none.

In 1987-88, the study found that 10 percent of the members of the Senate accounted for nearly 50 percent of all network Senate coverage. Less than 3 percent of the membership in the House made up about 90 percent of the network House coverage during the same two-year period.

117th year — No. 28

Salina, Kansas SUNDAY January 28, 1990

Dole endorses federal budget freeze

By ERIN EICHER
Staff Writer

Advocating a freeze on federal spending, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kansas, hammered home the message to three different audiences in Salina Saturday that the nation's debt must be reduced.

"If I were 30 years younger, I'd be chasing members of Congress around with a ball bat because we're talking about your future," Dole told members of the FFA, a farm organization for youth.

Those attending the Lions Club International Midwest Rally heard: "We're broke. We're broke. We're a debtor nation."

And at Phillips Lighting Co., which is scheduled to celebrate production of its 1 billionth fluorescent light next month, Dole compared that milestone to the nation's \$3 trillion debt.

"You're about to hit the billionth lamp, but that's not anywhere near a trillion or 3 trillion," he told company employees.

Dole stopped in Salina as part of his visit to the state for Kansas Day weekend.

He said Congress could make strides toward reducing the deficit and save billions of dollars by capping federal spending at its current level. He said he believed that most Americans would accept across-the-board cuts that affected all but the most needy.

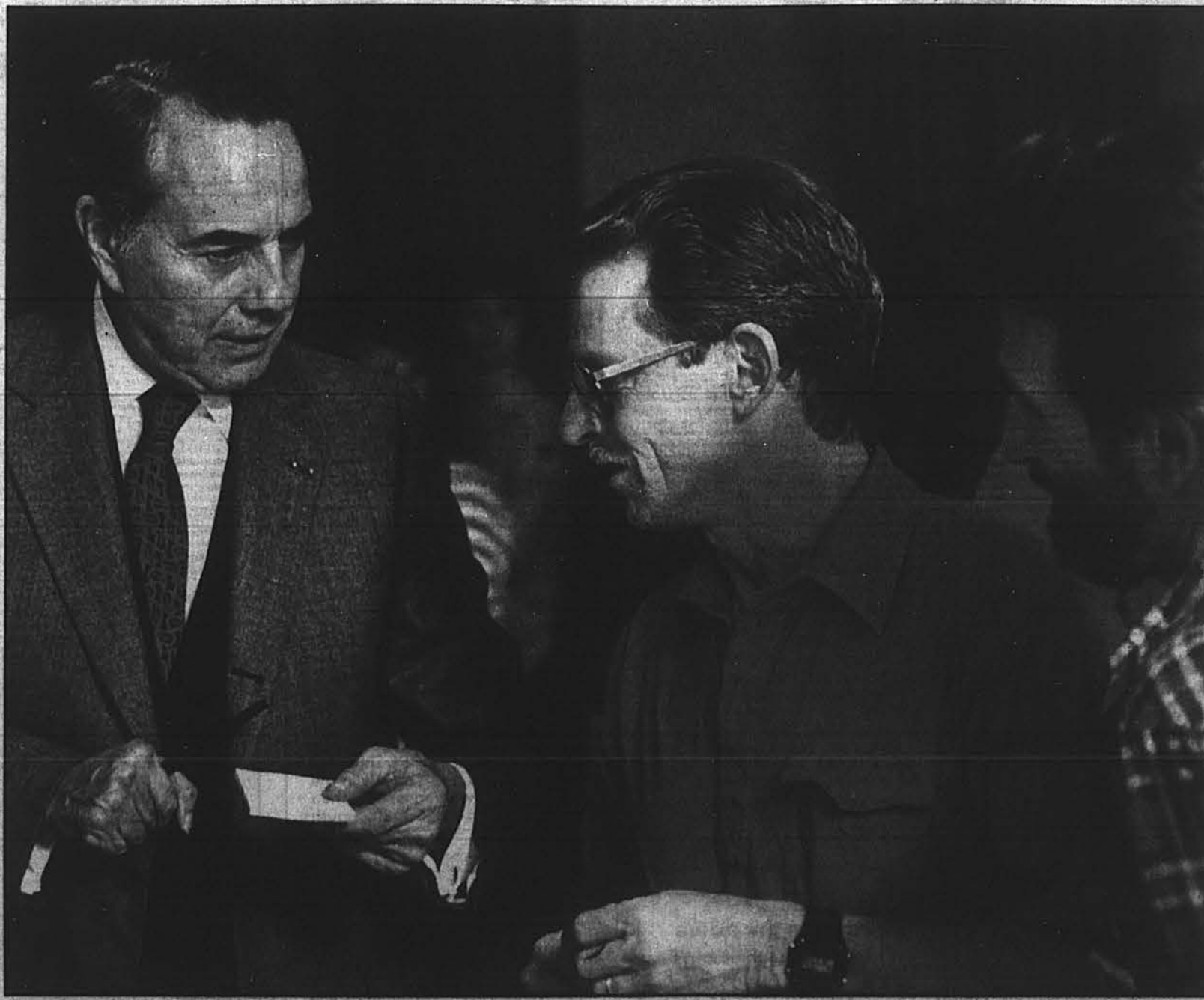
However, the pressures to increase spending are great, he said.

With the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, liberal members of Congress are advocating increased foreign aid to countries such as Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania that are striving to establish democratic governments, Dole said.

"Many would say we have an obligation to those countries," he said. "But where are we going to get the money?"

"I say we take the aid we have and find the money there. They say, 'Oh no, just make the pie bigger.' But we can't make the pie bigger. We don't have any dough."

Dole said Japanese investors are in effect financing the annual \$170 billion in interest on the debt by buying American securities be-



Scott Williams

Sen. Bob Dole talks to Phillips Lighting Co. employees Larry Rice (center) and Jim Kuntz during a tour of the plant Saturday.

cause Americans don't have the money.

"Let's don't do to ourselves what outside forces couldn't do to us in world wars. Let's don't spend ourselves into bankruptcy and oblivion."

Closer to home, Dole said he was "holding his breath" in anticipation of a list of Army bases to be closed that Secretary of Defense Richard

Cheney is scheduled to release Monday.

Dole said he did not expect Fort Riley, located near Manhattan, to be on the list.

Although public demand for cuts in defense spending is increasing as the Soviet threat seems to be diminishing, Dole said, U.S.-Soviet arms agreements need to be in place before defense cuts are made.

In response to a Phillips employee who owns land in the Fort Riley area and fears losing her farm to a proposed port expansion, Dole said, most government agencies will request more than they actually need.

"We will make certain that those of us who are representing people in the area are satisfied that every inch of that land is needed to fulfill the mission of that particular

base," Dole said.

Other topics addressed by Dole included:

■ The 1990 Farm Bill. Dole, a member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, said he expected the new farm bill to be a modified version of the 1985 bill.

Environmental concerns will play

(See Dole, Page 11)

Dole

(Continued from Page 1)

a key role in formation of the bill," he said, although he expressed skepticism about the need for extensive environmental protection measures.

"I always thought a farmer was the pioneer environmentalist," he told members of the FFA.

Unlike the previous bill, Dole said, he expected the new bill to offer either disaster assistance programs or federal crop insurance, but not both. Because of the difficulty of passing a disaster bill, Dole said he prefers improving crop insurance to make it more attractive to farmers.

■ Social Security. Although a recent proposal to cut the Social Security tax may sound good to working people, Dole said, the government must be able to ensure that sufficient funds will be available when they retire. He said attempts are being made to protect Social Security dollars from spending for other purposes.

■ Illegal drug enforcement. He said although the United States would likely expand its annual drug prevention budget to \$30 billion to \$40 billion within the next eight years, the problem cannot be solved by the government. Efforts must be made by churches, schools and service organizations, he said.

"Every generation has their problems, and yours is a big one," he said at the FFA meeting. "We're a long way from turning the corner in the war on drugs."