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Randy Yehias/The Wichita Eagle

Fresh on his arrival in Wichita, Boris Yeltsin has a word with Mayor Bob Knight, center, and Sen. Bob Dole, right, before greeting reporters at McConnell Air Force Base on Thursday morning.

Dole impressed by visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bob Dole came to the nation's capital as a freshman congressman in 1961 when Cold War tensions ran high between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Construction began on the Berlin Wall that year.

But more than three decades later, the Senate Republican leader flew half way across the country with the president of Russia and landed in Kansas aboard an Ilyushin-62 plane with "Russia" emblazoned on its side.

"It was kind of exciting to see that Russian plane out on the tarmac at McConnell Air Force Base," Dole said in an interview Friday after Yeltsin's whirlwind visit to Wichita.

The Russian leader toured a meatpacking plant, Wichita State University and a farm during his visit Thursday, which came after a summit with President Bush in Washington.

During the flight to Kansas, which lasted almost three hours, Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, along with Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan. and Robert Strauss, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, visited with Yeltsin and his wife, Naina, in a private compartment.

"We ate a typical Russian feast," said Dole. "I think we ate all the way. They brought us all these cold cuts and crackers and Russian bread. It was a great lunch. That was just the openers. Then came the sturgeon, then came the dessert, the ice cream ... the biscuits."

And how was Yeltsin in private? "We were all impressed by his sense of humor," said Dole.

Dole impressed by Yeltsin's sense of humor

By Barry Massey
Associated Press Writer

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Associated Press photo

Boris Yeltsin, left, is presented a can of SPAM by Hormel President Dick Knowlton during a tour of a meat-processing plant in Wichita last week. 'I never eat a heavy breakfast; this will last me a week,' Yeltsin quipped.

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And how was Yeltsin in private? "We were all impressed by his sense of humor," said Dole, adding that Yeltsin seemed relaxed and informal.

He even got to telling Elizabeth how to make dumplings and Russian tea.

Dole said Yeltsin expressed confidence that economic and democratic reforms would succeed in revitalizing Russia, but he counseled that Western nations also must show some patience with the pace of change in the former Communist regime.

about the potential of the people. But he said they've lost their spirit because they had nothing to work for except the state. So it takes a while to re-install that," said Dole.

When Yeltsin was asked the biggest problem facing Russia, Dole said, he told his guests "it's the economy, reform, jobs. He kept saying we've got to get people jobs."

Dole said Yeltsin also stressed the need for foreign investment in Russia.

"He never used the word aid or assistance. It was 'partnership.' He doesn't want to go around with a cup in his hand. It's a partnership," said Dole, who predicted Congress would soon approve the U.S. share of a \$24 billion Western economic aid package for Russia.

Dole, who invited Yeltsin to Kansas, said the Russian's appearance before a joint session of Congress last week illustrated the dramatic changes that have occurred in the former Soviet Union and brought an end to the Cold War.

Dole knocks Perot for 'dirt gathering'

By BARRY MASSEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole says Ross Perot has hurt his presidential candidacy by feuding with Republicans and his "penchant for dirt gathering."

"I wish he would stop blaming Republicans for everything," Dole said Thursday in a telephone news conference.

Perot has complained of "dirty tricks" by Republicans and contends the Bush campaign is planting stories that falsely accuse him of investigating the private business of his critics and rivals.

He complained that Perot has "always got this accusatory finger pointed at Republican dirty tricks."

"I don't think he's helping himself much," said Dole. "But I've got to believe the guy has got a penchant for checking up on people."

Perot and Republican national chairman Rich Bond have been exchanging verbal barbs over the dirty tricks allegations. And Dole agreed with Bond's demand that Perot produce evidence that Republicans were behind the critical stories.

The Kansan also challenged Perot to provide more detailed

recommendations on how to address pressing national issues.

"If he's going to identify every problem in America, he ought to give us a solution," said Dole. "It doesn't take any rocket scientist to give you some of the problems we've got in America. It may take a rocket scientist to figure out how to solve them."

Dole also speculated that Perot would suffer more political damage if he failed to flesh out his stands on issues.

"As strong as he is, and he's got a lot of support in Kansas, I think he's going to have to be a little more realistic or a lot of his supporters are going to go somewhere else," said Dole.

On other subjects, Dole said:

■ He has written the president asking for quick action to release disaster aid for wheat farmers in Kansas if they become eligible because of damage from a freeze and hail.

■ The Senate is unlikely to approve a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget.

■ He expected no problems for legislation to create a national park system tourist attraction in Topeka to commemorate the Supreme Court's landmark Brown vs. Board of Education ruling that outlawed school segregation.

Dole says GOP Congress would spark change

The Associated Press
SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Voters hungry for change should support President Bush but replace congressional Democrats with Republicans, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Saturday.

Expected independent presidential candidate Ross Perot is "sort of a freewheeler out there" because he doesn't have a party structure in Congress to help him keep promises of change, said Dole, R-Kan.

And the Democratic-controlled Congress hasn't acted on Bush's proposals about education, energy and economic development, he said.

"If you're frustrated and you're looking for change, keep in mind ... we haven't controlled the House of Representatives for 37 years. That's the change we need," Dole told the Missouri GOP state convention.

Later, he told reporters: "Give us a Republican Congress, and you'll see George Bush do all the things that Perot says he's going to do without any Congress."

If a Republican president and Congress can't accomplish change, "throw us all out," Dole told the convention.

He noted that the only congressman labeled as an independent is Socialist Bernard Sanders of Vermont. "He's going to have a lot of power" in a Perot White House, Dole joked.

Dole — like other GOP leaders — said Perot has wrongly accused the Republican National Committee of dirty tricks.

"I wish Ross would quit picking on Republicans," Dole said. "He ought to give us the proof."

But he acknowledged that Perot has been a subject for GOP research.

"They're trying to find things that he's said, things he said years ago. To me, that's normal in politics. Maybe it's not normal in business," Dole said.

Still, he said Perot will have lasting support from many unhappy voters.

"It's going to diminish," Dole said of Perot's appeal. "I don't think it's going to go away."

He dismissed the chances of Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, the likely Democratic presidential nominee.