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Dole to cut travel to focus on health care

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For a congressman, a Dole fund-raiser can mean more than \$100,000 in a single night. It means big crowds, plenty of contacts and heavy local press coverage.

For Dole, all this has a twofold purpose: It helps GOP candidates and lays the groundwork for the 1996 presidential race. Dole himself won't say for certain if he's running again for the White House.

"Obviously, we're looking at all that stuff," Dole said.

Dole said he gets constant questions on the road about his presidential ambitions.

"I never asked any of these people I've raised money for, for anything about '96," he said. "I don't say, 'OK, I'll come out if you support me in '96.' I'm not laying awake nights saying 'Well, I better go to Michigan again or New Hampshire.'"

Besides Kansas, Dole's most-frequently visited states in 1993 were New York and Virginia, at eight apiece. He went to New Hampshire three times, Florida and Texas six, and Missouri five.

For now, Dole said his sights are set on winning the Senate back for Republicans. Thirty-four seats are up in next year's election, but Dole said the balance of power will hinge on races in Missouri, Minnesota, Wyoming, Ohio, Arizona and Michigan.

"We'd be hard-pressed to get a majority," Dole acknowledged. For 1994, Dole and his strategists have decided to scale back the traveling a bit to concentrate on health-care reform, although his TV appearances probably will continue.

"I've got a big role to play in health care, I hope. I don't want to be out on the road," Dole said.

On TV, across the country, Dole was there

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In 1993, it was difficult to miss Senate Republican leader Bob Dole. If he wasn't on one of those Sunday talk shows, he was probably raising money for a GOP candidate near you — or for his own possible 1996 bid for president.

The Kansas senator has become something of a TV personality, projecting a tough-as-leather GOP counterpoint to President Clinton. The dour Dole persona is even the butt of Jay Leno's jokes on "The Tonight Show."

"You can really tell the holiday season has started down there in Washington, D.C.," Leno said on a December show. "Last night, Bob Dole turned his garden hose on his first group of carolers."

In 1993, Dole visited 39 states, raising thousands of dollars for GOP candidates ranging from state senators to California Gov. Pete Wilson. He raised thousands more for his own political action committee, Campaign America.

He appeared on 31 weekend TV talk shows (CNN's "Newsmaker/Late Edition" led with nine), 19 morning shows and "Larry King Live" six times. He was on TV much more than he was in 1992, according to statistics provided by Dole's office.



Dole

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Dole is everywhere as GOP front man

By CURT ANDERSON

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The Associated Press
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response to President Clinton's weekly radio address.

Dole was even interviewed for an article in TV Guide recently.

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Dole savoring life in the spotlight

By CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

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Although Dole is now 70 and spends much of his time dealing with legislation as the Senate GOP leader, he clearly relishes being so much in demand these

days. "That's part of being a leader," Dole said in a recent interview. "If you're the head of the company, you've got to go out and keep the company going. The company in this case happens to be the party — and the party is governors, congressmen, senators."

Of his frequent TV appearances, Dole said: "We don't solicit shows. We get requests. You have to say something. They don't want speeches. They like to have candor. I hope I'm candid."

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"Obviously, we're looking at all that stuff," Dole said. "I haven't closed off any options."

For now, Dole said his sights are set on winning the Senate back for Republicans. But Dole acknowledged, "We'd be hard-pressed to get a majority."

For 1994, Dole and his strategists have decided to scale back the traveling a bit to concentrate on health care reform.

Dole proposes names to probe land venture

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole on Friday gave Attorney General Janet Reno seven suggestions for a special counsel as GOP pressure mounted for an investigation into the president's role in an Arkansas land venture.

"They can choose from that list of seven," Dole said. "My view is the attorney general ought to get on with it."

Reno has the authority now to name a special counsel in the Whitewater Development Co. case and doesn't need to wait for Congress to pass laws providing for appointment of an independent counsel, the Kansas Republican said.

"It's an excuse, a delay, a stall," Dole said. "I think she's ducking the issue."

Spokesmen for Reno didn't re-

spond Friday to requests for comment.

Dole's list, which features both Republicans and Democrats, includes two men who served President Carter as attorney general: Griffin Bell and Benjamin Civiletti.

Also on the list is Robert Bennett, who was special counsel to the Senate Ethics Committee in its investigations of Sen. Dave Durenburger, R-Minn., the so-called Keating Five and former Sen. Harrison Williams, D-N.J., in the Abscam bribery scandal.

Others suggested by Dole are former U.S. attorneys Michael Baylson, Anton Valukas and Dan Webb. Webb was deputy independent counsel for the investigation of Reagan administration official John Poindexter. Another name is A.B. Culvahouse, former counsel to President Reagan.

"We went back to some people who had the experience," Dole said. "We think we've got a pretty good credible list of people."



Dole

DOLE

From Page 1B

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Besides Kansas, Dole's most frequently visited states in 1993 were New York and Virginia, at eight apiece. He went to New Hampshire three times, Florida and Texas six, and Missouri five.

The senator's wife, Red Cross chief Elizabeth Dole, has stayed off the campaign trail for the most part.

"Red Cross frowns on that — non-partisan," Dole said. "I think it would not be appropriate."

For now, his sights are set on winning the Senate back for Republicans. Thirty-four seats are up in next year's election, Dole said, but the balance of power will hinge on races in Missouri, Minnesota, Wy-

DOLE'S APPEARANCES

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas was a popular television guest in 1993. He appeared on 31 weekend shows and 19 morning shows, both big increases over 1992, according to data provided by his office.

WEEKEND SHOWS

■ CNN "Newsmaker/Late Edition"
1993: 9 appearances
1992: 1 appearance

■ CBS "Face The Nation"
1993: 7 appearances
1992: 4 appearances

■ NBC "Meet The Press"
1993: 6 appearances
1992: 4 appearances

■ ABC "This Week With David Brinkley"
1993: 6 appearances
1992: 1 appearance

■ CNN "Evans & Novak," "Capital Gang"
1993: 1 appearance each
1992: 2 appearances each

■ BET "Lead Story"
1993: 1 appearance
1992: 0 appearances

■ MORNING SHOWS
■ NBC "Today"
1993: 9 appearances
1992: 2 appearances

■ CBS "This Morning"
1993: 8 appearances
1992: 0 appearances

■ ABC "Good Morning America"
1993: 2 appearances
1992: 1 appearance

■ MISCELLANEOUS
■ CNN "Larry King Live"
1993: 6 appearances
1992: 3 appearances

— Associated Press

ning, Ohio, Arizona and Michigan. "We'd be hard-pressed to get a majority," Dole acknowledged. "We've got some states where we don't even have candidates yet. It's hard for people to give up their farm or business to go out and bang your head against the wall."

For 1994, Dole and his strategists have decided to scale back the traveling a bit to concentrate on health-care reform. The TV appearances will probably continue, but Dole said his weeklong, multistate tours won't be as frequent.

"I've got a big role to play in health care, I hope. I don't want to be out on the road," Dole said. "We're going to do a lot of weekend work and Mondays, when there are no votes."

Dole blasts Janet Reno Claims AG 'dragging her feet' over Clinton probe

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno should stop "dragging her feet" and appoint an independent counsel to investigate President Clinton's possible links to a failed savings and loan firm in Arkansas, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Sunday.

"I think it's high time she did what she knows she should do," Dole said.

"For the president's sake and for the sake of the integrity of the attorney general's office she should move," the Kansas Republican said on NBC's "Meet The Press." He said Reno had "wasted a lot of time dragging her feet."

Reno has said repeatedly that career prosecutors, and not a specially appointed counsel, should handle the case of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, the failed thrift owned by Clinton friend James McDougal.

Federal investigators are looking into the costly collapse of Madison and whether any funds from the thrift were illegally diverted to Whitewater Development Corp., a real estate venture owned jointly by the Clintons and McDougal when Clinton was governor of Arkansas.

Also being examined is whether any Madison money was inappropriately routed to Clinton's 1984 gubernatorial campaign.

Dole and other Republicans have also criticized the Democratic-controlled banking and finance committees in Congress for playing politics in refusing to launch legislative inquiries.

But senior White House adviser George Stephanopoulos, appearing on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley," spoke Sunday of

Clinton takes a break
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a "remarkable conversion" of Republicans now seeking to resurrect the lapsed special counsel law.

"Now that they sense that there might be some perceived political advantage to going after this, they're all for it all of a sudden," he said.

GOP lawmakers, embittered by the drawn-out independent counsel investigation of the Iran-Contra affair during the Reagan administration, have fought renewal of legislation reauthorizing the appointment of counsels.

Stephanopoulos said the Whitewater issue was examined during the 1992 presidential campaign and Clinton has now turned over to the Justice Department all documents related to the real estate company. "No laws were broken. The Justice Department will show that, but there is no need at this time for an independent counsel."

House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., also speaking on ABC, said there was "no question" that an independent counsel was warranted, and "the longer the Clintons avoid doing that, the more, frankly, people are going to suspect there is a reason they don't want an independent counsel."

He said there are "too many questions and there are too many implications frankly of breaking the law."

Dole said he thought that ultimately Clinton will be cleared. Asked about the possibility of criminal wrongdoing leading to impeachment proceedings, he said, "we're a long way from anything like that."

Dole: Reno dragging feet in Whitewater investigation

By Ray Hemman

Saying the White House was "calling the shots" on the investigation into President Clinton's role in an Arkansas real estate venture, the Senate minority leader reiterated his call for a special investigator.

Dole

"I think she (Attorney General Janet Reno) is just stalling," Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Friday in a telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "I think that's the problem. She knows Congress is not back for a couple weeks and not much is going to happen until the middle of February. A lot of people say the statute of limitation starts running in March."

"It's my opinion ... this is just a flimsy excuse. We sent her a letter today listing seven attorneys — Democrats and Republicans. She says she is damned if she does and damned if she didn't. Well, here are seven I think would satisfy most people — Griffin Bell, former attorney general and a Democrat, Benjamin Civiletti, a former Democrat attorney general. She doesn't need the special counsel. It's an excuse, a delay, a stall. She's got more authority than she needs right now."

In addition to Bell and Civiletti, others named by Dole were attorney Robert Bennett, who was special counsel to the Senate Ethics Committee in its investigations of Sen. Dave Duren-

burger, R-Minn., the so-called Keating Five and former Sen. Harrison Williams, D-N.J., in the Abscam bribery scandal; U.S. attorneys Michael Baylson, Anton Valukas and Dan Webb, who was deputy independent counsel for the investigation of Reagan administration official John Poindexter; and A.B. Culvahouse, former counsel to President Reagan.

Reno has said she does not believe she has the legal authority to call a special or independent counsel. According to wire reports, the attorney general might seek court appointment of a special prosecutor.

"She is the one who has the authority," Dole said. "She doesn't need any new law. She said she will wait until the law passes. She has the authority now for two different kinds of counsel. She can appoint a special counsel and an independent counsel. She's got all the authority she needs. Seems she is dragging her feet. Seems to me now the White House is calling the shots and not the attorney general."

"Nobody is suggesting the president or Mrs. Clinton is involved. They say they are not. Maybe they are not. The only way we can find out is through independent counsel."

During the press conference, Dole also said the president is doing the "right thing" by avoiding ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy on his trip to Russia next week. Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party made an unexpectedly strong showing in last month's Russian parliamentary elections.

"I see today where Zhirinovskiy is calling him a coward because he (Clinton) won't meet with the top vote-getter," Dole said. "I think the president is doing the right thing. My view is that this fellow is a mean-spirited hate-monger, and he has been kicked out of two or three countries. I don't know whether the president of the United States should have to go hat-in-hand to see him or have him come see the president. My view is that it is the president's call, and if he doesn't see him, that will be the right call."

Boris Yeltsin deserves U.S. support, Dole said. During the summit in Moscow, the United States will have to make it clear to Yeltsin that the Russian leader will have to take a look at his country's economy and that America will not be able to provide much more money to the republic. At the same time, Russia needs to talk more with the Ukraine about missiles and other weapons in the country.

"At least we can offer advice and suggestions," he said. "We want the Russian republic to grow as a democracy — 150 million people there, and it is very important."