

Pro-Israel lobby tracks congressmen's actions

By JAKE THOMPSON
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Kansas Sen. Bob Dole says he'd gladly match his 26-year record on Israel against anyone else in Congress. That record, though, from the pro-Israel community's point of view, is mixed.

To assess a congressman's support of Israel the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, relies on an elaborate system that tracks dozens of large and small votes, and whether a congressman signs onto letters or resolutions, speaks up in committees or makes speeches favoring Israel.

The committee passes the information, without recommendations, onto its members who control several dozen pro-Israel political action committees across the nation.

The political action committees typically have aimed contributions to Israel's most ardent back-



Bob Dole ... record covers 26 years

sum compared with a few members who have received hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Since he came to Washington in 1964, Dole has defended Israel's right as a sovereign nation, an aide said. He began voting for the foreign aid bill, which this year includes \$3 billion for Israel, in 1978, the lobby said.

The Kansas Republican voted in 1981 for the sale of special radar-equipped jets to Saudi Arabia, which narrowly passed the Congress over stiff pro-Israel lobby objections. Dole also supported other proposed arms sales to Arab nations during the 1980s.

As the representative on the Hill for Reagan and then Bush, Dole has been sitting down with Ohio Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, representing Israel, since 1986 to negotiate conditions on arms sales, resulting in some sales to Arab nations.

In 1984, Dole led the successful battle for a free trade bill passed by Congress that deepened eco-

nom ties between the United States and Israel.

Dole, then Senate majority leader, marshaled approval in 1986 for an international genocide treaty, which was hailed by the pro-Israeli community. The treaty made genocide an international crime punishable by an international court.

In 1987, Dole led a charge to close two Palestine Liberation Organization offices in Washington and New York because of the group's "terrorist" activities, a top goal of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for that year. Congress passed the bill. The offices closed.

In a speech that year he suggested that the United States develop a strategic relationship with Israel that would protect the NATO alliance's southern flank.

Dole supported giving Israel \$400 million in loan guarantees, which Congress passed this spring. And he was one of 84 senators who signed onto a resolu-

tion declaring Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Dole later renounced his support, saying the issue should be decided by all countries in the Middle East.

Kansas Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Missouri senators Jack Danforth and Kit Bond, all Republicans, supported the Jerusalem resolution and last year's foreign aid bill. Bond supported the drive to close PLO offices; Danforth and Kassebaum did not.

Kassebaum, who received \$4,000 from pro-Israel PACs, generally supports Israel but has voted for arms sales to Arabs. Both Bond and Danforth are strong backers of Israeli issues and generally oppose arms sales.

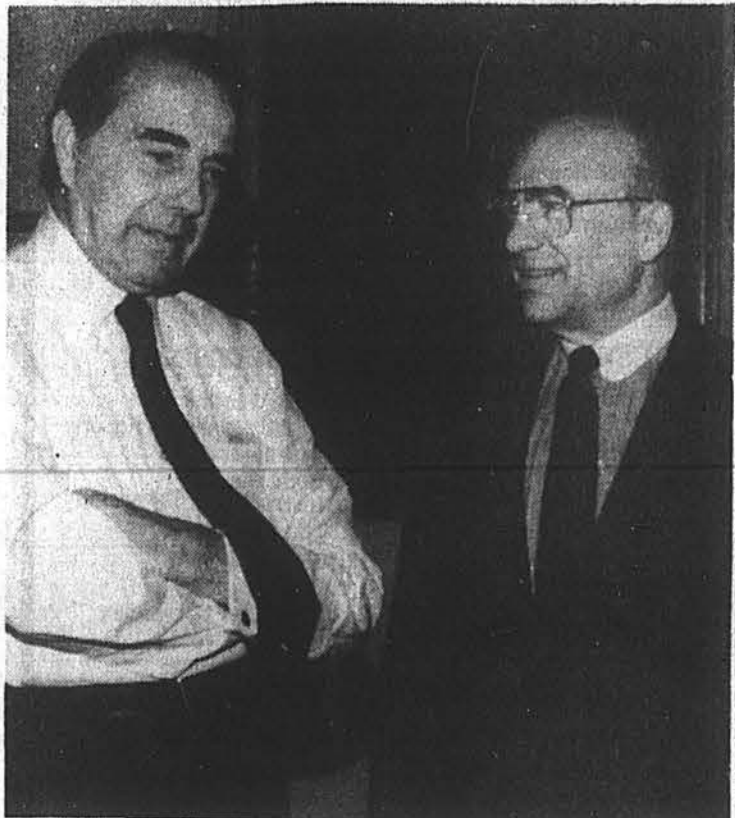
In their election campaigns since 1985, Danforth has received \$83,500 and Bond \$41,750 from top pro-Israel political action committees. Former Lt. Gov. Harriett Woods, who ran against Danforth in 1982 and Bond in 1986 and who is Jewish, received \$130,000 in 1985-86 from the

pro-Israel political action committees.

Among House members, all Missouri and Kansas congressmen voted for the Jerusalem resolution, except Kansas Republican Reps. Bob Whittaker and Pat Roberts and Missouri Democrat Rep. Bill Clay. Missouri Republican Rep. Tom Coleman voted present.

All Missouri and Kansas House members approved the \$400 million loan guarantees to resettle Soviet Jews in Israel, except Missouri Republican Rep. Mel Hancock.

The largest House recipient of pro-Israel campaign contributions in the two states has been Rep. Dan Glickman, a Wichita Democrat who is Jewish. He has received \$60,000 since 1985. Close behind him was Rep. Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat and House majority leader, who received \$51,500, according to federal election commission records.



DOLE MEETS WITH YEUTTER—"Kansas farmers want a farm bill, not partisan politics," according to Sen. Bob Dole. Concerned by political maneuvering during the early stages of the 1990 Farm Bill debate, Dole recently met with Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter to discuss progress on the new farm plan which will set America's agricultural policy for the next five years; determining target prices, loan rates and commodity payments to farmers. Dole hopes to have a bipartisan farm bill on President Bush's desk by August, but warns that some Democrats playing politics with farm policy could jeopardize the legislation. "Some of the irresponsible proposals I have heard — such as promising billions and billions of new taxpayer dollars for farm programs in the face of America's budget crisis—are stalling our efforts to get the new five-year blueprint to our farmers." Dole, a senior Republican member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, was instrumental in authoring and guiding the 1985 Farm Bill into law.

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DOLE SALUTES AMERICAN MILITARY HEROES—"You have won the Cold War," Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole declared at a special U.S. Capitol tribute to more than 300 military heroes and their families. The colorful and emotional event honored the courageous men and women who have served America in conflicts from the Korean War to the Panama invasion, including the Vietnam War, America's raid on Libya, the rescue mission in Grenada, and peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East. Dole recognized the

heroes for their "underappreciated valor," telling them that their dedication and sacrifice helped "topple the Berlin Wall, and bring down dictators the world over." Dole, a decorated and disabled World War II veteran said, "for the past four decades the world behind the Iron Curtain—the world beneath the fist of the tyrants and the terrorists—looked to America for hope, and America looked to you to get the job done. Today, the free world says thank you."

Bob Dole Urges Symbolic Vote on Flag Amendment

6/22/90

By STEVE GERSTEL
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Republican leader Robert Dole pushed Friday for a symbolic Senate vote on a constitutional amendment prohibiting desecration of the U.S. flag, charging that the House rejected "the will of the American people" in refusing its approval.

Dole, however, acknowledged that his personal headcount showed "the vote will be close" and added, "I think we will probably lose."

A "whip" tally by assistant Senate Democratic leader Alan Cranston showed 54 supporting the amendment, 29 opposed and 17 undecided.

The House, after a day of emotional and eloquent debate, rejected Thursday what would have been the 27th amendment to the Constitution on a 254-177 vote—34 short of the two-thirds needed.

The House vote killed the measure at the first stage of its journey. A constitutional amendment required a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate and House, and then must be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

But under an agreement reached last week, the Senate will hold a symbolic vote next week, probably on Tuesday, prompting one Democratic co-sponsor to comment it can serve no purpose except to provide "30-second TV spots" to be used against opponents in political campaigns.

Sen. James Exon, D-Neb., the co-sponsor, said, "I see no need for a vote. The only reason would be for political purposes—which I think is sad."

Dole, who has campaigned for the constitutional amendment from the moment the Supreme Court on a 5-4 decision struck down a statute banning desecration of the flag, said "the choice

for us in the Senate is crystal clear."

"We can either follow the House's lead and embrace the bellwether know-it-alls or we can embrace the will of the American people . . . who want to give Old Glory the constitutional protection she so much deserves."

With a re-election rate of more than 98 percent," he said, "with many incumbents running unopposed, it's no surprise that House members think they can get away with snubbing the voters of the country. Public accountability is out, public arrogance is in."

"As far as I'm concerned, this is a serious issue. I thought the flag was pretty important—important enough to fight for, important enough to die for, important enough to spend a long time in a hospital for," said Dole, who was hospitalized with crippling wounds in World War II.

The Senate GOP leader branded as a "sham" the House's attempt to pass another statute, which failed 236-177, after the constitutional amendment went down and said it was purely a "maneuver to get everybody off the hook . . . so at least there was a little justice."

Sen. Tim Wirth, D-Colo., an opponent of the constitutional amendment, said it would "do our country and our Constitution a disservice" and added the debate in the House exposed the flag issue "as politics at its worst."

Sen. Brock Adams, D-Wash., also an opponent, said the House vote "rendered moot" any Senate action, charging that the "only possible reason (for a Senate vote) is to provide arist for the campaign mill."

Q U.S. Sen. Robert Dole always appears to be clutching a pen or a pencil in his right hand. Was it injured?

Jo Ann Miller, San Mateo, Calif.

The Kansas Republican has a nearly useless right hand and an impaired left hand as a result of a shrapnel wound he suffered in an attempt to save an Army buddy in World War II. Dole, who lost nearly half his weight, spent the next four years recovering in a hospital. "For too long, physical and attitudinal barriers have kept persons with disabilities out of the mainstream. But that's going to change," says Dole, 67, a native of Russell, Kan. "It's time America learned that 'disabled' does not mean 'unable.'" That is why the senator is a leading supporter of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which aims to reinforce civil rights protection for 43 million disabled Americans, to prohibit job discrimination and to mandate access to public transportation and buildings. At press time, the act was awaiting the signature of President Bush, who favors it.