The Salina Journal

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By The Associated Press WASHINGTON — Accused of playing "petty political games," the White House backed down Monday from President Clinton's statement that Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole was trying to spend \$23 million in taxpayers' money on a boathouse project in Kansas.

The about-face came after Dole said the White House was guilty of a "\$23 million lie."

"If the White House wants to play hard ball, I'm ready to suit up," Dole said.

Beating a retreat, White House communications director George Stephanopoulos said, "The presi-dent regrets the misunderstanding that may have been caused by any hyperbole in his jokes" Saturday night at dinner with White House correspondents.

Stephanopoulos acknowledged that the potential cost to taxpayers "is not as high as stated in the president's joke." In mostly humorous after-dinner remarks, Clinton had cited a figure of \$23 million for the boathouse. In response, Dole said the project would not require any money from Washington.

Dole calls for truce in

Wichita boathouse flap

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The flap started last week when administration and Democratic Party officials accused Dole of hypocrisy during debate over Clinton's failed

economic stimulus bill. During that debate, Dole was harshly critical of what he called "embarrassing pork" projects in the legislation, including proposals to use Community Development Block Grant money for golf courses, swimming pools and shopping malls.

> , May 7, 1993 The Salina Journal **Dole calls Big Bird** a tasty breakfast

By The Associated Press WASHINGTON - Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole was introduced as "one of the toughest critics of public broadcasting" as he rose to the breakfast podium Thursday at public radio's annual confer-

He denied he was an enemy. But then he added: "I've already had breakfast. And, by the way Big Bird

Dole's reputation stems from a Senate debate last year in which he and other conservative Republicans decried public radio and television as too liberal and threatened to block expanded federal funding.

Dole basks in limelight of his recent successes

By David Shribman Boston Globe

This is a Bob Dole moment. The Republicans are rudderless, in crisis. They have no program and no proposals. They need a stable voice and a commanding presence. They're going nowhere, but they need someone to lead them there.

Over the years those moments have come and gone, and every time Bob Dole has made them his own. The severe Kansan, smooth and dark, has a gravelly voice and a



"There's a difference between a great legislative leader and a national candidate," says David Keene, a top adviser who departed from the Dole campaign in legendary style: The candidate told the aide to get his bag and get off the plane at the next stop.

Even so, there's an enduring quality about Bob Dole. He came to Washington as Dwight Eisenhower's

In taking on Dole, the Clinton supporters cited a letter he sent federal housing officials in March supporting a boathouse project in Wichita.

The building originally was purchased with block grant money for a senior citizens center that moved last year, so the city needs permission from federal housing officials to convert it to a boathouse.

At a dinner Saturday night, Clinton said Dole was seeking \$23 million in aid for the boathouse project at the same time he was criticizing the stimulus bill for its grant projects.

But there is no new federal money involved in the boathouse project. The renovations - expected to cost \$850,000, not \$23 million - would be paid for with private funds, provided the government approves changing the building's purpose.

"The White House lied," Dole said. "There's no \$23 million boathouse, no deficit spending, no new money, no connection with the president's deadbeat 'stimulus' bill, and no truth coming from a White House staff that is ill serving the president with these sophomoric attacks."

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Friday, May 7, 1993 3-A

Dole roasts Big Bird

WASHINGTON — Senate Republi-can leader Bob Dole was introduced as "one of the toughest critics of public broadcasting" at public radio's annual conference Thursday. He denied he was an enemy, but added: "I've already had breakfast. And by the way, Big Bird never tasted better." Last year, calling public television too liberal. Dole and other Republicans threatened to block expanded federal funding.

THE WICHITA EAGLE Monday, May 10, 1993 14A

Love or hate him, **Dole with attitude** back in spotlight

By Tom Webb Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - It's springtime for Sen. Bob Dole, national nemesis of President Clinton.

In a strikingly short time, Dole has cemented his place as the nation's undisputed Republican leader and provided piles of grist for the long-running Kansas

coffee-shop debate: Bob Dole, love him or loathe him?

"He's always generated either strong devotion or considerable antagonism," said Robert Peabody, a Johns Hopkins University professor who studies congressional leaders. "If you like him, he's like a vintage wine or whiskey, and he's mellowing and improving with age." At the recent 100-day mark of

Clinton's administration, Dole's admirers were exhilarated. Their Dole man as Senate minority leader had deftly seized the national projected the role of fiscal conservative, brilliant legislator, reality-check on liberals, tireless worker and Kansas power extraordinaire. Yet to his detractors, the spotlight has showcased other traits: the legendary mean streak, a tiresome partisanship, a propensity to tear down instead of build up, a fixation on the White House rather than on Kansas.

From Page 1A beat 'stimulus' bill, and no truth coming from a White House staff that is ill-serving the president with these sophomoric attacks." On Saturday, Clinton drew laughs from a banquet crowd by claiming that Dole had requested \$23 million in tax money to put a boathouse in Kansas. The remarks were made Clinton during a light-hearted program in Said which Clinton joked about his adboathouse ministration and his Republican op-

ponents.

DOLE

Hasn't asked for federal would cost money for \$23 million in project. taxes.

Dole

THE WICHITA EAGLE

Tuesday, May 4, 1993

Clinton's joke puts frown on **Dole's face**

By Tom Webb Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The White House said Monday it was only joking about Wichita's \$23 million

boathouse. So why isn't Sen. Bob Dole laughing?

"The president regrets the misunderstanding that may have been caused by any hyperbole in his jokes at Saturday's White House Correspondents Dinner," George Stephanopolous said in a statement issued late Monday. It continued, "While Sen. Dole did make the case that the Wichita boathouse is a legitimate (community development) project, the potential cost to the taxpayers is not as high as stated in the president's joke."

Officially, Dole's office had no immediate response to the halfhearted apology. But unofficially. Dole's staff said the Kansas Republican was still miffed and thought the people of Wichita were owed an apology.

That calmer response followed a day of angry rebuttals from Dole, who felt wronged and wasn't about to suffer quietly.

"The White House lied," Dole said early in the day. "There's no \$23 million boathouse, no deficit spending, no new money, no connection with the president's dead-



Wichita Democrat, did make one request of federal officials: that they permit the non-profit boathouse foundation to use an abandoned building on Lewis Street, which was partially purchased in 1980 with federal money. The building was sched-

uled for demolition. "I think they'd want to apologize to the people of Wichita, for getting them caught in his political games,' said Walt Riker, Dole's spokesman. "And he (Clinton) ought to apologize for the flat-out misstatement of

fact.' In the meanwhile, Dole's office was notifying the media of the "White House's \$23 million lie," as Dole's statement was headlined. In it Dole says, "If the White House wants to play hardball, I'm ready to suit. up.

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said.

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boathouse. . . . It looked to me like it

was a pretty sensible request."

eral projects to Kansas.

Dole lightens up as he takes shots at PBS spending

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Senate Republican leader Bob Dole was introduced as "one of the toughest critics of public broadcasting" as he rose to the breakfast podium Thursday at public radio's annual conference.

He denied he was an enemy. But then he added: "I've already had breakfast. And by the way, Big Bird



the future," Dole said in a speech on the Senate floor. Dole At the White

House, communications director George Stephanopoulos said the administration "regretted any misunderstanding" over a joke Clinton told about Dole. Clinton said during a weekend speech that Dole was seeking \$23 million in federal money to develop the boathouse along the Arkansas River in Wichita. However, no fede-

ral money is involved. Clinton poked fun at Dole by contrasting the senator's support of the boathouse project with his criticism of the administration's failed jobs bill, which Republicans said was larded with money for pork-barrel

tended as a joke and the president was sorry for the misunderstanding caused by "any hyperbole." At issue is a proposal by a private foundation, which wants to lease from a building from the city of Wichita and make it a boathouse

The building originally was purchased with federal grant money for a senior citizens center.

White House later issued a statement saying Clinton's comments were in-

ence.

never tasted better."

THE WICHITA EAGLE Monday, May TO, 1993

By The Associated Press projects such as golf courses and WASHINGTON - Senate Minority swimming pools. Dole blasted the White House on Monday, describing Clinton's statement as a "\$23 million lie." The

The Salina Journal Saturday, May 8, 199'3 5 Clinton, **Dole back** boathouse

By The Associated Press WASHINGTON - It's no joke this time. President Clinton and Senate Republican Bob Dole are working together to help a boathouse project in Kansas that earlier had them feuding.

Clinton and Dole sent a letter Friday for a ceremony in Wichita, Kan., related to the boathouse project, which the president had joked about last weekend.

"We hope the \$23 million worth of free publicity we have generated for this project will make for smooth sailing in Wichita," said the joint letter, which Dole suggested to Clin-

The boathouse project produced headlines after Clinton said Dole was seeking \$23 million in federal money to develop the boathouse along the Arkansas River. The president poked fun at Dole by contrasting the Kansas senator's support of the boathouse with his criticism of the administration's failed jobs bill, which Republicans said was larded with porkbarrel projects.

However, no federal money is involved in the boathouse project, and Dole accused the White House of a "\$23 million lie."

The White House later issued a statement saying Clinton's com-ments were intended as a joke and the \$23 million figure was "hyper-

At issue is a proposal by a private foundation, which wants to lease a building from the city of Wichita and make it a boathouse for local rowing groups and to rent canoes.

tasted better

By Barry Massey

Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON - The

Clinton administration must

have allied and congressional

support before launching any

military strikes in Bosnia,

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(mar)

Senate Republican Leader Bob

Dole said

Although

European

allies have

been rel-

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United

newspapers.

Friday.

Dole's reputation stems from a Senate debate last year in which he and other conservative Republicans decried public radio and television as too liberal and threatened to block expanded federal funding.

The Kansas senator said it was a myth that he was against public broadcasting. The issue, he said, was whether federal funds during tough budgetary times should be spent on programs such as "Sesame Street," which makes big money selling products related to the show.

Hutchinson News Saturday, May 8, 1993 **Dole:** Allies needed before making strikes in Bosnia

correct in continuing to try to gain support from European countries for an international military action against the Serbs in Bosnia. The president favors limited bombing of Serbian artillery in

Bosnia and supplying weapons to the Muslims. Dole also supports those actions. However, the allies worry that could widen the war and lead to retaliation against British, French and other troops who are part of U.N. peace-keeping forces in Bosnia.

Military action in Bosnia by the United States isn't im-States can't Dole minent or even inevitable beunilaterally begin air strikes cause of the hurdles Clinton faces with Congress and Eu-ropean allies, Dole said. "It seems to me that the president needs to keep the against Bosnian Serbs, Dole "We need to have our allies on board, and the president needs to prepare the American people. That hasn't been done either," Dole said in a tele-

pressure on, and that's what he's doing," he said. Dole contends the United States must help stop the eth-nic fighting in Bosnia because phone news conference with Kansas broadcasters and otherwise it could spread into a war throughout the Balkans. The Kansan said Clinton was

cynical eye. That voice and eye are drawn to vulnerability, and to opportunity.

Today there isn't a happier man in Washington, and his cackles echo through the Capitol. He's like the botanist who's discovered that an old nuisance, like mold, might make a good antibiotic. So it is with gridlock: "a bad thing," Dole said, "unless you're against something."

So Dole led the charge against President Clinton's "stimulus" package and he prepares to marshal histroops to fight the White House's tax and budget program. Even away from battle - sitting, for instance, in a Queen Anne chair beside a marble fireplace in the GOP leader's office - Dole is a street fighter, and he's ready to fight Clinton again. "You don't want to look like you're just going after him, just playing politics," he says, but he can't resist adding, "not that that's always bad." All that's eluded him is the presidency. And suddenly Dole, who tried twice and failed, is thinking about it again. He'll be 73 in 1996, but the kind of battle he's engaged in with Clinton may add years to his life. Though a Wall Street Jour-nal/NBC News Poll showed that more than half the public regards

Nixon, whom he served as national chairman, and Gerald Ford, whom he served as vice presidential nominee. He's the last major leader of the World War II generation. Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis have all risen and fallen in his time, and Dole is still here. Being in the majority under GOP presidents provided some heady moments, but ultimately it cramped when he had political troubles.

lican in the White House, Dole was always on the defensive. Now, with little but artful use of the Senate rules, he's on the offensive. "It's like going 45 miles an hour on my treadmill at home," he says. "It gets you all revved up."

congratulating him on fighting Clinton's tax proposals. He's going to Iowa, knowing that a trip to the site of the first caucuses of 1996 will stoke the rumors. No problem; he's going to New Hampshire, too, with Dole as the main spokesman for the more speeches - and more rumors. And why not? This is a Bob Dole party, many who were with him in earlier campaigns say Dole can nevmoment.

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congressman more than three decades ago. He's outlasted Richard

Dole's style. He had to be Reagan's protector on the Hill, Edmund deese's when he had ethical troubles, John Sununu's when he had personality troubles and - most galling of all, because Dole never forgets a defeat - George Bush's The irony was that, with a Repub-

So now he's calling Ross Perot.

a The Russell De Nily News, May 14, 1993-Page 3 Fri Sen. Dole to Be In 3 Cities in State

United States Sen. Bob Dole, R-Russell, will be back home in Kansas this weekend - although not in Russell.

The Senate Minority leader will speak at 2 p.m. Saturday in El Dorado, at the 1993 Butler County Community College Commencement.

And, it being that time of year, Dole will also speak at 10 a.m. Sunday, at the Commencement Exercises at St. John's Military School in Salina. From noon until about 12:50 p.m. Sunday, he is scheduled to be in Wichita, visiting the Wichita Boathouse and attending the KFDI Brunch.

Clinton, Dole shape up boathouse ship

By Martha Sevetson The Wichito Eagle Maybe the water really is under he bridge. President Clinton and Sen. Bob Pole teamed up Friday to send a chummy letter — awash with nauti-ral puns — to the supporters of a Vichita boathouse.

The political archrivals wished the group well in its fund-raising effort and pointed out a few things they have in common. For example, that their home states are linked by

that their home states are linked by the Arkansas River — or would that he, Arkansas River? "We certainly didn't want to miss the boat on this event," they wrote. "We hope the \$23 million worth of free publicity we have generated for the project will make for smooth states in Wichita." tlight last week when he



money.

Clinton

accused Dole, a Kansas Republican, of flooding the project with federal

Clinton made the comment and mistakenly said the boathouse would cost \$23 million — at a White House correspondents' dinner. It ed to be a joke, he exwas supposed plained later.

The boathouse skirmish ended up

in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today and on national television. It led to barge-full of feature stories about the planned downtown boathouse in newspapers from New York to San Diego.

On top of the well-wishing from some of nation's most powerful people, the boathouse got another boost Friday from one of the nation's

Bill Koch, a former Wichitan and winner of the America's Cup, said he would donate \$500,000 more in matching grants to the Arkansas River Foundation, which is building the boathouse.

Koch had already offered \$500,000 seed money to the Arkan-sas River Foundation. The group says other donors have pledged about \$250,000. No public money is involved.

Richard Schodorf, vice president of the foundation, said the group needed \$1.4 million to get the boathouse project going.

The group is planning a slew of fund-raising events during the Wich-ita River Festival in an attempt to raise a quick \$250,000. If it works out, construction could begin as soon as the festival ends, Schodorf said.

"The Wichita Boathouse has captured the imagination of the country," Schodorf said. "Essentially, the people of Wichita need to show up at the fund raising to make it happen."

Clinton and Dole wrote in their letter that they wouldn't be here for the fund raising. Perhaps, if it falls flat, they could donate a little federal money? Then again, with the publicity they've stirred up, maybe they've already done enough.

wealthiest people.