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## Dole: Gorbachev's fate rests with his people

By Ray Hemman  
The Hutchinson News

**STERLING** — When the Soviet people woke Monday morning, they were awakened to how important Mikhail Gorbachev is to them, Sen. Bob Dole said Tuesday.

Appearing at a public meeting in Sterling on Tuesday, Dole spoke about the coup that ousted Gorbachev as president of the Soviet Union.

Dole, the Senate's minority leader, said that he was unsure of where Gorbachev was Tuesday, saying the only news he had heard came from Cable News Network.

"The bottom line is how the people respond," Dole said. "So



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far, the people have responded the way I sort of hoped they would. They've been out in the street. They don't like it.

"Gorbachev is very unpopular at home. He had about a 17 percent approval rating. You're going to have to work at it to get it that low. But he is very popular on the outside. When you consider that the Soviet people had nothing but oppression for all these years, and start introducing some freedoms and loosening up in some areas, it takes a while. I think they can appreciate Gorbachev today more than they could the day before yesterday. But who knows what will happen."

For Kansas farmers, the timing of the coup was poor.

The Soviets had been expected to purchase \$200 million worth of wheat in September on U.S. credit guarantees.

"All that's on hold, of course,"

Dole said. "We're not going to extend credits to these people. There's some little signs ... that maybe it won't work. Maybe this coup won't hold together. There's too many people involved. The army may split."

Dole said the Senate would not consider the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty or the recent trade pact with the Soviets until the Soviet political situation calmed.

The trade pact grants the Soviets most-favored-nation status, a long-sought privilege.

And the Soviet situation could alter the U.S. budget. The 1990 budget agreement called for a \$250 billion reduction in defense spending over a five-year period.

"There may be some people who want to look at that reduction," Dole said.

On other matters, Dole said that banking reform was important to Kansas banks, par-

ticularly Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. insurance on multiple deposits.

One of the options being considered to keep the deposit insurance system solvent is to limit the number of bank accounts that would be insured to \$100,000.

"Reform is in the eye of the beholder," Dole said. "There are more than 525 banks in Kansas — more than in all of Japan. Banks are very important. They can keep a community alive. We want to keep multiple accounts."

Should limits be placed on the number of accounts receiving FDIC insurance protection, depositors probably would opt to place their money in only the largest banks, which usually are not in rural communities.

The theory behind the money movement is that the larger institutions are too big to lose but the banks with fewer deposits were too small to save. Dole said

## Dole says Yeltsin gathering power

By GENE SMITH  
The Capital-Journal

Those still in office in the Soviet Union believe the No. 1 man is Boris Yeltsin, not Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole said Thursday.

Fresh from a long and candid meeting with Sergei Kovalev, special envoy from Russian Federation President Yeltsin, Dole said he asked Kovalev what was left for Gorbachev to do now that Russia and the Ukraine have signed their "temporary" bilateral military and economic pact.

Dole spoke in a telephone interview from his Washington office.

"His reaction was that Gorbachev may or may not be around very long," said the Senate Republican leader.

"There may not be anything for him to do."

Dole went on to predict that a

special relationship could develop between the United States and the Russian republic as a result of some frantic fence-mending over the past year.

He said he joked to Kovalev that when Yeltsin visited the United States two months ago, he was greeted by "Bob Dole and some assistant secretary — and that was it."

"Next time he comes, it will probably be a mob scene, and he'll probably address a joint session of Congress," Dole said.

Dole noted the American people still have seen no moves to cut the Soviet military establishment, cut aid to communist Cuba or make the ruble convertible on the world currency markets. Until someone in authority demonstrates a willingness to do those things, he said, there isn't likely to be much new aid flowing to the republics.

## Dole sure Thomas will be confirmed

By Alan Montgomery  
The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole on Friday said Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas was a "clear winner" whose confirmation was being delayed by liberals in the Senate.

"I think we have sort of a filibuster now by liberal senators," Dole said, in a conference call with Kansas news reporters. "They've asked the same questions about the rights of mothers and abortions about 500 times now."

Thomas has remained unflappable during the hearings, patiently and politely declining to answer questions — on issues such as abortion — that he said would compromise his impartiality. Dole, who predicted that the committee would support Thomas' nomination, said he hoped Thomas could be confirmed and appointed to the Supreme Court in time for the beginning of the Court's term in October.

In another issue, Dole said there had been no statements on the Senate floor, despite "a lot of reaction in the press," about reports that U.S. troops used bulldozers to bury Iraqi troops in their trenches during the Persian Gulf War.

"It underscores, as somebody said in the last war, that war is hell," he said. "When in combat, fighting for your life, terrible things happen. Certainly this is not without precedent."

In regard to upheavals and food shortages in the Soviet Union, Dole said it is likely that the U.S. will be providing some sort of aid to the country soon, but not without some concessions by the Soviets.

The Soviets each year provide up to \$5 billion in aid to Cuba; if that were shut off, the American people might be more willing to help the Soviets. That money also could be used by the Soviets to help themselves, he said.

Dole defended the continued development of the B-2 Stealth bomber, even though a recent Defense Department report said it had failed its first in-flight, radar-detection test.



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## 'Litmus test' approach improper, Dole says

By Barry Massey  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senators should not try to force Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas to declare his opinion on issues that could come before the court, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Tuesday.

It is improper for members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to use an ideological "litmus-test approach" in deciding whether to support Thomas, a black conservative nominated by President Bush, the Kansas Republican said.

"The implied threat is that if his answers aren't the 'correct' ones, then he will not be confirmed," Dole said in a speech on the Senate floor as the Judiciary Committee began confirmation hearings on Thomas' nomination.

Several members of the panel, during their opening statements, raised questions about Thomas' legal philosophy. He is expected to face questions about his views on abortion, civil rights and the right of privacy.

Thomas is a federal appeals court judge. He previously served as chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and an assistant secretary in the Department of Education. He also has worked on the staff of Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo.

Dole said the confirmation hearings were the "hottest show" in Washington because of changes in the way the Senate examines Supreme Court nominees.

"I've been in this body long enough to witness a complete reversal in the rules of confirmation hearings," Dole said. "It wasn't all that long ago when the Senate was comfortable basing their votes on the experience, the ability and the character of the nominee. The hearings were usually fast and efficient, but they weren't very good theater."

Dole said it would undermine the independence of the judiciary for lawmakers to force Thomas to indicate how he might rule on issues that could surface in cases before the high court.

## Dole: Health care single biggest challenge

By DALE HOGG  
News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During the Senate summer recess, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., has spent considerable time in his home state and one issue followed him on his 70-county swing — health care.

In a conference call press conference from his Capitol Hill office this morning, Dole addressed the grassroots input he received while in Kansas as well as the earth-shaking events in the new Soviet Union.

Dole said "health care is the single biggest challenge." Although he didn't anticipate any movement from the Bush administration in the area of health-care reform in 1992, he said changes are needed.

Constituents wanted "to know how to keep hospitals open, how to get doctors and how to pay their premiums," he said



Sen. Bob Dole

of the feelings of Kansans. The senator favors tax credits to encourage younger people to prepare for when they are old.

Those he talked to also expressed frustration about the skyrocketing federal deficit.

On the remaining weekends in the recess, Dole said he plans on returning to Kansas, adding that he has 20 more counties to visit.

The senator also discussed:

- The future of the Soviet Union. "They have a long row ahead of them," he said. Change won't come overnight and may take years before the final dust settles. Until then, the United States must be willing to deal more directly with the emerging independent republics.
- However, "we don't have the money" to offer much in the way of financial aid. Help to the beleaguered superpower will more likely come in the form of technical aid and private investment.
- Ironically, one possible new market for American agriculture products, such as wheat, could lie in Iraq, the nation defeated by the U.S. and its allied coalition

in the Persian Gulf War.

Since the United Nations approved allowing Iraq to spend 1.6 billion for such aid, "some of that ought to be spent in the United States" since the U.S. took the lead in the Persian Gulf War and held the coalition together.

With the future of the embattled Soviet Union in doubt, it nor its independence-seeking republics may not be dependable market options for some time.

- The GATT talks. With the General Agreement of Trade and Tariff talks stalled, Dole said the U.S. should push for a quick and fair settlement, one that treats American farmers the same as the heavily subsidized European farmers. "We need to be more aggressive."
- Announcing his candidacy for reelection. Although he has planned a few fund raisers just in case, Dole said he still hasn't decided when, where or if he will declare his candidacy.

## Fort Riley expansion plan may be out

By Barry Massey  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Army is considering a proposal to send troops from Fort Riley to Colorado for periodic training and thus eliminate the need to expand the Kansas base, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole confirmed Friday.

The Army is conducting an economic and environmental study of the proposal to have the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley use a training site near Fort Carson, Colo., said Dole, R-Kan.

"The important point is this: There has been no final decision, but it's fair in my view to say that



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I don't think land expansion at Fort Riley is a live option at this time," Dole said in a telephone interview with Kansas broadcasters and newspapers.

The Wichita Eagle first disclosed the Army's proposal in a story in its Friday editions and reported that the study of the Colorado site would not be finished until next March.

Fort Riley officials have contended that the Army needed to add as much as 100,000 acres to the base to provide more space for training soldiers on tanks and other new weapons.

However, the expansion proposal has been postponed indefinitely because of a Pentagon moratorium on military land acquisition.

Dole discussed the latest Fort

Riley proposal with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney during a telephone call Friday, a spokesman for the senator said.

Dole said the Army study would determine the environmental effects of regularly training Fort Riley troops on the 244,000-acre Pinon Canyon maneuver site, which is now used by the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson. In addition, the Army is estimating the costs of transporting troops and equipment from Kansas to the Colorado training site.

It is unclear what effect the Colorado training proposal would have on the future of Fort Riley, particularly whether the Kansas base might become a more likely candidate for closing in the future, Dole said.

"What I would like to have is a win-win situation — the Big Red One stays at Fort Riley ... and we don't have to expand it," he said.

On other subjects, Dole said:

- He has helped arrange for a civilian lawyer to represent a former Air Force nurse from Kansas who is appealing a court-martial conviction. Dole said he talked Thursday with former Capt. Carla Lancaster of Basehor and assured her "that this case is not over."
- Lancaster's appeal goes to the Court of Military Review in Washington. Dole took issue with the military's decision, saying, "It doesn't sound like justice." A spokesman for Dole said a private law firm has agreed to represent Lancaster as a pro bono case,

which means they will not charge her for their services.

An Air Force general last month upheld Lancaster's court martial for wrongful use of medicine. Lancaster says medication she took after hurting her hip in the summer of 1990 was left from a prescription she received when teeth were removed in 1988.

- A group for the Northrop Corp., the manufacturer of the B-2 stealth bomber, tentatively plans to visit Topeka later this month because Forbes Field, a deactivated Air Force base, is among several sites under consideration as a future base for the bomber.
- The Bush administration should take a "more active role" in helping to end ethnic fighting in Yugoslavia by opposing the regime of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

## TV news shows choose Bob (Dole) as a favorite

By Angella Herrin  
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Ever get the feeling that you can't escape the Midwestern rasp of Sen. Bob Dole when you turn on the evening TV news?

You're right.

According to a new survey, it was the senior senator from Kansas who beat all other members of the Senate and the House to claim the most appearances on nightly network shows over the past five years.

Between 1985 and 1990, says a study from Southern Illinois University, Dole appeared on network newscasts 985 times — which works out to an average of about once every two days.

In the last session of Congress, Dole hit the newscasts on ABC, CBS and NBC 223 times, while Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, managed to get on 196 times.

And those numbers don't include the networks' Sunday morning talk shows, where Dole reigns as a regular pundit. On NBC's "Meet the Press" Dole now holds the record for most appearances, says Dole press aide Walt Riker. The former titleholder was the late Vice Pres-

ident Hubert Humphrey.

The records testify both to Dole's quick-draw ability to come up with a quote and his willingness to face the press, almost anywhere, any time of the day or night.

"The phone is ringing 24 hours a day, with reporters wanting to talk to Dole — you should see the interviews we don't do," Riker says.

"It's because he makes news. He is in the thick of things going on here. He doesn't just shill for the party or for the White House — or for anybody. And he says what he thinks, with a snap and bite to it."

The survey concludes that despite the relatively small size of the Kansas delegation — seven members in all — it had high exposure on the TV news. Kansas ranked fifth in appearances among delegations.

## Purple Heart group honors Dole

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., has received the top award from a veterans organization representing military members who have received the Purple Heart.

At a ceremony in his Capitol Hill office Thursday, Dole was presented with the "George Washington Medal of Merit" from the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

"As a soldier, a state legislator, a congressman and a senator, Robert Dole has spent a life of dedicated service to his country," said Joseph Hems, the national commander of the veterans group.

"A lifelong champion of veterans and people with disability, Robert Dole personifies all of the qualities that merit the high esteem of his

fellow veterans," Hems said.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a veterans group whose members are Purple Heart recipients.

Dole is the eighth person since 1966 to receive the group's highest award, which has been given to Purple Heart recipients such as Dole, as well as individuals outside of the veterans group.

Among the past recipients were former President Lyndon Johnson and entertainer Bob Hope.

The award is a gold medal bearing the likeness of George Washington and the Washington family shield and coat of arms. Washington established the Purple Heart in 1782 for Revolutionary War soldiers who showed unusual bravery.

## Dole: Nothing yet to get aid to Soviets

By GENE SMITH  
The Capital-Journal

There has been much talk and many headlines over the last month, but no one yet is really setting up a mechanism to provide any kind of aid to the peoples of the splintering Soviet Union, Bob Dole said Friday.

In a telephone interview from his Washington office, Dole said he expects none until after the administration receives a report from a U.S. Department of Agriculture team, which has been in the Slavic heartland for the past 10 days.

"The hard part's going to be when it comes to somebody paying something," the Senate Republican leader said. "The one thing they don't have is money. The ruble is worthless."

and before any concrete aid begins there must be some method of payment.

Dole suggested someone may "work out sort of barter agreement."

Whenever a substantive effort is made, he said, chances are the aid deals will be made directly with the constituent republics.

Within that framework and assuming the payment problem is resolved, Dole said he saw no reason why Kansas couldn't soon profit from any aid package cobbled together.

"They need all this technical assistance, and I can't think of a better place to come for it than to Kansas," he said.