

U.S. Senate

Dole easily defeats O'Dell to win 5th term in U.S. Senate

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Bob Dole, the smalltown Kansas war hero who rose to political power nationally, won a sweeping victory Tuesday and claimed a fifth six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

Dole handily defeated Democratic challenger Gloria O'Dell and two minor candidates — independent Christina Campbell-Cline and Libertarian Mark B. Kirk, both of Wichita.

With 33 percent of the vote counted, Dole had 63 percent to O'Dell's 33 percent and Campbell-Cline's 4 percent.

O'Dell called Dole when the outcome became evident about an hour after the polls closed.

"She congratulated me. I appreciated that," Dole said in a telephone interview from the Senate minority leader's office in Washington, D.C.

He said O'Dell, who billed her underdog campaign against one of the nation's most powerful politicians as "Gloria vs. Goliath," had run "about as good a race as she could."

"I think she worked hard," Dole added. "Obviously, it's tough to win against an incumbent."



Dole

ELECTION '92

'Goliath' Dole handily topples opponents

Senator praises campaign; O'Dell says her bid has helped reform 'politics as usual'

By BARBARA JOSEPH The Capital-Journal

Bob Dole, christened Goliath by his main opponent, overpowered three potential Davids Tuesday to win his fifth, and possibly last, six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

With 66 percent of the vote counted, Dole captured 64 percent of the Kansas vote, compared with 32 percent for Democrat

Gloria O'Dell and 4 percent for independent candidate Christina Campbell-Cline. A percentage wasn't immediately available for Libertarian candidate Mark Kirk.

Dole watched the results of his and other Senate races from his offices in Washington. In a taped statement, he said he felt he had run a good campaign free of negative ads.

"I tried to let the people know we worked hard for Kansas, and I think they believed it," he said. "People want you to remember where you're from."

In a televised interview, Dole compared his well-financed campaign to O'Dell's underfinanced one.



Sen. Bob Dole

"Like most incumbents, I had a big advantage," he said. "She didn't have enough money."

O'Dell, one of 11 female candidates nationwide vying for a seat in the male-dominated Senate, said from the Democratic party at the Jayhawk Tower she felt as if she were a winner because she had begun a movement to reform "politics as usual" and challenge career politicians.

"I said from the beginning that I was not afraid of Bob Dole or his power, and you should not be afraid, either," she said.

She said she had called Dole to congratulate him.

"He accepted my congratulations and said maybe we didn't hurt each other too much," she said. "I said I didn't see enough of him to hurt him."

O'Dell headlined her race Gloria vs. Goliath because of her underdog status. She was dwarfed by Dole's money, power and prestige, which muted her attacks against him as a Washington insider who had lost touch with Kansans and was beholden to special interests.

Her campaign relied primarily on free media exposure and gimmicks to attract attention.

Dole's lead never was in question. The 32-year incumbent, with eight years in the House and 24 years in the Senate, led in the polls throughout. A September poll commissioned by The Capital-Journal gave him a 58-33 percent lead over O'Dell. A follow-up poll last week showed he had pushed his lead over O'Dell to 63-31.

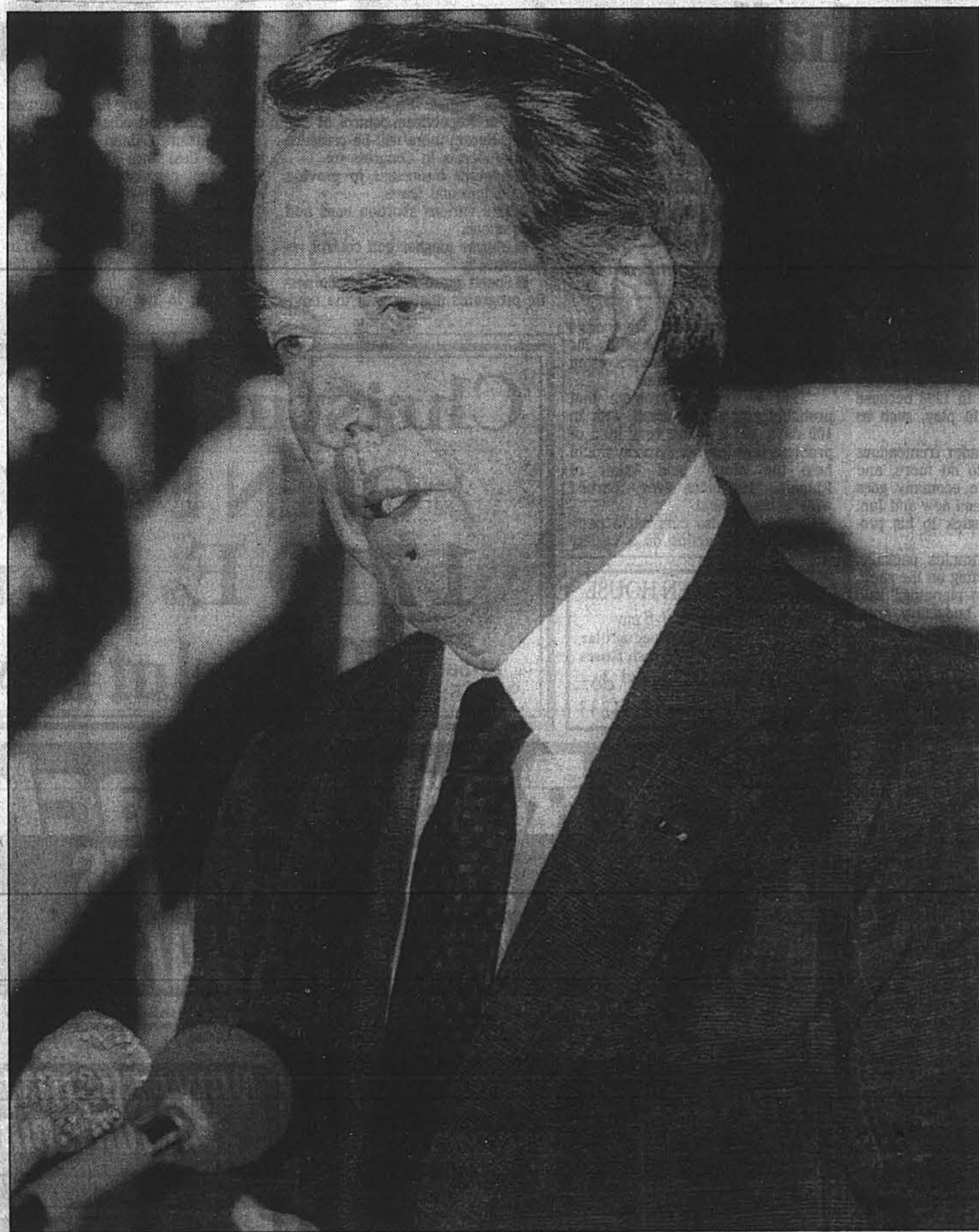
Dole said his agenda will include fighting taxes and spending. In addition, he likely will play a major role in building consensus

for health care reform, as Congress considers three basic plans.

Dole also has said he will push for aid to former communist countries in Eastern Europe, which he sees as essential to stabilizing their economies and preventing hardliners from returning to power. He has said the aid also would create markets and reduce the arms race.

The 69-year-old Dole has said he probably won't run for Senate again in 1998 because of his age. However, he has left open the possibility he might make another run for the presidency in 1996. Dole faces a leadership vote in the Senate on Nov. 10 to determine whether he will continue as its minority leader. He has said he is fully recovered from recent surgery for prostate cancer.

Campbell-Cline and Kirk, both of Wichita, kept a low profile during the campaign.



✓ Dole greets GOP's losses with venom

Watch your step, senator says in post-election posturing

By Tom Webb Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole awoke Wednesday as the nation's most powerful Republican and used the occasion not to heal or be conciliatory, but to direct a cloudburst at the Democrats.

"Fifty-seven percent of the Americans who voted in the presidential election voted against Bill Clinton," Dole said at the Capitol on Wednesday. "I intend to represent that majority on the floor of the U.S. Senate. If Bill Clinton has a mandate, then so do I."

Dole — who spent his own re-election night in Washington, 1,200 miles from the Kansans who had just elected him — nevertheless did make some effort at being cordial. On election night, he appeared on national television, offering no healing words and instead vowing to "frustrate some of his (Clinton's) taxing and spending programs."

But by morning, the election results looked far better for the Republicans. Senate Republicans hung on by thin margins in Oregon, Pennsylvania and New York. And one Democratic incumbent in Georgia was forced into a run-off election and looked vulnerable.

If Dole is re-elected next week as Senate Minority Leader, he will serve as the leader of the loyal opposition, which will likely mean trying to frustrate Clinton's plans to change policies on health care, family issues and the economy.

"We're not going to try to obstruct, but we're not going to be stampeded," Dole said Wednesday. He said he would work with Clinton "if it advances the best interests of our nation."

Dole said he had telephoned Ross Perot and congratulated him on focusing national attention on the budget deficit.

And Dole said he tried — without success — to congratulate President-elect Clinton and Sen. Al Gore, the vice president-elect.

So instead, Dole tossed out a joke about his new relationship with a new political adversary:

"Bill Clinton got some good news and bad news last night: The good news is, he's getting a honeymoon in Washington. The bad news is, Bob Dole will be his chaperone."

"The good news is, (Clinton is) getting a honeymoon in Washington. The bad news is, Bob Dole will be his chaperone." Bob Dole

U.S. Sen. Bob Dole says he will work with Bill Clinton "if it advances the best interests of our nation."

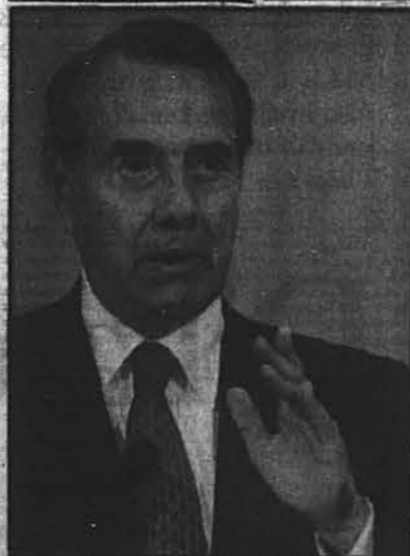
Dole says age might rule him out for '96

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Friday that he probably won't run for president in 1996. But like any good politician, the Kansan didn't totally close the door. Dole said it was too early for anyone, including himself, to launch a campaign for the 1996 presidential nomination. But he conceded his age might rule him

out as a serious contender four years from now. Dole will turn 73 in July 1996.

"I don't think you rule out any option. But I think you have to look at the calendar and the age and all those factors and your health. And I think my health is good, but I'd just as soon wait a year or two and see what develops."



Sen. Bob Dole will be 73 by the next presidential election.

Dole says '96 run for president is 'doubtful'

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Friday he probably won't run for president in 1996. But like any good politician, the Kansan didn't totally close the door.

Dole said it was too early for anyone, including himself, to launch a campaign for the 1996 presidential nomination. But he conceded his age might rule him out as a serious contender four years from now. Dole will turn 73 in July 1996.

"As far as I'm personally concerned, I think it's very doubtful," Dole said in a telephone news conference with Kansas broadcasters and newspaper reporters.

"I don't think you rule out any option. But I think you have to look at the calendar and the age and all those factors and your health. And I think my health is good, but I'd just as soon wait a year or two and see what develops."

Trade sanctions correct

On another subject, Dole said he hoped a trade war with the European Community could be avoided, but he maintained the Bush administration was correct in moving to impose retaliatory tariffs on European products.

"It's about time that we serve notice on other countries that we're going to be competitive but we're not going to be a patsy and not fight back," Dole said.

The administration announced the trade sanctions because the Europeans hadn't taken steps to lower their soybean subsidies. An international trade dispute panel has twice ruled against the European subsidies. The panel found the subsidies impede trade in violation of international rules.

Dole said an all-out trade war would hurt Kansas farmers because U.S. agricultural exports probably would be the subject of retaliation by the

Europeans. A trade war, if not resolved quickly, would cause "a big headache" for President-elect Clinton, he said.

However, the Bush administration was "doing Clinton a favor in effect" by forcing a trade showdown with the Europeans, Dole said.

Other issues

Dole also said:

■ The economy was the primary reason Bush lost the election.

■ "If the economy would have been even mediocre, he'd have won easily," Dole said.

■ A widespread anti-incumbent movement among voters failed to materialize. Twenty-four House and three Senate incumbents were defeated in the general election. Most voters are comfortable with their individual members in the House and Senate.