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"I want to be the watchdog for the 57 percent who didn't vote for Clinton. If Bill Clinton has a mandate, so do I."
— Sen. Bob Dole

Dole ready for fray

Opposition leader plans to shape policy

By JAKE THOMPSON
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — An NBC satellite TV truck sits in Russell, Kan., this morning, ready to beam Sen. Bob Dole to the nation in his 28th appearance on "Meet the Press."

The Kansas Republican, known for frank talk about big issues, holds the world record for appearances on that show and is a frequent guest on other

Sunday morning roundtable discussion shows. But today is a little different.

Since the Nov. 3 election, Dole has seemed to be on a one-man mission to interrupt the traditional honeymoon period for President-elect Clinton.

In fact, through an extraordinary range of biting and conciliatory comments, Dole has asserted himself as the dominant Republican voice in the nation.

He even is hinting that he might make a third presidential bid in 1996. "Well, I'm interested, yeah," he said.

In one way, none of this should come as a surprise.

After all, Dole, the Senate minority leader and already a two-time presidential contender, has 32 years of legislative experience, including more than a dozen as an architect of major legislation. His opinions carry

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Kindly words spoken on Hill 'honeymoon'

By Tom Webb

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — President-elect Bill Clinton took a honeymoon trip to the U.S. Capitol on Thursday and

dropped in to chat with his self-described "chaperone," Sen. Bob Dole.

The two men visited for 15 minutes in Dole's office, then joined other congressional leaders for lunch. Afterward, the nation's top Democrat and its top Republican traded compliments.

"I'd like to say a very special word of thanks to Senator Dole and to Congressman (Bob) Michel," Clinton said. "... I pledge

to them an open door, regular communications — and irregular communications, as I feel the need to contact them or they feel the need to contact me."

Responded Dole: "I want to com-

pliment the president-elect and the vice president-elect for taking this step, in my view, in the right direction. We're going to have a lot of areas of agreement. We're going to

have some of disagreement. Both Governor Clinton and my friend Al Gore understand that. They're Democrats, we're Republicans, but our common interest is moving the country forward."

Dole added, "I would guess you're going to find a lot of common ground."

It doesn't take a long memory to recall a different tone from the Republican senator from Kansas. The day after

Clinton was elected, Dole declared a "57 percent anti-Clinton majority," and appointed himself as its leader.

Back then, Dole quipped: "The good news is, he's (Clinton) getting a honeymoon in Washington. The bad news is, Bob Dole will be his chaperone."

But Thursday Dole offered gentler words, albeit without much of a smile. On Clinton's budget plans, for instance:

"I give him credit for being fairly realistic. I think he knows he's got some constituencies out there that will have to hold their breath for a while because we've got to deal with the economy and the deficit."

On their potential disagreements:

"I think it's too early to tell, until we really know what he has in mind."

Clinton had met with top Democratic leaders who had traveled to Little Rock, but this was his first chance to visit top Republicans since being elected president. In the spirit of bipartisanship, everyone, Republican and Democrat, made a point of saying generous things about political opponents they had been trying to destroy just a few weeks ago.

But Dole drew the day's biggest laugh with a joke about the lunch. First, he thanked the speaker of the House for the meal, then added, "When you're a Republican these days, you take all you can get."

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Friday, Nov. 20, 1992—Page 7

Dole Continues As Party Leader

WASHINGTON — Kansas Senator Bob Dole on Nov. 10 was unanimously re-elected to the post of United States Senate Republican Leader. It is the fifth consecutive time Dole's colleagues have re-elected him to the two-year leadership post, and makes Dole the top elected Republican in the nation, once Bill Clinton is inaugurated president in January.

"I appreciate the support of my colleagues as America faces new challenges with a new administration," Dole said. "This post is a big plus for Kansas, better enabling me to protect the interests of our state's workers, farmers, families and taxpayers. My colleagues and I are eager to tackle our nation's priorities, starting with economic growth, deficit reduction, and improving our health care system."

"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. When we can't agree, I will offer constructive alternatives to help solve our nation's challenges," Dole said.

Also elected to Republican leadership posts were Assistant Republican Leader Alan Simpson (R — Wyo.), Republican Conference Chairman Thad Cochran (R — Miss.), Republican Policy Committee Chairman Don Nickles (R — Okla.), and Republican Conference Secretary Trent Lott (R — Miss.), and Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman Phil Gramm (R — Texas).

Union, about half of what was requested.

Dole leaps into the fray as new opposition leader

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the weight of a consummate Washington insider skilled at the art of the possible.

But his ascension to de facto Republican leader is a new role for Dole, 69.

Freed from the burdens of fighting veto override attempts and carrying water for President Bush's agenda, Dole is able to focus now almost exclusively on shaping policy as chief leader of the opposition.

He'll also be able to use his staff, which used to fight for Bush, to conduct its own form of opposition research, pointing out shortcomings in Clinton's agenda and formulating alternatives to key initiatives. Dole has said alternative proposals already are being drawn up.

In an interview Friday at the Kansas City, Kan., City Hall, the senator said the higher national visibility is "going to give me a lot of flying time. Lots of meetings, lots of dinners."

At question now is Dole's leadership style, which he has not defined yet in this new era.

After the attacks of the last week, some worry that they are seeing the 1970s Dole — the one who became known as the hatchet man of the 1976 campaign when he ran for vice president.

"Why so instantly obstructionist, particularly when Americans have had their fill of divided government and when Mr. Clinton's programs have yet to see the light of day?" asked a *New York Times* editorial.

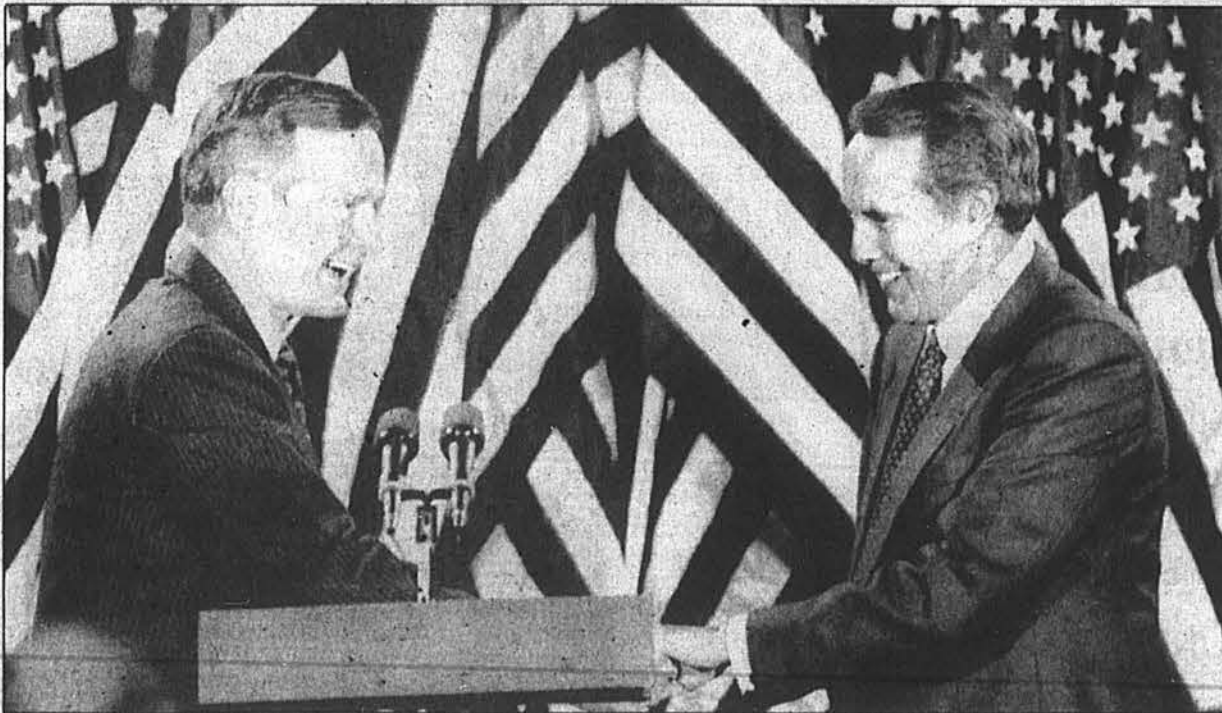
Dole's first testy assessment of Clinton's first was unusual because new presidents traditionally are greeted with bland platitudes from members of the opposite party.

"We have this tradition of the gracious loser," said Stephen Hess, a congressional scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "Dole was spunky; he seemed to be all elbows."

Dole has shown some signs, however, of softening his approach.

"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," Dole said Friday.

Although Dole was sharp-



The Associated Press

At a dinner given last week in his honor, President Bush thanked U.S. Sen. Bob Dole in advance for

his work in leading the Republican Party opposition during the presidency of Bill Clinton.

■ Bob Dole is among potential GOP contenders for 1996. Rich Hood, B-2

tongued at first, he also is aware that his chief weakness and will try to hold back, said Sen. Warren Rudman, a New Hampshire Republican and close friend.

Rudman said Dole probably would support Clinton if the president pushes campaign promises of seeking an investment tax credit, more money for research and development and a capital gains tax cut. But if Clinton ignores the deficit, Dole will fight him effectively, Rudman said.

Whatever his style, Dole seems likely to play a headlining role in months ahead as the biggest burr in Clinton's saddle and the main Republican reality check on resurgent Democrats.

The Kansas wasted no time this month in laying down a marker, making news almost every day.

On the night of the election, President Bush gracefully conceded his painful loss. Vice President Dan Quayle charitably observed that Clinton would do all right if he ran the country as well as his campaign.

At the same time, Dole grumped to Dan Rather of CBS: "Maybe we can frustrate some of his spending and taxing programs."

The next day, Dole declared that Clinton had no mandate. "I want to be the watchdog for the 57 percent who didn't vote for Clinton," Dole said. "If Bill Clinton has a mandate, so do I."

After an election in which voters expressed disgust over gridlock in Washington, Dole's partisan tone surprised many.

"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," House Speaker Tom Foley, a Washington Democrat, said last weekend. "We ought to have an effort at least to try and give the new president as much support as we can in bringing forth his program. That's what the Democrats did when President Reagan came into office."

Taking a break from Clinton, Dole and other senior Republicans last weekend urged Bush to grant pardons for Iran-contra defendants, beginning with former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

Dole also lashed out last Sunday at another favorite target, Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel who is investigating the Iran-contra case.

Dole on Sunday demanded Walsh fire his top aide, James Brosnahan, who obtained a new indictment against Weinberger the Friday before the Nov. 3 election. Dole alleged Brosnahan had worked on behalf of Democrats, even contributing to the Clinton campaign.

Walsh tersely declined to take Dole's suggestion in a letter Tuesday.

"I can recall no case where a Senate leader has so directly intruded himself in a pending lawsuit," Walsh wrote.

Dole then persuaded four Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to call for a special prosecutor to investigate special prosecutor Walsh.

Also on Tuesday, Dole was unanimously re-elected minority leader of his 42 Senate Republican colleagues. At a news conference afterward, he seemed to soften his tone.

He said he expected to agree with Clinton in some areas.

"People want change, they

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— House Speaker Tom Foley, a Washington Democrat

don't want gridlock," Dole said. "Our purpose is not to obstruct ... but to be thoughtful and offer constructive alternatives."

That night, Dole held a tribute dinner for Bush in Washington's renovated and glamorous Union Station. Bush passed the mantle of leadership to him.

"He has assumed, without arrogance, without any kind of bitterness, a significant leadership role to hold our party together," Bush said.

Dole repaid the kindnesses in a moving tribute in which he choked up as he noted Bush's service in World War II and hard work in the White House.

"The best man didn't win on Election Day, and I mean that sincerely," Dole said.

Dole's comments during the last 11 days shouldn't cause alarm, said Burdett Loomis, a political scientist at the University of Kansas.

"I think that Bob Dole knew what he was doing," Loomis said. Dole's partisanship should help energize the Republican Party and put Clinton on notice that he'll have to work with Dole to get things through Congress.

Loomis labeled Dole's opposition to Clinton "fairly harsh," but he added: "To think he's just

going to be an obstructionist is crazy."

But the last dominant Republican minority leader in the Senate adopted a much more conciliatory strategy at the outset.

In the 1960s, Republican Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois welcomed his old Senate Democratic friends, Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy, when they rose to the presidency.

Later, Dirksen shaped policy only at the edges, Loomis said, not at its heart as Dole might. Dirksen was handicapped by having about 10 fewer Republican senators than the 42 Dole will lead.

Hess of the Brookings Institution said Dirksen is remembered fondly because he joined his presidents on issues such as civil rights and foreign policy.

"What made Everett Dirksen so lovable was a softening with age and playing the role of elder statesman," Hess said.

"But Bob Dole doesn't feel like going gently into the good night. He's the strongest political leader left standing in the Republican Party. He loves being at the center of the limelight, and he's certainly going to be."

Staff writer Jim Sullinger contributed to this article.

The Russell Daily News, Thursday, Nov. 19, 1992

President Thanks Dole For Remarks, Friendship

Russell T. Townsley, Russell, longtime publisher of The Russell Daily News and The Russell Record before his retirement Aug. 1, 1989, and a friend of Senator Bob Dole, presented a copy of a letter written by President George Bush to Dole. The note of appreciation to Dole is handwritten by the president on a White House letterhead.

The note was sent to Dole after the Kansas senator had arranged and sponsored a dinner for the president to cheer him up after his defeat for re-election at the polls on Nov. 3.

The letter reads:

Nov. 10, 1992
Late at Night

Dear Bob:

When you invited me, I didn't want to come. I didn't think I could face the music.

But now I am so glad you asked me.

The warmth of your generous remarks made it all so worthwhile.

You have been a truly noble leader, and as I leave Washington, I will take with me a friendship I value — a respect for a true leader I'll always feel.

Thanks Bob.

George Bush

Dole gave the copy of Bush's letter to Townsley Sunday after his appearance on "Meet the Press," broadcast from the Deines Cultural Center. Dole was in town for a short period last weekend to participate in a Thanksgiving Dinner served at the home of his brother, Kenneth

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Dole surprises agency at 25th anniversary banquet

By MARY CLARKIN
Hays Daily News

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas closed out its year-long observation of its 25th anniversary with a banquet in Hays Saturday night that featured a surprise visit by one of the most prominent examples of an individual conquering disabilities.

Sen. Bob Dole told about 400 banquet-goers — mostly a mix of board members, staff, parents and DSNWK consumers — that he "never really focused on disability issues until I had one myself."

The new Americans with Disabilities Act is the most important piece of civil rights legislation in 30 years, in his opinion.

"We deal with disability issues on a non-partisan, bipartisan basis," added the Republican minority leader in the U.S. Senate.

Dole limited his remarks to about 10 minutes — a family dinner was waiting in Russell — and politics took a back seat. He mentioned the Dole Foundation, which now generates about \$1.3 million a year and has given out about 176 grants across the country over the past eight years to help people with disabilities.

One such grant, for about \$50,000, was recently awarded to DSNWK for expansion of the vocational program in Russell, according to

Jim Blume, DSNWK president.

Dole customarily receives an invitation to the DSNWK annual banquet but he was not expected to attend. DSNWK officials were happily surprised when notified late Friday that Dole, hitting several stops on a Kansas visit, including a stay with relatives in Russell, would drop by briefly at the banquet in Fort Hays State University's Memorial Union.

Other special guests Saturday

were out-of-state visitors Jack King, formerly of the psychology department at FHSU and an early organizer for the Homer B. Reed Adjustment and Training Center in Hays, as well as two sons of the late Homer B. Reed — James and Homer Jr. Both now live in the Boston area and both, like their father, are psychologists.

The elder Reed headed the psychology department at FHSU for years and pioneered the services for

handicapped children, including assisting in writing legislation and conducting one of the first studies on identifying children with handicaps.

It was King who suggested the center be named for Reed.

Dole will be returning to Washington, where his calendar includes a lunch with President-elect Bill Clinton Thursday in the nation's capital. Other congressional leaders also are expected to attend.