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Dole says bipartisanship was key factor in success of last session

By Barry Massey
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Bob Dole's tenure as Senate Republican leader can be measured in years or by another yardstick: 2,177 votes cast and 7,126 hours in session since 1985.

Dole's motto for the job is simple: "In the final analysis, you've got to get things done."

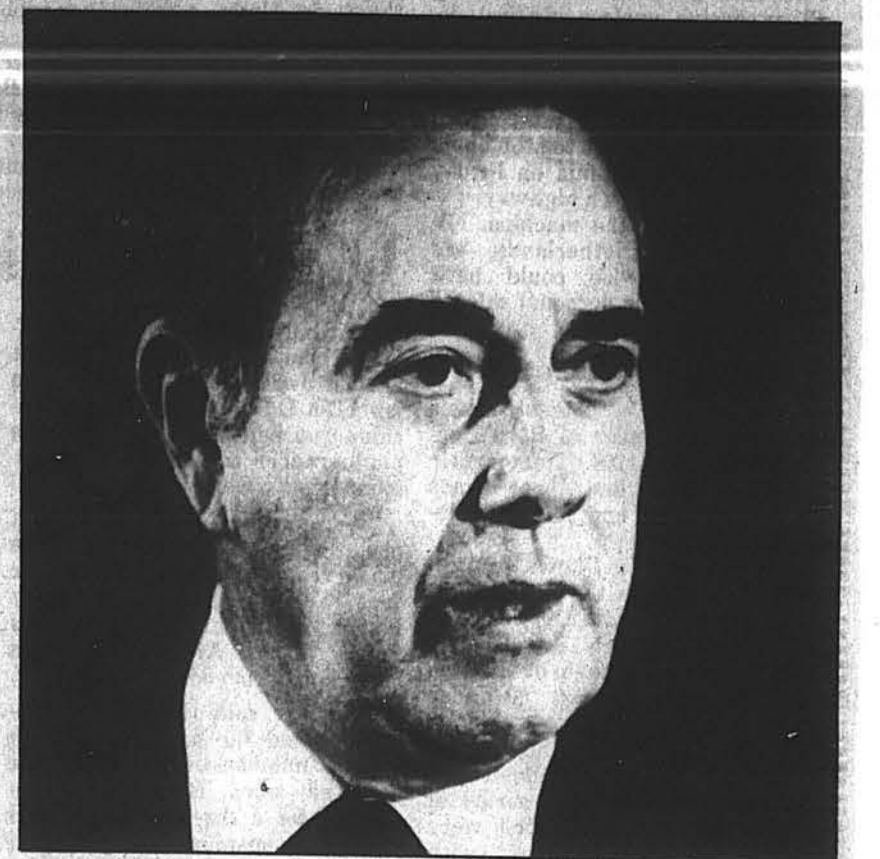
"Whether it's child care or clean air ... we did a lot of things in the last session," the Kansan said. "And in every case, they wouldn't have happened without bipartisanship."

His GOP colleagues in the Senate liked his performance enough to recently elect him to the job for another two years. Dole didn't even face a challenger.

President Bush used the occasion of Dole's leadership election this month to offer a glowing assessment of his former presidential campaign rival.

"Bob has led our policy with style, wit and with precision, with integrity. And I've come to count on him every single day. And he's been a great Republican leader, as great as any in the past," Bush said at a dinner for GOP senators.

For his part, Dole has tasted two flavors of Senate leadership. In 1985-86, he was in charge of a GOP-controlled Senate as majority leader. But that changed dramatically when Democrats regained control in the 1986 elections. Dole has served as minority leader since 1987.



Associated Press photo

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., answered reporters' questions at a press conference at Fort Riley on Monday. Dole stopped in Kansas to check on the readiness of the 1st Division before heading to Saudi Arabia to spend Thanksgiving with the troops.

He readily admits there is a big difference in the two jobs.

"You don't set the agenda," Dole said of his current role as leader of the Republican minority. "You don't turn off the lights at night or turn them on in the morning."

In the 102nd Congress, which will convene in January, Democrats will hold a 56-44 majority — a one seat gain. But that margin ensures Democrats will need Republicans and Republican leaders to pass legislation on most occasions, Dole said.

"Again with a fairly close division in the Senate, one leader can't function without the other," Dole said in a recent interview, in which he reflected on his leadership years, the legislative accomplish-

ments and relationships with two Republican presidents.

"I guess we've had much more contact with President Bush than we ever had with Reagan," Dole said.

Bush is "a lot more engaged in the process" of government than was Reagan, he said. Dole attributes that to Bush's long record of government service, from congressman to vice president.

"I think Bush tends to accommodate the Congress a little more since he knows the people and the leaders," Dole said.

But President Reagan was a better communicator, Dole said. Reagan also "relished on being an outsider" rather than a longtime Washington insider, he said.

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Dole: Soviet ties at critical period

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States could be forced to halt aid and support for the Soviet Union if the country moves toward authoritarian rule, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Friday.

Dole warned that the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made the next 48 to 72 hours a critical period for determining the Soviet Union's future political course.

If Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "starts moving to the right and we start seeing the KGB and the army playing a bigger role ... then I think we might have to re-evaluate things like export credits, defense spending, our hopes to get arms agreements with the Soviets," Dole said.

Dole said a key test would be the future handling of resistance and independence movements in Soviet republics, such as the Baltic states.

If the Soviets use force to crack down on rebellious republics, then "I think we have to back off

from all this effort to try to help Gorbachev survive," Dole said.

A turnaround in U.S.-Soviet policy could have a direct effect on Kansas and other farm states.

Last week, the United States announced that it would provide \$1 billion in credits for the Soviets to buy U.S. agricultural products, including wheat. Dole said a change in U.S. policy might be necessary "notwithstanding whatever benefit this might be to American farmers."

The senator made his comments in a telephone news conference with Kansas broadcasters.

On another matter, Dole said he remained hopeful Secretary of State James A. Baker III could work out a date to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before Jan. 15.

Dole also said he thought the "split is closing" between Democrats and Republicans on whether Congress should approve a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq if Saddam fails to withdraw his occupation forces from Kuwait.

If no meeting is arranged between U.S. and Iraqi officials, Dole said lawmakers might begin debate on Persian Gulf policy soon after the new Congress convenes Jan. 3.



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Hutchinson News
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Dole credits bipartisanship for successes in Congress

By The Associated Press

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Dole's motto for the job is simple: "In the final analysis, you've got to get things done."

Dole is proud of the accomplishments during the past congressional session.

"Whether it's child care or clean air, we did a lot of things," Dole said. "And in every case, they wouldn't have happened without bipartisanship."

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Dole

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"Bob has led our policy with style, wit and with precision, with integrity," Bush said. "And I've come to count on him every single day. And he's been a great Republican leader, as great as any in the past."

Dole looks forward to the future, particularly the 102nd Congress that will convene in January. Senate Democrats will hold a 56-44 majority, but that means Democrats will need Republicans and Republican leaders to pass legislation on most occasions, Dole said.

"Again with a fairly close division in the Senate, one leader can't function without the other," Dole said.

And Dole expects President Bush to con-

tinue showing an active involvement with Congress and its leaders.

Dole said Bush is "a lot more engaged in the process" of government than was President Reagan, attributing that to Bush's long record of government service, from congressman to vice president.

"I think Bush tends to accommodate the Congress a little more since he knows the people and the leaders," Dole said.

Dole doesn't particularly enjoy looking at the past, but he quickly cites one highlight in the just completed session: the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The act protects the disabled from discrimination in employment, public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications.

"It never got much publicity, but it is very

important legislation for millions of people," Dole said.

"Again, it was a case of bipartisanship rather than partisanship."

As another highlight, Dole also noted that Bush never lost a veto fight in the Senate during the past year.

Also on the list of accomplishments is the recently enacted five-year, \$490 billion deficit reduction package. The budget deal, "as bad as the timing was, it was still a small step in the right direction," Dole said.

On the issues of taxes and spending, Dole has long operated as a legislative pragmatist and his support for this year's deficit-reduction package provided another example.

But Dole readily plays another role as minority leader, using his clout to win federal money for Kansas projects.

In a spending bill for the Interior Department, for example, the final version provided more than \$5 million for six projects in Kansas this year. Another measure contained more than \$12 million for two Kansas highway projects.

Dole acknowledged that his leadership connections have helped. Chief among those is his relationship with Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and a former majority leader.

But Dole also sees nothing inconsistent in his twin missions of reducing the deficit and bringing home the bacon for Kansans.

"My philosophy is that I'm willing to cut spending, freeze spending — whatever," he said.

"But when it's all said and done and whatever is left over I want to make certain Kansas gets a piece of it."

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"I don't think that he really ever focused much on Congress except that he knew he had to deal with it for eight years," Dole said.

As for legislative accomplishments, Dole doesn't particularly enjoy looking at the past, saying, "I'd have to go back and take a look at what we've done in other years."

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"It never got much publicity ... but it is very important legislation for millions of people," he said.

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He proudly mentioned that Bush never lost a veto fight in the Senate during the past year. And Dole listed the recently enacted five-year, \$490 billion deficit reduction package. The budget deal, "as bad as the timing was, was still a small step in the right direction," he said.

The deficit also was a major issue during his majority leader days. In 1985, Dole won Senate passage of a budget package to slice the deficit by spending cuts, terminating 13 federal programs and freezing cost-of-living adjustments, including Social Security benefits.

Dole once described it as the "most exciting vote I've ever cast in the Senate." By coincidence, it was Bush, then the vice president, who broke a 49-49 tie to pass the measure.

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Dole: 'The American people do not want war'

Lawmakers urge president to seek peaceful solution

Congressional leaders said Sunday that President Bush should redouble his efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

The lawmakers said such an effort was necessary because the American people don't want to fight a war in the region.

"The American people are not yet committed to war, and they want to make certain that President Bush has done everything, pursued every avenue for peace before the firing starts," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., on NBC-TV's "Meet the

Press."

"The American people do not want war."

Both Dole and Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein must break the stalemate over diplomatic talks between the two countries.

Dole said he has received indications from Iraq that Saddam may be willing to show flexibility on dates for the talks.

"People want to make sure that we've tried every other alternative before going to war, that we tried to solve this every other way," Aspin said on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation."

"A diplomatic effort really needs to be

THE PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

■ A Wichita firm makes backpacks for soldiers in the gulf, Page 3.

■ U.S. soldiers bundle up to keep warm in cold Saudi desert, Page 8.

made and has to be made before the decision to go to war."

With the U.N. Security Council's Jan. 15 deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait drawing closer, Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., predicted a "real intensification of diplo-

matic effort in the next few days."

Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Mideast, also appeared on the CBS program.

Hamilton and Dole expressed optimism about a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"My gut tells me that there will be a resolution (of the crisis) without firing a shot," Dole said.

Hamilton said: "There are some straws there that indicate a diplomatic solution may work."

The lawmakers' comments complemented Bush's remark in a Time magazine interview, to be published today, in which he said he has a "gut feeling" that Saddam will

withdraw from Kuwait.

In Baghdad, Iraq's information minister scoffed at Bush's prediction.

The minister, Latif Jassim, said Bush "must have been drunk" when he suggested Iraq might withdraw from Kuwait.

"We will show the world America is a paper tiger," Jassim said.

Also Sunday, Vice President Dan Quayle told Saudi King Fahd that the United States expects more money from the oil-rich nation for military efforts against Iraq.

The Arab ruler seemed to agree, U.S. officials said.

No figures were mentioned, but U.S. officials left the meeting with the impression there will be no problem.