

B. 59 - 1991

8 Saturday, October 12, 1991 The Salina Journal

## THOMAS HEARING: TRUTH ON TRIAL

# Dole backs Thomas, blasts 'inquisition'

By The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., continued Friday to predict the Senate would confirm Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court nomination.

Dole assailed Democrats for conducting an "inquisition" against the nominee.

"I still think Clarence Thomas will win," Dole said on the first day of hearings by the Judiciary Committee on the sexual harassment allegations against Thomas.

He predicted 55 to 60 senators would support Thomas' confirmation when the Senate votes Tuesday.

Thomas, he said, delivered a "very powerful" opening statement to the



**"She'll be on the talk shows, making speeches for big money. I think it's going to advance her career."**

— Sen. Bob Dole

committee.

Dole said the committee hearings were unnecessary because they were unlikely to resolve the conflicting statements made by Thomas and Anita Hill, the University of Oklahoma law professor.

Hill alleges Thomas harassed her with talk of sex and pornographic

movies when she worked with him at two federal agencies during the 1980s. Thomas says none of the allegations are true.

Dole said the committee hearings will produce "a lot of bitterness, a lot of acrimony."

"This isn't a hearing. This is a trial of Clarence Thomas. It is an in-

quisition," Dole said. "And my view is he's been treated shabbily by the committee and I don't think there will be much improvement" in the new round of hearings.

Despite that, Dole said the televised hearing would play a critical role because undecided senators "are probably going to make up their mind based on what reaction they get from the voters at home."

Telephone calls to Dole's offices in Kansas on Thursday ran 2-to-1 in support of Thomas, he said.

"She'll be on the talk shows, making speeches for big money. I think it's going to advance her career," Dole said. "I don't say that she did it for that reason."

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Wednesday, October 16, 1991 9-A

Bob Dole:

We are back now where we were a week ago when a majority of us, Republicans and Democrats were prepared to say that Judge Thomas was qualified to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court.

I guess the one question that I have is how much of a burden we placed on Clarence Thomas? How much of a burden will he carry for the next six months, or year, six weeks, who knows how long, with last minute allegations fully aired to millions and millions of Americans, and will it have a lasting impact when he reviews various kinds of cases, including cases of sexual harassment.

In my view this will make Judge Thomas even a better judge, a stronger judge... Having gone through another test of his strength and his character, in my view he is in a stronger position...

I think we ought to give the benefit of the doubt to the nominee, Clarence Thomas, who for 107 days has been hanging out there twisting in the wind...

He has withstood the test. He is a stronger person because of it. And he will prevail and he should prevail. And I urge my colleagues, if you still haven't made up your mind and you're on your way to the floor and you're having one last thought about Clarence Thomas, give him the benefit of the doubt. He deserves that much and more.



Bob Dole

The Salina Journal Saturday, October 19, 1991 3

# Soviets may receive more food credit, Dole says

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
Journal Great Plains Editor

Sen. Bob Dole said Friday the United States must accept risks in dealing with the Soviet Union in order to protect opportunities.

Dole, speaking by telephone to Kansas reporters, met earlier in the morning with the mayor of Moscow, Gavril Popov, who is seeking U.S. investment in his country.

He said the mayor indicated the Soviets will make it through the winter without famine, but they need feed for chickens and other livestock. Mentioned specifically were wheat and soybean meal.

The Soviets also must move quickly with reforms, Dole said, because "if something doesn't happen in the next few months or the next year, the people will become very restless" and begin to question their abandonment of communism.

Dole, R-Kan., said he plans to be in Kansas this weekend with Andrei Kolosovsky, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Republic and an adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Dole said he expects to offer Kolosovsky "a little taste of mid-America and what it's all about."

The Kansas senator said the Soviets have asked for an additional \$3.5 billion in food credit and "I'm not certain that will happen."



**"It's going to be a little tense around here on civil rights. There are a lot of people feeling that we shouldn't even be taking this up."**

— Sen. Bob Dole

The United States has agreed to give \$2.5 billion in credit.

He said President Bush should announce an aid package after he meets with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, who recently returned from the Soviet Union. Madigan will submit an aid proposal to the administration, but the plan has not been discussed publicly because of the effect it could have on grain markets.

"We're just sort of standing by," Dole said.

## Confirmation for CIA

In other topics, Dole said he expects the confirmation of Robert Gates, who had been nominated by Bush to head the Central Intelligence Agency, to go more smoothly than the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court.

Friday the Senate Intelligence Committee

voted 11-4 to endorse the Gates nomination to the full Senate, despite charges he hid the truth about the Iran-Contra affair and slanted intelligence reports in the 1980s. Gates is a Wichita native.

Dole said several Democrats on the committee voted for Gates, which means a fight over his confirmation may be limited on the Senate floor.

He refused to predict a final vote, but said "it will be a comfortable margin."

## Civil rights tension

As for Thomas, Dole said the battle over his confirmation has aggravated partisan differences over civil rights legislation.

"It's going to be a little tense around here on civil rights," he predicted. "There are a lot of people feeling that we shouldn't even be taking

this up. I've had one senator say we ought to put this off until 1992 and let everything cool off."

The Senate is to begin debate next week on the civil rights legislation, which is designed to combat recent Supreme Court decisions that make it more difficult to win discrimination lawsuits against employers.

Dole said the furor over Thomas and charges of sexual harassment from law professor Anita Hill also have sent lawmakers "searching around, trying to figure out some way to improve the process."

Dole said he would have liked to have seen both Thomas and Hill questioned in a private session with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The process surrounding most issues, Dole said, is filtered through news reports.

"For the first time the American people got to make their own judgment," he said. "Here they got to watch hours of it. This is the way it works. Some didn't like it."

On another domestic issue, Dole said he planned to meet later in the day with treasury officials and others to find "some short-term stimulus" to spark economic growth.

Among the suggestions so far: a tax credit for first-time home buyers, tax cuts for families with a combined income of less than \$45,000 and reduction of the capital gains tax.

The Topeka Capital-Journal

Saturday, October 12, 1991

# Reconsider privileges, Dole says

■ Says public fed up with hot checks, other recent controversies in Congress

By GENE SMITH  
The Capital-Journal

Members of Congress should be held as nearly as possible to the same behavioral standards as private citizens, Sen. Bob Dole said Friday.

"People are really upset" about hot checks, meal tabs, free prescriptions, congressional pay, endless immunity from parking tickets and other perks enjoyed by their senators and representatives in Washington, Dole said.

"I think there's a lot of cynicism around" about Congress, the Senate minority leader said during a telephone news conference from Washington. Noting he had just returned from a swing through several counties in southwest Kansas, he said: "I must say for the first time, I picked up a lot of talk about term limitations."

"I've got to believe a lot of it is because the economy is flat, farm prices are low, people are losing their jobs. A lot of these things bubble to the surface. The easiest target in the world is Congress."

Dole said he has never been in the Senate gymnasium, "don't even know where it is," but said he has gotten a few free prescriptions from the congressional pharmacy.

"We ought to go back and take a look at all these little things and see whether or not it's reasonable for the taxpayer to pick up the tab for some aspirin or things of that kind," he said. "I don't see why we should need any free medicine."

"I'm prepared. There's some things that people still aren't going to like, but as much as we can we obviously ought to be held to the same standards."

Dole noted Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, this week tacked an amendment onto a civil rights bill that says Congress shouldn't be exempted from the laws it makes, such as the discrimination-in-hiring immunity. He cited the need to put a cap on campaign financing to limit incumbents' advantage and said, "There are a whole host" of perquisites that probably should be addressed.



Sen. Bob Dole

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Thursday, October 17, 1991 3-C

# Dole says no recovery in Kansas

The Capital-Journal

WASHINGTON — Citing record low farm prices and the collapse of the light airplane industry because of product liability, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole told the American Business Press Association on Wednesday "the recovery hasn't hit us yet" in Kansas.

Dole said the chief need in the country is to "try to get this economy moving."

The Kansas Republican pointed out that reductions in the military and defense cutbacks will throw even more people out of work. He stressed the need for government to look at retraining workers who are losing their jobs.

"We need the president and Congress to work together" on a recovery package, Dole continued.

"I've got a group of very bright people sitting in my office right now trying to put together" such a package, he said.

He suggested requiring Medicare recipients who earn money to pay their own premiums and a freeze on government spending "from right at the top — no exceptions," except for those Americans below the poverty line.

"We're broke!" Dole said.

The Topeka Capital-Journal Saturday, October 19, 1991

# Russians beat path to Dole's door

By GENE SMITH  
The Capital-Journal

Like the tide — and almost as predictably — the Russian delegations flow in and out of Bob Dole's office suite in the nation's capital these days. All are seeking aid.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov met with Dole for an hour Friday morning, pleading the case for U.S. investment in and technical assistance for the Soviet Union.

Yuri Chumakov, Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations, and Victor Akulenin, part of a Soviet committee for food procurement, were there even longer Wednesday.

They wanted another \$3.5 billion in emergency agricultural credits to buy wheat and soybean meal.

"He would like to have (another) billion in this calendar year," in addition to the \$2.5 billion in emergency credits approved only a month ago, Dole said.

Because Dole is the Senate Republican leader, the sad-sounding little Slav delegations all come hat in hand to him, asking if he won't please get Uncle Sam to drop in a few more kopeks.

But, usually, their stories remain just that.

## Dole focuses on economy

The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., is beginning to consider some radical measures to get the stalled domestic economy moving.

The measures include a freeze on government spending "from right at the top," with no exceptions except aiding those Americans below the poverty line; requiring Medicare recipients with income to pay their own premiums; and allowing tax credits for first-time home buyers.

"We've got to get this economy moving again," the Senate minority leader said Friday. "You ought to be able to use your IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts).

"They come over here for three, four days. They sign all these papers — and all they've got, in most cases, is a big pile of paper," Dole said Friday. "Nobody is moving in to do anything."

Indeed, there is considerable doubt as to who the United States is dealing with — or should be.

Others are looking into enterprise zones, and tax cuts for people below \$45,000 combined income."

Dole said he met Friday with Treasury Secretary James Brady and the director of the Office of Management and Budget to talk about a growth package.

"We don't have a plan yet, (but) I think President Bush needs to be out front," Dole said.

The Democrats, Dole said, are working on a domestic economic program. He predicted they probably will announce that within the next few weeks.

And in Kansas? "We've been hit by tornadoes, but we haven't been hit by recovery yet," he said.

"The mayor said this morning distribution's a problem," Dole said.

In fact, Popov hinted that perhaps if they had feed for their chickens and livestock through the winter, the 10 million Muscovites could make it through the winter quite handily.

But with the Ukraine and Azerbaijan refusing to sign the new econom-

ic union treaty and with the Russian Federation announcing plans to issue its own currency to replace the worthless ruble, Washington officials clearly are uncertain whether it is even worth their time to try to deal any longer with Mikhail Gorbachev's failing central government.

Furthermore, there is little indication of real movement in actually scrapping Soviet arms, nor has there been a final cut-off of aid to Castro's Cuba — both actions that keenly interest official Washington.

"They're putting on the full-court press," Dole said of Soviet efforts for aid, but "I'm not certain it'll happen. There isn't enough aid in the world to keep all these people going in what was the Soviet Union."

Dole said: "They don't have any money, let's face it. But on the other hand, we can't just stand back. We are going to have to take some risk. They look to us first and if we say no, they're going to look somewhere else."

Personally, he favors direct dealings with the various republics, where he believes U.S. chances of actually getting repaid are much better.

"It's going to be a very rocky road," he concluded.