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Dole on Clinton: 'Let's give him a chance'

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

After meeting with President-elect Bill Clinton Thursday, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said he would work with the Democrat.

But working with Clinton won't mean being a pushover, Dole said in a telephone news conference with Kansas journalists after his meeting with the Arkansan.

"Working with him doesn't mean you are for him," Dole said. "Working with him means you're not just going to arbitrarily set up roadblocks to make it more difficult. I must say the Democrats did that during much of the last 18 months of the Bush administration. I don't think it will come to that, but I'm just one senator."

Dole said he already had been approached by "a couple very powerful Democrats" who asked



Dole Clinton

him to help them block certain Clinton initiatives.

"So it's not just going to be Republicans vs. Democrats or Republicans vs. Clinton," he said. "My view is that if we are going to be responsible, if it's in the national interest — we may have more Republicans supporting Clinton on something than Democrats. It could happen."

Dole said the important part of Wednesday's and Thursday's

meetings between Clinton and the Washington power structure was getting "surface knowledge" of each other.

The Kansan said his private meeting with Clinton was a "pleasant exchange." The president-elect told Dole he had heard good things about the Kansas senator.

Dole, meanwhile, gave his first impression of Clinton as a "very articulate, very smart, very able person. He knows where the hot buttons are."

"Let's give him a chance," Dole said. "Let's see what happens the first six months, the first year. Then we will be in the election cycle in 1994 — not his, but governors and senators and members of Congress and so forth. We'll see how it plays in the 1994 election."

"The economy is going to get a little better in any event. So he

gets a pretty good break by some things that already have been done. But there's still some tough choices out there. Everybody wants him to succeed, but on the other hand there are some other people who have different views and different ideas and they have to be expressed too."

"I made that point, and I've been criticized by some of the liberal editors in America including Kansas who don't understand a thing about politics or a thing about getting things done."

Dole said he appreciated the private session with Clinton, and the president-elect said he wanted to have many of the sessions with Dole and other congressional leaders throughout his tenure.

He said the meeting set the stage for a good working relationship.

Clinton's focus will be on the

economy, jobs and health care, all areas Dole agreed needed action.

The session was too short for any specifics. Dole said there was not enough time to discuss agriculture or possible candidates for agriculture secretary. In talking with Vice President-elect Al Gore, Dole was told that it might be mid-December before the cabinet nominees are known.

In any event, chances are the United States won't see any real change in agricultural policy until 1994 or 1995, when Congress is considering a new farm bill, Dole said.

During the news conference, Dole was asked what former Kansas Gov. Mike Hayden would do after Jan. 20. A Bush political appointee, Hayden is an assistant secretary of the interior and would like to stay around Washington.

Dole asks for hearing to study Weinberger indictment

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole has called for a congressional hearing to review how the prosecutor in the Iran-Contragate case handled a pre-election indictment of former defense secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Dole on Friday requested that the Senate Judiciary Committee examine the actions of the office of Iran-Contragate prosecutor Lawrence Walsh. He made the request in a letter to Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Dele., the committee chairman.

Dole wants free-market reform for medicine

Seventh in a series
By Alan Montgomery
The Hutchinson News

To Sen. Bob Dole, health-care reform means keeping our present system while making it better.



His reform bill, he said, "would rely on free-market reforms to improve our current system, starting with relief for small business, malpractice reform, insurance reform and greater use of managed care."

In all, more than 95 million U.S. citizens would benefit from tax credits and deductions to help offset their health-insurance costs.

Dole's bill includes:

- Tax-code reform. Refundable

Health ballot will be printed

Do all U.S. citizens have a right to quality health care, whether or not they have means to pay for it? Should the government force hospitals to cut costs by sharing expensive equipment, even if it means longer waiting periods for patients?

The Sunday edition of The Hutchinson News will include a Condition Critical survey ballot, which asks 21 questions about choices in health-care reform.

Readers are invited to fill out the survey ballot and mail it to the Kansas Commission on the Future of Health Care, Topeka, by December 11. The commission eventually will make health-care reform proposals to the 1994 Kansas Legislature. It is important that citizens' opinions on the issues be considered before proposals are made.

Several major newspapers in Kansas are publishing the Condition Critical ballot as a public service.

won't be able to get insurance coverage if he leaves.

"Just as important as what my plan would do is what it wouldn't do," Dole said. "It wouldn't raise taxes or cripple small businesses with job-killing mandates and huge payroll taxes, and it wouldn't create new headaches with a system of government health insurance or a massive new bureaucracy to regulate prices and ration health care."

One year ago, such legislation would be considered too ambitious, he said.

"Not anymore. The good news is consensus now seems to be at hand. And if all concerned parties will come to the table, we can do even more."

Town meeting

Hutchinson-area residents are invited to "come to the table" to voice their concerns about health-care reform. The Kansas Commission on the Future of Health Care will conduct a town meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Blue Ribbon Center, 730 West 4th.

The commission, which is to prepare health-care reform proposals for the 1993 Kansas Legislature, wants to hear from the public about which values and priorities should be built into the system.

Dole, Specter praise teacher

The Associated Press
RUSSELL — Two U.S. senators who graduated from Russell High School credit one of their former teachers with influencing their early development.

"It was a combination of Alice Mills, the highly competitive school and (the town) ... Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who graduated from Russell High in 1947, said in a recent interview.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., a 1941 Russell graduate, recalled that the 92-year-old retired teacher Mills "was a dedicated teacher, a real traditionalist and a tough disciplinarian."

Mills would just as soon talk about other students among the 5,000 who passed through her English and mathematics classes during 28 years at Russell High.

"I'm not a glory-seeker," she told The Topeka Capital-Journal. "There were many, many fine students. They were all eager to learn. And there were many fine



Specter Dole

teachers. It was just my good fortune to be in Russell."

However, she does remember the two students who went on to become senators.

Dole, she said, was a very ambitious young man. "But so were all the others. Arlen was a winner, too, very competitive, very dependable."

Specter, who was born in Wichita, left Kansas after high school but has not forgotten his 28 years in Russell, a town of 5,400 people.

"My best educational experience was at Russell High School. Russell had a real championship spirit in that town," said Specter, who was elected to a third term last month.

Specter escorted Mills in May to the 45th reunion of his high school class, which chose her as guest of honor. "I have a lot of love and affection for Alice Mills, as you can tell," he said.

Dole, the Senate minority leader who was elected to his fifth term last month, said he has been well served by the discipline Mills taught him.

"She made her students work hard and study hard," Dole said. "She gave us a lesson in discipline that would pay off in years to come. I know it did for me."

Mills began her teaching career in 1920 as an elementary school principal. When she retired in 1970, she had also worked 28 years as an English and math teacher at the high school.

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Is It the Water? It Might Be Alice Mills!

— Specter, Dole Both Give Great Credit to Retired RHS Teacher

By MATT MOLINE
The Topeka Capital-Journal
Is there something in the local water supply that explains why Russell High School has produced two current U.S. senators?

Maybe it's the influence of a former teacher, 92-year-old Alice Mills, who spent 50 years inspiring Russell's youth to achieve in life.

"It was a combination of Alice Mills, the highly competitive school and town — and the water," said Pennsylvania Republican Arlen Specter, who graduated from Russell High School in 1947.

Mills can claim to have taught both Specter and Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, who graduated from the school in 1941.

But she prefers to talk about other students among the 5,000 who passed through her English and mathematics classrooms.

"I'm not a glory-seeker," she

said. "There were many, many fine students. They were all eager to learn. And there were many fine teachers. It was just my good fortune to be in Russell."

Mills remembers Dole as a very ambitious young man. "But so were all the others," she said. "Arlen was a winner, too, very competitive, very dependable."

Specter has come a long way since his Russell school days. His family moved to the oil boom town in 1942 from Wichita, where he was born.

"His folks came here during the war as scrap collectors," Mills said. Specter's brother Morton still lives in Russell.

After high school, Specter went on to finish college at the University of Pennsylvania, after which he got a law degree at Yale.

But the transplanted Kansan hasn't forgotten his years in Russell, which has a population

of fewer than 5,000.

"My best educational experience was at Russell High School," he said recently. "Russell had a real championship spirit in that town."

Last month, Pennsylvania voters returned Specter to Washington, D.C., for a third Senate term. Dole, the Senate minority leader who was elected last month to a fifth term, said the discipline he was taught by Mills has served him well through the years.

"Alice Mills was a dedicated teacher, a real traditionalist and a tough disciplinarian," Dole said.

"She made her students work hard and study hard," he said. "She gave us a lesson in discipline that would pay off in years to come. I know it did for me."

Born in rural Dickinson County in 1900, Mills began her teaching career in Russell in 1920, starting as a grade school principal. At the time of her retirement she also had put in 28 years as an English and math teacher in the high school.

After she retired in 1970, Mills decided to remain in Western Kansas because by then, she said, "Russell was home."

Mills was the guest of honor in May at the 45th reunion in Russell of Specter's high school class. Specter escorted his former teacher to the banquet.

"I have a lot of love and affection for Alice Mills, as you can tell," he said. "And Russell is a great little town."

Mills' strong suit as a teacher seems to have been a cheerful personality and wry wit.

"Students like a sense of humor, which they accused me of having," she said.

VIEWPOINTS

GOP defeat enhances power of Kansas' Sen. Bob Dole

By JOSEPH R.L. STERNE
The Baltimore Sun

In the eternal struggle for power on Capitol Hill, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole emerges as the clear winner of the Nov. 3 election.

His position has been enhanced, ironic as it may seem, because his party lost the White House and remains very much in the minority in both houses of Congress. He now stands poised to be the most visible and influential Republican since Everett McKinley Dirksen.

The election results liberated Dole. No longer does he have to play loyal lieutenant to George Bush, the fellow who beat him in a bitter New Hampshire primary in early 1988. ("Tell him to stop lying about my record," Dole snarled as he fell victim to a typical Bush negative ad.)

No longer does he have to champion the Reagan-Bush supply-side economics theories that have quadrupled the national debt. (The Kansas senator tells this joke: "A bus filled with supply siders goes over the cliff killing all aboard. That's the good news. The bad news is that there were three unoccupied seats.")

Not all of Dole's acerbic outbursts are directed at fellow Republicans. Not by any means.

Hardly had the Democratic president-elect time to savor the voting returns on election night when Dole was on the air to declare that "57 percent of the Americans who voted in the presidential election voted against Bill Clinton, and I intend to represent that majority on the floor of the U.S. Senate."

He claimed the allegiance of Per-

ot voters, saying he concurred in their deficit-cutting agenda. A few days later, he said, "There are things we can do, if we feel it necessary in the national interest, to slow things down. And we'll be prepared to do that, based upon what develops." If his caucus holds together, he can filibuster or put legislation "on hold" until Clinton is ready to deal.

Although the New York Times quickly huffed editorially at "Bob Dole's politics of rancor," such an interpretation misses the personal elation the senator must feel as the suddenly anointed chief spokesman for his party.

"I am sort of looking forward to a little different opportunity," he commented by way of understatement. Nor does it take into account a lifetime record in which Dole's instincts as a partisan battler often are subordinated to the old congressional practice of quiet accommodation.

Two men who should know — former Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield of Ohio and former Senate Republican leader Howard W. Baker of Tennessee — agree that Dole's clout is enhanced as leader of a minority party on the outs.

"Not every Democrat in the Senate was happy Carter won in 1976," Baker told the Baltimore Sun. They were happier when the president belonged to the other party. That, he said, applies also to Dole and today's Senate Republicans.

Mansfield predicts that Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell will find his task more difficult and weighed down with more responsibility now that he has to steer an administration's agenda through to passage rather than oppose it.

Mansfield should know. He was president Kennedy's and Johnson's majority leader during the turbulent '60s. He said Dole's role is now very important as the "No. 1 Republican" and forecast "he will act with more statesmanship than people expect."

In the interval between Dirksen's death in 1969 and Dole's accession to the GOP leadership in 1985, two other Republicans served in that position — Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Tennessee's Baker.

Both men were amiable, quiet and accommodating, seeking neither the showboat role of a Dirksen nor the point-man combative role of a Dole. Scott, a moderate and an intellectual, had to serve two Republican presidents: Nixon, who lacked the former characteristic; and Ford, who lacked the latter. Baker had to deal with the Democratic Carter administration and, at severe cost to his presidential ambitions, dismayed

the GOP right wing by pushing hard for the Panama Canal Treaty. Later, he suffered the usual eclipse when a member of his own party, Reagan, went to the White House.

Dole's fate during the Reagan-Bush years was no better. An old-time conservative with a belief in a balanced budget, he had to go along with the supply-side, borrow-and-spend programs of these two Republican presidents.

Trying to reverse these policies, he had a big hand in the 1986 bipartisan budget agreement that put a cap on discretionary spending. President Bush said in the campaign that this agreement was a mistake; it's a good bet Dole did not concur.

Now that he no longer has to look over his shoulder at the White House, how will Dole operate as a relatively free agent?

He will be tough, often unable to suppress the streak of anger that

marks his political persona. He will be meticulous in mentioning Bob Michel, the genial House Republican leader on his way to retirement. He will cooperate with Clinton when he thinks it is in the national interest, especially if the next president is as centrist as he claims.

After Clinton met with congressional leaders Thursday, Dole said, "I'd give him credit for being realistic. I think he knows he's got some constituencies out there that are going to have to hold their breath for a while."

"We're going to have a lot of areas of agreement, we're going to have some areas of disagreement," Dole said. "But our common interest is in moving the country forward, about jobs, the economy, health care, deficit reduction, whatever it may be."

Earlier in the week, at a party meeting in Wisconsin, Dole said, "The Republican Party must be the

party of the big tent. Let us be the party of inclusion."

This is a code-language rebuff to the Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertsons of the party, the leaders of the nationalist right and the religious right who set a tone of exclusion at the GOP national convention in Houston last August.

It also may be the first bugle call for another run for the presidency. Dole will be 73 in 1996, six months younger than Reagan was when he won a second term. He is as close to the center of the Republican Party today as anyone around, a man who favors "lower taxes, lower spending, fewer regulations, less government and a strong and secure America."

When asked the inevitable question, he says it is "too early to tell," but does not deny he is thinking about a 1996 presidential candidacy. This is smart politics.

Sterne is Sun editorial pages editor.

Dole, Specter praise former teacher

Senators laud retired Russell instructor

By The Associated Press
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