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Dole says Clinton has difficult job ahead

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News
President-elect Bill Clinton has 75 days in which to learn to walk tightrope, Washington style, according to Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan.

Move too fast on his social agenda — including family leave, abortion rights and a host of other issues — and he'll be labeled "just another liberal Democrat" when he runs as a moderate. Move too slow, and his supporters in Congress might get restless.

And that brings up the issue of Congress. The institution may have a majority of Democrats, but that doesn't mean they are of the same mind.

"He (Clinton) is very articulate," Dole said during his first post-election telephone news conference with Kansas journalists. "He's very smart. He's a



Dole

Senator has no presidential plans

Staff and wire reports
WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Friday that he probably would not 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 think any talk before — let's see, let me set a date — after the election in 1994 would be premature. I don't think anyone's going to start running or suggest they are going to be a candidate for at least 12 months, 18 months."

"As far as I'm personally concerned, I think it is very doubtful. I wouldn't rule it out. You don't rule out any option, but you have to look at the calendar and your age and all those factors and your health. I think my health is good, but I'd just as soon wait a year or two and see what develops."

Democrats who agree with his philosophy?"

If some Democrats in the party become more conservative after the election, it could cause a split within the party. When Republicans were in the White House, it was easy for Democrats to vote more liberally, knowing the laws would be vetoed.

Dole reiterated earlier statements he had made to the media that Clinton had not received a mandate from the voters, based on the popular vote. Although the incoming president will be able to enact portions of his agenda through executive order and others through easily passed legislation — such as family leave — tax issues will remain sticking points.

But Dole suggested the president-elect be cautious early on.

"If he goes back and tries to shove all this legislation through, he's going to be labeled just another liberal Democrat, when he's out there trying to say he's a new Democrat, a moderate Democrat and even to some he said a conservative-type Democrat," Dole said. "He can't have it both ways. If he starts pursuing programs

Dole seeks pardons for Iran-Contra defendants

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole on Sunday called for an investigation of Iran-Contra prosecutor Lawrence Walsh and said President Bush should consider pardoning all defendants in the scandal. Dole called Walsh's office "a Democratic hotbed of Democratic activist lawyers." A special prosecutor from the Justice Department should be brought in to determine "whether or not politics played any part" in a new indictment of ex-defense secretary Caspar Weinberger, Dole said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Walsh, a Republican, was deputy attorney general in the Eisenhower administration.

Walsh denied there was any political motivation in the second indictment of Weinberger, handed up four days before the election. It disclosed Bush's role in a Jan. 7, 1986 meeting about the Reagan White House's arms-for-hostages deals with Iran. The president spent the final days of the campaign fending off questions about the scandal.

Dole said the Oct. 30 grand jury charge against Weinberger was obtained by a newly hired Walsh aide, James Brosnahan, who contributed \$500 to Bill Clinton's campaign and whose law firm contributed \$20,000 to the Clinton campaign.

Dole suggested Clinton's campaign got advance notice from Walsh's office about the new Weinberger charges, because a Clinton-Gore press release reacting to the indictment and focusing on Bush was dated Oct. 29 — the day before the indictment.

Clinton aides have said the date was a misprint and that they obtained information for their press release from wire service accounts after the indictment was handed up.

Walsh, in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press, denied that there had been any communication on the new Weinberger charge between "me or my office with anyone" in advance of the indictment, except for an interagency group of intelligence experts from the Bush administration. That group reviews all pending indictments in Walsh's Iran-Contra investigation ahead of time for possible classified information.

"That's the only group that had any advance information about the indictment," Walsh said.

Walsh added that political contributions by Brosnahan before Walsh's office hired him are "it seems to me irrelevant."

The new indictment — based on Weinberger's own notes — disclosed that then-Vice President Bush participated in a Jan. 7, 1986 discussion of trading 4,000 TOW anti-tank missiles for five American hostages. Bush has always maintained that he didn't realize until mid-December 1986 that the Reagan administration was swapping arms for U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

Dole said Bush should consider pardons for all Iran-Contra defendants, not just Weinberger, because "if you're going to do one, you do them all."

Senate Republican Whip Alan Simpson cautioned against presidential pardons for figures in the Iran-Contra affair in the remaining 11 weeks of the Bush administration.

"I'd be very careful of that," Simpson said on NBC's "Meet the Press." He didn't elaborate on his view, and when asked whether that meant he thought a pardon would be a mistake he said, "I'm not saying that. I think he ought to be very, very careful."

Simpson said he thought the new Weinberger indictment was politically motivated — calling it "one of the cheapest shots of the whole campaign" — and he said it had hurt the president in the final days of the race.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that White House aides and Vice President Dan Quayle are advising a presidential pardon. It said no formal recommendation has been made to Bush, and that mid-level aides discussed the issue with the president on his return flight from Houston to Washington on the Wednesday after the election.

Robert Bennett, one of Weinberger's lawyers, on Friday declined to comment on whether he has talked to White House officials about the possibility of a presidential pardon.



Dole

Dole says Bush was right to pose tariff threat

■ Senator backs Bush even if Kansas could be hurt in potential U.S.-Europe trade war

By BARBARA JOSEPH
The Capital-Journal

President Bush was correct to threaten Europeans with high tariffs on certain products, even though the action could lead to a trade war affecting Kansas, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Friday.

"I think we did the right thing," Dole said.

"It's about time we served notice on other countries that we're going to be competitive," Dole said. "France, Germany and other countries have to understand they can't continue subsidizing and undercutting American producers without facing retaliation. But he acknowledged Bush's action could lead to a trade war with the Europeans, which would affect Kansas.

"We don't want a trade war," the Senate minority leader said. "You would have a free-for-all on the trade of agriculture products and we would get hit just like everybody else."

Dole spoke with Kansas reporters in a teleconference from Washington.

The Bush administration last week threatened to triple the import price for European

white wine and to take similar punitive actions against other European products.

At issue is a six-year struggle to get the European Community to stop subsidizing its farmers who grow soybeans and other oilseed crops used mainly as animal feed in Europe. The administration claims those subsidies cost American farmers \$1 billion in lost sales annually.

The EC, a 12-nation trading block, plans to meet Monday to consider retaliation on American products, which could trigger a full-scale trade war with America's largest foreign market and hand the incoming Clinton administration a big economic headache.

Dole denied the Bush move was political, saying the administration had reached a point where it couldn't give anymore.

"If it had been political, they would have done this a week ago," he said. "I wish we had done it before the election because I think a lot of people didn't believe the Bush administration would ever do anything."

He said he hoped it was resolved before President-elect Bill Clinton takes office in January. But he noted French farmers were strong political activists, so it wouldn't be easy.

Dole also called Clinton bright, articulate and a quick study. And he pledged to work with him on matters of national interest, while reserving the right to push for modifications.

But Clinton, who has styled himself as a new type of Democrat, hasn't dealt with Congress yet, Dole said. He may have more

trouble with the liberal Democrats than with the Republicans.

Dole also said:

■ He hoped Clinton, who hasn't said much about agriculture, picks an agricultural secretary from the Midwest.

■ It was doubtful he himself would run for president in 1996, but he won't rule out any option.

■ He wants to broaden the base of the divided Republican Party, drawing in Ross Perot supporters but not allowing any single-minded group to dominate.

■ Bush lost the election because people perceived the economy as bad and thought Bush didn't have a plan.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Dole wants investigation

■ Senator calls for probe of Iran-Contra prosecutor, pardons for all defendants

By PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole on Sunday called for an investigation of Iran-Contra prosecutor Lawrence Walsh and said President Bush should consider pardoning all defendants in the scandal.

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Dole calls for pardoning all in arms trade

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Walsh said political contributions by Brosnahan before Walsh's office hired him are irrelevant.

Any suggestion the Clinton campaign was tipped off to the indictment is "ridiculous. There's just not a shred of truth to it," said Clinton spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers. She said the campaign found out about it from reporters.



Dole

Bush's loss frees Dole

■ Kansas senator feels 'unshackled' in new role as most prominent Republican

By HELEN DEWAR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Some were elated by last Tuesday's elections; others were depressed. Senate Republican leader Robert J. Dole, Kan., was liberated.

"Let's face it, sometimes when you carry the administration's water, it's a pretty heavy bucket," he said Friday. "Other times, it was a light bucket. But, now, suddenly you're a free spirit, a free agent, you've been unshackled."

For four years after then-Vice President Bush buried Dole's presidential ambitions in New Hampshire, the normally acerbic Dole bit his lip, hid any hard feelings and demonstrated extraordinary loyalty in pushing the legislative program of his former rival.

But now, with Bush having been denied a second term by Democrat Bill Clinton, an unfettered Dole has moved to occupy the center of the Republican stage.

He continues to defend Bush and express regret at the president's defeat but doesn't hide his exhilaration about the challenges and opportunities

Dole faces in a new role as the most prominent Republican who will still be in office here after Inauguration Day, Jan. 20.

Speaking of the election, Dole said: "It's unfortunate, but that's politics. Having said that, I can't change any of that. I am sort of looking forward to a little different opportunity, I guess."

From his perch as Senate minority leader, Dole warned President-elect Bill Clinton to think twice about ignoring Dole and other Republicans on Capitol Hill but also sent a clear message that he would welcome an early get-together between Clinton and congressional Republicans — a political "welcome wagon" — with the idea of cooperating on legislation.

"Everyone wants to get the president off to a good start," Dole said, putting aside some of the sharper barbs he used in interviews immediately after the election, which caused some heartburn among Republicans as well as Democrats.

Dole's zest contrasts starkly with his dispirited mood only a year ago, when friends said he had serious doubts about seeking a fifth term.

Not only did he realize he probably would never be president, they said, but even his hope of again becoming majority leader crumbled

when it became clear Republicans wouldn't regain Senate control.

But Dole ran again and won by a huge margin, even while campaigning in 30 other states for GOP candidates. By the early hours of Nov. 4, he was all over the airwaves with the kind of one-liners, zingers, put-downs and trenchant observations he had suppressed for four years.

It is as though, at age 69 and in apparent good health after prostate surgery, he has found a "new meaning in life," which could encompass everything from zest for combat with Clinton to another bid for the GOP presidential nomination, a Republican colleague observed.

Others thought it boiled down instead to a kind of poetic justice: Bush was impaled this year on the same issue of tax increases that he used against Dole in 1988, when Bush warned that Dole would raise taxes, just as Bush eventually did in signing the 1990 tax bill.

Dole had only kind words for Bush to the end, insisting that the defeated president was "a decent man, a man of total integrity" who was victimized by the economy and by news-media characterizations of it. But his thoughts were clearly on a post-Bush future.

In appearances last week Dole said he was seeking re-election as minority leader to serve as "watch-dog (for) the 57 percent who did not vote for Bill Clinton," and to use powers available to him in that post to oppose "bad policy" when the need arises.



Sen. Bob Dole

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