

SA THE WICHITA EAGLE Tuesday, November 10, 1992

Kansas' senior senator finds himself in new role

By Tom Webb
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — When Sen. Bob Dole is re-elected this morning as Senate minority leader, he'll also be assuming an unofficial second title: the most powerful Republican in the United States.

President Bush's defeat has swept the Republican administration out of power, leaving the Democrats in charge of the vast machinery of government. But the Kansan, unchallenged as the Republican leader of the Senate, remains unafraid to use his clout or his lungs, and is finally free to set the Republican agenda.

"He's become the top dog again," said Stephen Hess, a scholar at the Brookings Institution. "He's been enhanced, in a strange and ironic way."

It's ironic because, like most other Republicans, Dole would have preferred that Bush remain as president. But with Bush's defeat, Dole immediately seized the loose reins, and tried to create a Republican agenda more to his liking. Two items top his list: a



Dole
May find himself out of sync with conservatives within his own party.

greater concern about the deficit and improvements in the health-care system.

For Kansas, Dole's new role could mean a bit less clout since he'll no longer be The President's Man in the Senate. But as the leader of 42 of the Senate's 100 votes, he'll hardly be without influence.

"It's hard to think he would be in much better position than he was in the previous 12 years, but in some ways, he almost is," said Robert Peabody, a political science professor and longtime Dole scholar. "So I wouldn't think that Kansas is going to be any worse off."

With Dole at the lead, those 42 Senate Republicans will be in position to obstruct, frustrate and torment Bill Clinton and the Democrats, much as the Democrats did with President Bush.

"I think by personality and inclination, he's probably going to be more effective as the principal opposition leader than he was in the previous four years," said Peabody, a Johns Hopkins professor. "I think he likes this newfound attention, and I think he will carry it off more effectively."

Certainly in the past week Dole has been even more visible than usual. Even before the polls closed Election Night, Dole appeared on all

the major TV networks, and followed that with a series of interviews, news conferences and TV appearances. His staff said he was unavailable to be interviewed for this story.

"He wants to be the pre-eminent Republican in Washington, D.C., and to some extent he will be," said Victor Kamber, a Democratic consultant. "What he's trying to do, it seems to me, is carve out that role and tell everyone else, 'Get off my podium, I'm going to do it.'"

Dole even boldly claimed his own mandate: the 57 percent of Americans who didn't vote for President-elect Bill Clinton — he called it "the anti-Clinton majority." Kamber suspects that Dole was aiming his remarks at Republicans more than Democrats, but members of both parties winced at the chutzpah and bite of Dole's remarks.

"I like Bob Dole, he's bright and he's humorous, but I thought he came across as shrill and less-than-generous in his comments Election Night and since," Kamber said. "He's already thrown a gauntlet down before there's a reason to make a challenge."

"It's vintage Dole," Hess of Brookings said of Dole's post-election interviews. "He's not, at his age, going to turn over a new leaf. He's got a very special persona, and it's almost expected of him, to be one of the great old signposts in Washington."

But if Dole can needle and expect needling from the Democrats, he may face worse from fellow Republicans. Members of the Republican right-wing, who have never enthusiastically embraced Dole, will battle more moderate Republicans for the proverbial heart of the party.

Burton Pines, chairman of the National Center for Public Policy Research, a Washington-based conservative think tank, called Dole "one of the highest elected Republican officials in Washington."

One of them? Could he name a higher-ranking Republican?

Pines cited House Minority Leader Bob Michel, but then did acknowledge, "In terms of stature and dynamism, Bob Dole towers over the Republican leader of the House."

But, he added, "There are many other voices in the Republican Party, of equal stature to Dole. Jack Kemp would certainly be one of them. William Bennett, Pat Buchanan, who ran for president more recently than Dole. Gov. Pete DuPont."

Yet those are all men without an office. So for the next four years, Dole will have both power and platform. And as Peabody notes, he'll be setting the agenda in the Senate.

"He has to be consulted on almost anything that has to come through the Senate — the economic stimulus package, deficit-reduction, health care plans. All that legislation Dole will have to be consulted on."

Republicans regrouping for '94, Dole says

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

The Republicans' loss of the White House should not have a major impact on Kansas, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Tuesday shortly after he was re-elected to the post.

"I don't think there will be much change," Dole, a Kansas Republican, said during a telephone news conference with Kansas journalists Tuesday. "Obviously I won't be able to call the White House and talk to Mr. Darman or somebody and say, 'Could you put this in the budget, or things of that kind. I guess I could, but I don't know how much success I would have. We are going to try to continue to work with the Clinton people at all levels.'"

Kansas should be well-served after the election, Dole said. Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., has moved up on the Agriculture Committee and will be the ranking Republican. Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., will continue to serve as chairman of the Agriculture subcommittee on wheat, soybeans and feed grains.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., will be the ranking Republican on

Dole: GOP poised to take governor's office

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Sen. Bob Dole said Tuesday that the Nov. 3 election results show the state Republican Party will be in a strong position to retake the governor's office in two years.

Dole campaigned for a host of GOP legislative candidates before the election, which saw Republicans take over the state House of Representatives and make significant gains in the Senate.

"I had a lot of positive feelings about the party statewide," Dole said during a telephone confer-

ence call from Washington. "We're in a strong position for the governor's race."

Dole talked with reporters after unanimously being elected minority leader in the U.S. Senate.

Gov. Joan Finney, a Democrat, has said she will seek a second term in 1994.

The Republicans regained control of the Kansas House by a margin of 66-59, after Democrats had held the House by one seat. In the Senate, Republicans increased their margin of control from 22-18 to 27-13. That

theoretically makes the Senate able to override Mrs. Finney's vetoes.

"I think it's indicative of the Republican Party," Dole said of the gains in the Statehouse.

Dole also said there appeared to be a number of possible GOP candidates for governor waiting in the wings.

"It won't be long," he said. Dole said he held a series of meetings with GOP senators during the day.

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Party in the 1994 election."

One of the critical jobs the Republican Party faces during the next two years is to reach out to more people to win more Senate seats.

At this point, the Republican Party's role under Clinton is being shaped by Senate leaders.

"We have some new responsibilities," Dole said. "We don't have the White House. We have a whole different role to play. We can either be constructive or we can be obstructionists. I would think that it's early yet. You don't know where it will all wash out. We (Republican senators) met for an hour, then I met with all the ranking committee members earlier today for about an hour. We already are cranking up on alternative plans to Clinton, what we are going to do on nominees. I think it's too early to tell."

Also during the news conference, Dole said he hoped the incoming presidential administration would not scale back the military too quickly. Veterans being discharged from the military face an uncertain private-sector job market. At the same time, the world is not an entirely safe place, either.

"Let's face it, whether it should be this way or not, I just know from experience that when there is a Democrat in the White House, everything is not going to be perfect. President Bush took a lot of heat and a lot of grief. I think the Clinton administration won't do everything perfectly. It probably can't. It's always easier to run against somebody in power than trying to defend them. That ought to help the Republican

Kansas communities in October, campaigning for re-election and on behalf of other Republican candidates. He said he found good support for Republican legislators and potential Republican candidates for governor.

Dole said he thought Republicans were in a "strong position" to reclaim the governorship in 1994.

Nationally, Dole is optimistic for the party.

the Labor Committee.

"There are only six of us (in the Kansas congressional delegation), but we have got good committee assignments," Dole said.

In terms of the Republican Party, election prospects in 1994 should be good in Kansas and the nation. In 1992, Kansas Republicans made gains in the state Senate and reclaimed the state House.

Dole said he visited about 60

THE WICHITA EAGLE Thursday, November 12, 1992

Dole pulls back from bitter partisanship

By Tom Webb
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — After a week-long run, Sen. Bob Dole has traded his slash-and-burn act for the role of statesman, but not before receiving plenty of bad reviews.

From Kansas: "I cannot see for the life of me how Bob Dole thinks it is in his best interest to be a sore loser," said Russell Getter, a political science professor at the University of Kansas. "I think he's been an absolute jerk after the election."

From the national media: "Bob Dole's Politics of Rancor," the New York Times editorialized Tuesday. It asked Dole, "Why so instantly obstructionist — particularly when Americans have had their

Investigation: Senators seek probe of Iran-Contra prosecutor's office. **6A**

Kansas clout: Congressional delegation will have broader powers. **1D**

fill of divided government, and when Mr. Clinton's programs have yet to see the light of day?"

From Congress: "I was a little concerned that Bob Dole, who is one of the great legislators of this country, took a rather hard edge after the election," Speaker of the House Thomas Foley, a Democrat, said Sunday on national TV.

The backlash was prompted by a series of biting partisan appearances by Dole, beginning on election night, that

seemed to grate on people who'd hoped that the nastiness of the campaign was finally over, and that politicians would start working together. Bush, Quayle, Clinton, Perot and others were gracious and healing. Yet until the bad reviews started pouring in, Dole was not.

But this week Dole has sharply changed his tone, starting with his re-election Tuesday as Senate minority leader.

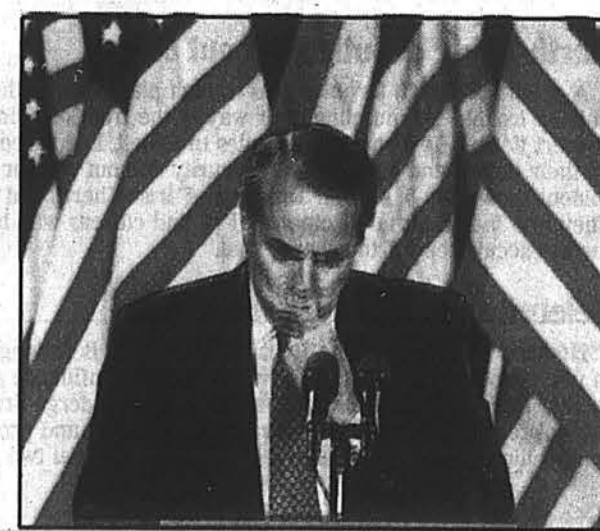
"As the leading Republican, I want President Clinton to succeed, and will work with him where his programs are in the best interests of the nation," said the kinder, gentler Dole. "Where we can't agree, I will offer constructive alternatives to help solve our nation's challenges."

Then Tuesday night, President Bush offered an extraordinary farewell tribute to Dole that left both men choked up. First, Bush lauded Dole as "a remarkable leader."

"It's well known that he and I went head-to-head in tough primary days long ago," the president said. But Dole "took on this role of leader and ... subsequently we became fast friends, and he never, ever put his own personal agenda ahead of the agenda of the president."

With gratitude, Bush anointed Dole as the new Mr. Republican. "He's shown where the leadership really is now in this country in terms of party," Bush said. Dole graciously returned the salute.

"I have had the honor of working under many presidents, Mr. President, and I think I can say without



Sen. Bob Dole pauses during an emotional tribute to President Bush on Tuesday.

qualification that no president was more committed to getting the job done on Capitol Hill, whether it was making phone calls, personal visits, or extending your hand of friendship to both sides of the aisle.

"In fact, I'm surprised you still have a hand," Dole quipped.

That's a far different tone than Dole displayed on election night, when he extended Bill Clinton less an open hand than a closed fist, vowing to "frustrate some of his taxing and spending programs."

Or the next day, when Dole claimed "a 57 percent anti-Clinton majority" — comprised of those who voted for Bush and Perot — and installed himself as its leader. "If Bill Clinton has a mandate," Dole said, "then so do I."

Or four days later, when Dole asked Bush to pardon figures in the Iran-Contra affair. He said the public wanted to forget it and move ahead, but then demanded a new investigation — of the Democrats.

Burdett Loomis, a KU political science professor, figured, "Well, that's just Bob Dole." But Loomis said many Kansans have a two-sided reaction to Dole's post-election performance.

"They're very pleased that he is in this position of power, and at the same time, a little disquieted — 'Watch out, the hatchet man is back, the dark side is back a little bit,'" Loomis said.

Newsweek, too, noted that Dole "relished his revived role as anti-greater man than that exhibited by Ross Perot himself." Getter said, "He angered a lot of Perot supporters in attempting to do that."

Several observers felt that Dole, despite targeting Democrats, was really aiming his remarks at his fellow Republicans, in Loomis' words, to "get Republicans to suck it up and rally around."

"I think he understands that there's a need for a partisan edge here," Loomis said. "He's been too long a legislator not to know when he's being provocative and when he's being conciliatory."

Democratic hatchet person."

But it wasn't just Democrats. Getter of the University of Kansas found that Dole's remarks rankled Ross Perot supporters, too.

"Appointing himself as the representative of the Perot faction is a level of individual self-delusion

The Salina Journal 10 Sunday, November 15, 1992

Dole says Republicans will work with Clinton

By The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — President-elect Clinton may have more in common with Republicans on some issues than he has with Democrats, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole says.

In an interview with The Kansas City Star on Friday, Dole cited several issues where Republicans agree with Clinton and also said congressional Republicans will not hold up any of Clinton's Cabinet nominations.

For example, Dole said, Clinton supports the line-item veto while Democratic congressional leaders do not. Clinton might have to look for support from Republicans, who support the line-item veto, Dole said.

The Kansas senator said Republicans also would help Clinton enact an investment tax credit for business. Dole said congressional Democrats might go along with that issue as well.

And Dole said Republicans will be

reasonable in opposing the Clinton administration.

"We're not out to pick a fight with Clinton, but yet somebody has to speak up and let people know there will be other voices in Congress," he said in an appearance at city hall in Kansas City, Kan.

"They (Democrats) haven't given (President) Bush much of anything the last two years but the back of their hand," Dole said. "We're not going to do that, but you've got to realize that a lot of people didn't vote for Clinton and that 57 percent of the voters voted for somebody else."

Dole, who was re-elected last week as minority leader, said he and Clinton recently had a long telephone conversation.

Dole said Clinton had asked Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, about him.

"Senator Bentsen said that Bob Dole is tough, he's the Republican leader, a good leader and a man of his word," Dole quoted Clinton as saying.

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Wednesday, November 11, 1992 3-D

Dole: Kansas GOP looking strong

■ Senator says party in good position to retake governor's office in two years

By MATT TRUETT
The Associated Press

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House by one seat. In the Senate, Republicans increased their margin of control from 22-18 to 27-13. That theoretically makes the Senate able to override Finney's vetoes.

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"It won't be long," he said.

Dole said he held a series of meetings with GOP senators during the day.

"We're going to wait and see if President-elect Clinton wants to meet with us," the senator said. He said Republican lawmakers plan to cooperate with Clinton when possible, and spell out their differences when it's not possible.

"We're already cranking up our alternative plans," he added.

Dole said the Pentagon's announcement Tuesday that 178,024 sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines have been cut from active duty in the past budget year is "bad news" for a lot of people.

Clinton has advocated cutting the military even further.

"I just hope President Clinton doesn't go too fast," Dole said. "There's not certainty we're out of danger in this world."

But Dole added that defense spending is going to be reduced in the years ahead.

Salina, Kansas November 16, 1992 50 cents

Gays in the military

"I can't give him any advice except to go slow. There are other things you can do by executive order that wouldn't blow the lid off the Capitol. I think this one might come close."

— Bob Dole, R-Kan.



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