

Dole acts more and more like candidate

By Angela Herrin
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — With a flourish that only a master politician like Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole can muster, the Senate recently found itself halting debate on aid for Kurdish refugees to get Dole's assurances that aid for Kansas tornado victims was on its way.

"I'm all for Kurdish relief, but I'm also for Kansas relief," Dole announced afterward in a news release. "Thanks to the cooperation of my colleagues and the administration, everyone is getting what they need and deserve."

And, one might add, so is Bob Dole's 1992 campaign for re-election.

Late last year, rumors flew that a weary Dole, frustrated by the budget imbroglio, was

grumbling about retirement after 24 years in the Senate. "I don't know, I'm going to be taking a look at it," Dole said repeatedly when asked about a re-election bid.

But although the 67-year-old Republican still insists he hasn't made up his mind, the talk in political circles is that Dole has done everything but cut the ribbon at campaign headquarters.

Three major fund-raisers this spring have boosted his campaign fund to almost \$2 million. His schedule of speeches, parades and conferences in the state included three round-trip flights between Washington and Kansas in just one six-day stretch in April.

And his high-profile championing of causes near to Kansans' hearts, from grain credits for the Soviets to jobs for Kansans in Kuwait, has helped make Dole look very much like a 1992 candidate.

"I'd say the chances of Dole running look like 98 or 99 percent," said Bill Taggart, former Dole aide and Washington lobbyist.

"I'm hearing a lot of interest from people about financial support, but of course, nobody is better at raising Washington money than Bob Dole."

U.S. Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Wichita



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Kansas Republicans, watching the Dole barnstorming, concur.

"Trying to stop a Dole campaign now would be like standing in front of an M-1 tank," one Kansas Republican said. "Maybe Dan (Glickman) ought to think twice before printing up those Senate bumper stickers."

The specter of a challenge from Glickman, the energetic Democratic House member from Wichita, may have helped Dole focus on re-election. Glickman, who has made his own fund-raising forays to San Francisco and New York this spring, says he'll decide "soon enough" about challenging Dole.

"I'm hearing a lot of interest from people about financial support, but of course, nobody is better at raising Washington money than Bob Dole," said Glickman, who estimates his own campaign fund at \$300,000. "Meanwhile, I'm pursuing my agenda, and he is pursuing his."

Aides to Dole, who says he'll make a decision by Labor Day, insist Glickman has little to do with the recent performance by Dole.

"What you're seeing is a very savvy senator, a guy who knows the realities and responsibilities he has," said Walt Riker, Dole's press secretary. "He's not doing anything unusual, but of course, he is covering all the bases. He knows if he is going to run, he is going to have to be ready."

But Dole never misses a chance to publicly tweak Glickman. For instance, asked last week if he backed Glickman's bill to turn the Z-Bar Ranch into a national park, Dole said he hadn't looked at it. "I've been worried more about the tornado damage and helping the victims," Dole said. "There are a lot of national parks floating around. It's not a big deal."

The political outlook in the Senate may also have something to do with Dole's renewed enthusiasm for a re-election campaign. Dole scored an important victory for the administration this winter when the Senate narrowly approved the president's request for use of force in the Persian Gulf. And with the president's popularity soaring, there is also an improved chance that Republicans could rebuild their majority in the Senate and Dole could regain his majority leader title.

"It's not that I don't like what I'm doing. I'd just like it more as majority leader," Dole told a National Association of Manufacturers meeting recently.

When Dole does open a campaign, he'll have plenty of cash on hand. In the past two weeks, Dole raised more than \$700,000 at fund-raisers in Washington and New York. His 1992 committee, which started the year with \$400,000, also raised another \$300,000 at a Washington event in April.

In addition, Dole has \$980,776 left from his 1986 campaign — money that earned \$60,000 in interest from accounts at Bank IV in Wichita and Riggs National Bank in Washington, D.C., last year alone. That money is available for the 1992 campaign, although Dole aide Riker said a portion may be needed to settle a debt with the Federal Election Commission left from Dole's 1988 presidential bid.

The frenzy of fund-raising could certainly point to a Dole campaign — and to efforts to scare off any contenders with the size of his war chest. Dole told reporters recently that he didn't feel bad asking political action committees for money, even if he still is undecided.

"I told them if I didn't run, we'd give it to the Red Cross," Dole said.

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, is president of the American Red Cross.

6-A The Topeka Capital
Journal, Saturday, May 18, 1991

Dole backs Bush on China trade

By GENE SMITH
The Capital Journal

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., on Friday strongly backed President George Bush's push to renew most-favored-nation status for China.

The Senate Republican leader endorsed Bush's contention the 1.1 billion Chinese in the world's most populous nation can't and shouldn't be isolated and ignored by the United States.

"I'm not certain we're going to be able to tell other countries how to conduct themselves" in the future, Dole replied to those in Congress who contend the slaughter of freedom-seeking Chinese in Tiananmen Square 23 months ago shouldn't be rewarded with tariff breaks and import incentives.

He agreed the Beijing government has a "terrible" civil rights record, and said "we might be able to find some common ground" if all the nations of the world would unite to bring moral and economic pressure to bear in an attempt at long-range reform.

Dole indicated he doubts the United States can exert much influence unilaterally.

He pointed out the Chinese supported United Nations action against Iraq. And, "they buy quite a bit of grain from us, and we've got opportunities for markets there."

Hutchinson News Saturday, May 18, 1991 Page 5

Dole calls for action on export-credits plan

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

The sooner the House of Representatives sends a message to the White House on granting grain export credits to the Soviets, the better, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Friday.

Earlier this week, the Senate passed on a 70-28 vote, a non-binding resolution that urges the administration to make \$1.5 billion worth of credit available to the Soviets to purchase farm commodities from the United States.

"I've talked to Secretary (Ed) Madigan a couple times, once by phone, and I saw him when the queen was addressing a joint session (of Congress)," Dole said Friday during his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas media. "He said he was working with the House side, specifically with Chairman (Kika) de la Garza (D-Texas). They didn't care for a lot of the rhetoric on foreign policy. Well, I said it was needed to get it passed with a substantial vote."

"They probably have the same problem on the House side. Plus, the chairman would like to make it generic and not just cover this one transaction. So the department (USDA) could use it for future requests from other countries."

"... I think Madigan's view is that he'd like something from both the House and the Senate."

Dole said Madigan was pleased with the Senate resolution. The Senate action clarifies the intent of Congress when it passed language in the 1990 farm bill that required export credit customers to be "credit-worthy."

"What we tried to do in our resolution was, first of all, to make

a statement to those who believe in independence for the Baltics," he said. "I certainly do. Make a statement that we believe in freedom and democracy in the Soviet republics. Make a statement that we want to make sure there's proper distribution and fair distribution of any food aid. That's been a hang-up with me, and the Soviet central government has given me assurances that will happen."

"Finally, we want to get repaid. So what we tried to do is to clarify what was meant in the 1990 farm bill where it, in effect, said you've got to be credit-worthy. Well, what does that mean? We never said. We tried to outline — your past payment performance, your total assets — sort of guidelines so the secretary of agriculture could make an appropriate finding."

Also during the press conference, Dole said he knew of no new developments in the Obee cleanup efforts. Earlier this week, officials with Union Equity Cooperative Exchange in Enid, Okla., said that the specter of cleanup costs in the Obee area is holding up a stock-for-facilities transaction between the cooperative and Harvest States Cooperative of St. Paul, Minn.

The transaction would trade Harvest State stock for 10 elevators Union Equity currently owns. Ground water in the 4th and Airport Road area in the Obee School area has been found to be polluted.

Dole said it did not appear entirely fair to him that current owners can be made to pay for the environmental sins of past owners.

"If you just ask my candid opinion, it doesn't seem fair to me to say somebody that's totally innocent to go in and pick part of the tab (for cleanup)," he said. "But on the other hand, the EPA doesn't have a lot of options. ..."



Dole

Hutchinson News Sunday, May 19, 1991

Kuwaiti offers businesses little hope

Al-Sabah: Road trip best guarantee of securing contracts

By Mark Fagan
The Hutchinson News

WICHITA — Small businesses interested in helping rebuild war-ravaged Kuwait should hurry up and buy their plane tickets now, lest they be passed up by their more aggressive competitors, Kuwait's ambassador to the U.S. said Saturday morning.

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Ambassador Saud Nasir Al-Sabah said he deeply appreciated the tens of thousands of business proposals his country has received for its \$25 million reconstruction, but suggested that Kansas businesses get together, form a "consortium" and send a unified delegation to the Kuwait. Otherwise, he said, there isn't much hope.

"It is difficult for us to deal with all the different businesses in each state," he said at a morning news conference. "You need to go to Kuwait. You cannot sit back in Kansas and expect the Kuwaitis to come knock down your door. ... Do not sit back and wait, or you will be outraced by everyone."

About 230 businessmen and women gathered at Wichita's Airport Hilton for the first ever — and possibly the last — Kuwait

Dole discusses export credit in interview

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Kansas has two of the better-known senators in the nation. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., is in his 30th year in Washington and serves as Senate minority leader.

Nancy Landon Kassebaum, R-Kan., was the first woman to serve in the Senate who was elected in her own right. She has gone on to create a reputation as an independent-minded Republican.

The News decided to meet with both senators in their offices away from Kansas on Capitol Hill. Transcripts of the Dole interview runs today. The Kassebaum interview will be published Monday.

In his interview, which is featured on Page 5, Dole showed equal aplomb for dealing with



Sen. Robert Dole

international leaders as he does with the Washington political apparatus. Chief on Dole's mind

Reconstruction Conference, sponsored by the Small Business Administration and Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kansas.

Most of the business opportunities in Kuwait, the ambassador said, are in the private sector — helping renovate homes and businesses that were looted and pillaged during the Iraqi oc-

cupation. Large-scale construction is not needed, but materials and other supplies from U.S. companies are.

That's because the Iraqis took everything that wasn't bolted down. Most of the country's buildings are intact, he said, but everything else is gone — all the

chairs and blackboards in schools, computers from offices, and 40,000 new cars off dealer parking lots.

"We need everything from chewing gum to airplanes," he said. "There is no specific thing I can say to you. We need everything, from A to Z."