

pg. 33 - 1991

## Dole unsure of re-election plans

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 1961.

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

The state committee was to meet this afternoon, and elect a Dole protégé, 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.

Dole and Kassebaum shared the limelight Friday night, and will be co-main speakers for the annual Kansas Day dinner tonight.

"I want to be the first to pin this button on him, and to say I think he's young enough to run again," Kassebaum told those at the reception.

"He has done an extraordinary job in implementing the president's policies, and it couldn't have been done without Bob. It will take all of us working together to come up with an agenda that is best for this country."



Dole

## State GOP looks to Dole

By MARTIN HAWVER  
The Capital-Journal

### Analysis

Kansas Republicans spent the weekend proving to themselves that they may be down, but they aren't out by a long shot.

During activities at Kansas Day, the party clearly looked toward its muscleman, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, who has literally called the shots on Kansas Republican politics for more than two decades.

And with Dole's approval, the party got a new chairman who clearly has his sights on 1992 and the need for the party to retake the House of Representatives from Democrats and to make sure that the Senate, which Republicans rule by a slender two seats, stays in GOP hands.

Over and over, the themes of money and candidates were sounded. The party last year fielded both well-financed candidates with little

political experience or guidance and saw them defeated, and savvy candidates with not enough money and watched them carried off the field of battle on their shields.

There were Republican gubernatorial hopefuls wandering the Ramada Inn Downtown last weekend. But it is clear the party's chairman intends to give them only passing attention until after the next election cycle, in which both the House and the full Senate are up for election.

Well over 1,000 Republicans attended activities during the weekend hoping for better luck next election.

Politely, the primary thrust of the weekend was a party housecleaning. The Republican Party's leadership, which became so entangled with the unsuccessful re-election

campaign of Hayden, was surgically replaced.

Rural Lawrence lawyer Kim Wells, a 41-year-old with a Kansas City, Mo., law practice, now heads the party. He made it clear he has two goals: to ensure that Bob Dole seeks re-election in 1992, and that the party has a strong enough field of candidates under the Dole banner to dominate the Legislature.

"After 1992, we'll look at the governor's race, but now the effort is Dole and the Legislature," Wells said.

The Senate Republican political action committee sponsored a well-attended fund-raiser over the weekend to make sure senators who choose to seek re-election won't be at a financial disadvantage.

Campaign ethics laws prevent individual legislators from accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session.



Fernando Salazar/The Wichita Eagle

Sen. Bob Dole talks with Babs Mellor about her sculpture as members of the Collegiate Boys Choir look on. The choir members performed at a reception honoring Dole.

## Dole honored for his work on Compeer program

By Bonnie Bing  
The Wichita Eagle

Kansas Sen. Bob Dole was the guest of honor Jan. 24 at a reception to benefit the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas.

Members of the association held a special tribute to honor his work as the national honorary chairman of the Compeer program and to launch the children's Compeer program.

Compeer matches people who are recovering from mental illness with people willing to be their friend. More than 300 guests and supporters of Compeer gathered in the Bank IV courtyard to show their support. Russ Meyer introduced Dole to those attending and presented a \$10,000 check from the Cessna Foundation.

Event chairman John Bell presented the senator with a sculpture done by local artist Babs Mellor.

Among the guests were Helen and Jay Galloway, C. Howard Wilkins Sr., Linda and Phil Enggren, Fred Berry, Kay and Don Brada, Marti and Bill Connelly, Anne Corriston, Larry Anderson,

### HAPPENINGS

Judy and Phil Frick, Kim and Kurt Breitenbach, Patrick Hanrahan, James Ketcherside, Rose and Howard Marcus, Rose Mary and Bernard Mohr, Jean and Dave Holthaus, Harvey Sorenson, Jack Potter, Fred Suderman, Bill Robinson, Phil Miller, Leigh Kupersmith, Steve Reinemund, Skeets Winkler, Joanne and Bob Howard, Arnold Gray, Sally and Dave Dewey, Eric Melgren, Elaine Hill, Darlene and Eric Knorr, and Warren Armstrong.

on Compeer program

## Go Easy on Finney, Dole Tells Republicans

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., offered an olive branch Friday to Democratic Gov. Joan Finney, saying Republicans "ought to be trying to help her where we can."

"My view is we shouldn't be criticizing Governor Finney as Republicans," Dole said.

"We certainly have our disagreements. But this is no time for politics. Give her a chance to get started. She is going to need a lot of help. It's a tough job."

Recently, Republican state legislative leaders have been criticizing Finney's proposal for providing property tax relief.

Dole made the comments in talking about the future of the

Republican Party in the state in the wake of November's election, which saw Democrats take the governorship and seize control of the Kansas House of Representatives.

Dole said the first challenge for the GOP was in 1992 in trying to regain control of the Kansas House.

## Dole lauds continuing air strikes

By Alan Montgomery  
The Hutchinson News

Sen. Bob Dole was upbeat Friday as he lauded the terrific pounding of Iraqi troops and armor by U.S. and allied war planes.

"Let's continue to hammer them with air power," the senator said in a telephone interview from his Washington office. "Let's not commit ground forces. We saw what happened when we committed the Second Marine Division. We ought to pulverize military targets, keep hammering away, before we commit one American ground troop. Keep the air power going."

Dole's mention of the Marines referred to the 11 soldiers who died Wednesday in a clash with four Iraqi armored brigades that rolled across the Kuwaiti-Saudi Arabian border near the Saudi town of Khafji. The Iraqis lost hundreds of troops in the assault — either killed, wounded or captured.

It was inhumane, Dole said, for Saddam Hussein to keep sending his troops into such a freestorm.

Dole said he expected the war to last less than a year and then the U.S. could return its focus to its domestic problems — including the formation of an energy policy that would reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

When asked about his reaction to a report that a female U.S. soldier had been captured by the Iraqis, Dole said it was something that could happen any time in this war.

"Anybody in that theater is subject to some danger," he said. "There's no safe haven. You can't say, put the women over here and the men in this position. There are some safe places, but not many. It's unfortunate that a woman was taken prisoner. In past wars — World War II, Korea, Vietnam — we had women who were killed."

Dole knows something about what the troops are facing in the war zone. The senator lost the use of his right hand after he was severely injured, as a World War II infantry soldier, in an artillery barrage in Italy.

## Residents raise questions about Wilson Lake plan

Harris News Service

WILSON — Buck Strong, Ellsworth, had one question Thursday night: "What are we to gain around here by making Wilson Lake a national recreation area?"

Replied Mike Glassner, a representative for Kansas Sen. Bob Dole: "That's exactly what we hope the conclusion of this study will tell us."

Nearly 400 citizens crowded into Wilson's Catholic Parish Center to discuss the possible designation of nearby Wilson Lake as a national recreation area.

Congress, at the instigation of Dole, late last session added \$125,000 to the National Park Service planning budget to study the proposal.

There were many questions and few answers at Thursday's meeting.

Major concerns focused on park and lake management, fees, costs and the number of additional tourists central Kansas could expect with a national recreation area.

Most of the questions were answered in the same way by Sandra Washington, park service outdoor recreation planner.

"It's really too early to say," she responded when asked about how the lake would be managed under national designation.

The crowd became noisy. Washington laughed. "I know that has been said before," she added.

Someone else wondered whether tourists would be disappointed when they pulled off Interstate 70 and found a lake and park that are small by national park standards.

"We hear the fishing is pretty good, and I think if the strippers are biting, no one would be upset by the size of the lake," Washington

said to applause. Later, another person stood to ask whether the park service would increase the water level at Wilson or allow the lake to become a mud-hole.

"The park service does have a lot of expertise, but there are some things we just can't do — like make it rain," Washington said.

She said the purpose of the Wilson meeting was to field questions from the public, although the park service is only in the first stage of a two-part study, which is expected to be finished by Sept. 30.

The first part of the study will include information on the natural, cultural and recreational resources at the lake. The second part of the study will outline and evaluate methods for the protection, management and use of the lake's resources.

Washington said the finished study will be given to Dole so he can decide whether he wants to take Wilson Lake designation legislation to Congress.

Representatives from the park service also are searching for answers, she said.

Washington and her team arrived in central Kansas Monday and visited the lake. Members also attended commission meetings in Lincoln and Russell counties and talked with lake and park employees.

A 9,000-acre reservoir was created in 1964 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a flood-control dam on the Saline River. Nearly 7,000 acres of land are used for wildlife management and are open for hunting, and another 4,000 also are available to the public. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks manages two of the lake's five recreation sites.

## Dole says give Finney a chance

By The Associated Press

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