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status in the Senate and might not run again. However, his chief Washington spokesman, Walt Riker, dismissed that speculation earlier this week.

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The state committee meets this afternoon and will elect Kim Wells, 41, an attorney who practices in Kansas City, Mo., and lives near Lawrence, as state GOP chairman.

Wells will replace state Rep. Rochelle Chronister of Neodesha, who chose not to seek another term.

The Russell Daily News, Saturday, Jan. 26, 1991

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Saturday, January 26, 1991 The Topeka Capital-Journal

## GOP licks wounds at soiree

By MARTIN HAWVER  
The Capital-Journal

Kansas Republicans, their numbers thinned by November elections and a snowstorm, spent Friday afternoon and evening warming up for today's political meetings at Kansas Day, the traditional GOP gathering in Topeka.

Republicans entered their first Kansas Day in four years without a Republican governor to preside over the festivities. However, Sens. Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum were on hand. They planned to participate today in receptions and caucuses and to headline the Kansas Day banquet tonight at the Ramada Inn Downtown.

Friday marked the opening of a campaign by Kassebaum to encourage Dole to seek re-election to a fifth term in the Senate in 1992.

Pinning a yellow-and-blue "Run Bob Run" button on Dole, Kassebaum said, "He's young enough to

run again, and we hope he does."

Dole, 67, said he is probably young enough but "I just haven't given it a lot of thought. I haven't said yes or no. I just haven't been thinking about it a lot recently."

A year ago at Kansas Day, Dole opened a "Run Nancy Run" campaign complete with banners and bright buttons to encourage Kassebaum to seek a third term. She had said for years she intended to serve only two terms.

As the acknowledged leader of Kansas Republicans, Dole was the subject of rumors before the Jan. 14 inauguration of Democratic Gov. Joan Finney.

The theory was that Dole would resign and Gov. Mike Hayden, in his 11th hour, would appoint 1st District U.S. Rep. Pat Roberts to Dole's Senate seat, and Hayden would take Roberts' seat in Congress.

It didn't happen.

Republicans don't have a governor to display this year but two recent

### Dole won't commit to running for re-election

candidates, Hayden and Nestor Weigand Jr. of Wichita, were in evidence Friday night.

Hayden, who said on the night of his concession speech that he intended to stay active in the party and close to Kansas, sponsored a reception Friday evening at the Ramada was packed for a couple hours.

Weigand, along with former Kansas Republican Chairman Vern Chesbro of Ottawa, visited the Hayden reception and also made the rounds at several other receptions.

Weigand will sponsor a reception this afternoon following the Republican State Committee meeting.

Typically, Wichita businessmen who lose a primary election don't continue active participation in party

affairs, but Chesbro said Weigand intends "to maybe run for something again sometime. Don't know what, but he's still interested."

The Weigand candidacy and the state party's reaction to it — formally endorsing Hayden and freezing Weigand out of access to party voter registration lists — caused a sharp rift among GOP partisans that is still being worked out.

Other Republicans who lost primary elections also were making the rounds of hospitality rooms Friday evening. They included former House Speaker Jim Braden of Clay Center, who lost the GOP insurance commissioner's primary to Insurance Commissioner Ron Todd of Lawrence, and Kent Hodges of Ottawa, who lost a GOP 5th Congressional District primary to eventual winner Dick Nichols of McPherson.

At today's committee meeting, Kim Wells of rural Lawrence, a Dole protege, is expected to be elected state party chairman.



Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., discussed the potential for peace in the Middle East with Richard Colyer, right, and other members of the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice on Friday at the Lawrence Holiday Inn Holidome after addressing the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce. Colyer is an assistant professor of English at the University of Kansas. —Steve Wolgast/The Capital-Journal

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Sen. Nancy Kassebaum pins a button reading "Run, Bob, Run" on Sen. Bob Dole's lapel at Republican Kansas Day activities Friday in Topeka. ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Dole says he's not decided on '92

TOPEKA (AP) — Sen. Bob Dole has not made up his mind whether to seek re-election in 1992, and said Friday night he doesn't expect to have an announcement any time soon on what his political future holds.

Dole, who unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for president in 1980 and 1988, confirmed in a brief interview with reporters that he is discouraged over the GOP's minority status in the Senate, but also declared, "I like my work."

"I haven't even thought about (1992)," he said at a reception staged for him by his fellow Kansas senator, Nancy Kassebaum, during state Republicans' annual Kansas Day observance marking statehood in 1861.

Dole, 67, faces re-election in 1992. He has served in the U.S. Senate since 1969 and would be seeking his fifth six-year term if he decides to run.

There have been persistent rumors among state Republicans that Dole is discouraged enough that he might not run again. However, his chief Washington spokesman, Walt

Riker, dismissed that speculation earlier this week.

"I like my work; it's not that," Dole, the Senate minority leader, told reporters during the reception. "I work hard at it."

"I'd rather be in the majority. It's a pretty rough time right now, too."

"I was pretty discouraged in this last election, when we had all of those House guys (who sought Senate seats) lose. We'll see what happens."

Kassebaum pinned a large yellow and blue "Run, Bob, Run" campaign-style button on Dole during the reception, and her aides distributed similar buttons to the GOP faithful gathered for the state party's biggest annual political session.

"I'm not trying to be coy," Dole said in response. "I just haven't had time to think about it very much. It's a very difficult time. We hope we're doing the right thing. The votes are not easy now, when we're talking about the Gulf."

Dole produced similar buttons at this gathering in 1989 urging Kas-

sebaum to seek her third term in 1990. She did, defeating a little-known Democratic opponent.

The state committee elected a Dole protege, Kim Wells, 41, an attorney who practices in Kansas City, Mo., and lives near Lawrence, as state GOP chairman.

Wells replaces state Rep. Rochelle Chronister of Neodesha, who chose not to seek another term.

Dole and Kassebaum shared the limelight Friday night, and were co-main speakers for the annual Kansas Day dinner Saturday night.

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Saturday, January 26, 1991

## Dole doesn't foresee quick victory

■ Persian Gulf war isn't "going to be a little mini-series. It may last for a while"

By SHERRY PIGG  
The Capital-Journal

LAWRENCE — Sen. Bob Dole met separately Friday with peace activists and supporters of President Bush's decision to attack Iraq and said victory may not come quickly.

The Senate minority leader, addressing the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, also said he was confident the United States would prevail in the Persian Gulf war. However, he tried to lower expectations for immediate victory.

"It's fair to say there was a lot of euphoria in the first 48 hours," he said. "In fact, some commentators

were ready to announce it would be over by Wednesday or Thursday. I think now after eight days there's been a lot of sobering up across the country and across the world."

"I don't know how long it is going to last. It's not going to be a little mini-series. It may last for a while."

Several times the Kansas Republican said it had been difficult to vote in favor of using force, but he said his "yes" vote was cast for peace.

"I thought we were moving one step closer to peace," Dole said of the Jan. 11 Senate vote. "I didn't vote for war. I wanted to vote for peace. I wanted a peaceful settlement."

"One way to get an earlier peace was to authorize the use of force and let Saddam Hussein know in no uncertain terms that Congress stands behind the president and the young men and women who are serving in the gulf."

Continued reliance on allies' air power is vital, Dole said.

"I only want to use ground forces as a last, last resort," he said. "Once you start committing ground forces the casualties are going to rise."

During a question and answer session, Dole said he didn't believe the draft would be reinstated unless the war lasts longer than anyone anticipates.

He also said he sees no way to address what some allege is a "disproportionate number of minorities" in the all-volunteer armed forces.

"We don't want quotas in our armed forces," he said. "We're either going to have a volunteer army or we're not going to have a volunteer army."

On the issue of Israel, Dole said the U.S.-led coalition was firm and that most coalition members understand Israel has the right to attack Iraq in self-defense.

"But I would hope that Israel would continue to practice restraint," he said.

When asked about the high costs

of financing the war, Dole said about 80 percent of the pre-war costs incurred during 1990 were paid by other countries.

He said future costs shouldn't be paid through additional taxes. Instead, he suggested the United States obtain more money from Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia and perhaps oil companies that have reaped huge profits.

Before Dole arrived, about 75 anti-war protesters marched near the entrances to the Lawrence Holiday Inn Holidome.

After his speech, he met with several members of the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice and Voice, an anti-war group at the University of Kansas.

He also met with a group that supported U.S. action in the gulf.

A group, estimated by K.U. police at about 130 people, also marched Friday afternoon from Wescoe Hall to the Vietnam memorial on campus to show their support for the troops.