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Hutchinson News Wednesday, February 23, 1994 Page 3

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## Dole pans Clinton's foreign policy

By Ray Hemman

The Hutchinson News

As President Bill Clinton was meeting with the Japanese head of state on trade matters Friday, the Senate minority leader reiterated concerns that the administration has no one taking charge of foreign affairs.



Dole

"I don't know who runs this show," Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said during a weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "There's not a clear foreign policy leader. The president is consumed with domestic matters. I don't think foreign policy is something he's really gotten into much."

(Secretary of State Warren Christopher is a very nice person, but somehow there doesn't seem to be a clear policy. It's been a year, so you can't say we should wait awhile for results.)

Dole pointed to the administration's shift in policy toward Bosnia as the latest example of the shifts occurring in administration policy.

"I know it's a tough job," the Kansas said. "I know the president can't run the world. He's not elected to do that. Now you read today's newspaper. Pick up any paper. We're now shifting our policy on Bosnia. We are going to try to put the heat on Bosnia to accept the little chunk of their

territory. That's a shift. That's something I think the president said two months ago he wasn't going to do. He wasn't going to try to persuade Bosnia to accept a third of their country, for example."

The problem is that the United States has allowed the United Nations to set its foreign policy instead of setting its own agenda.

"Democrats, Republicans and liberal newspapers universally agree on the lack of a rudder," he said.

Dole and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, met with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Friday morning, before the Japanese leader's session with Clinton. Dole said Hosokawa was in a difficult political situation back home, where he's "hanging by a thread."

The two Senate leaders told the prime minister that Japan ought to open up its markets to the United States.

"Sen. Mitchell and I told him it wasn't political play, it wasn't partisan, but they just ought to open up their markets as we've opened up our markets," Dole said.

"I think we underscored the message was bipartisan, no politics in it. We hope he can make some agreement from it. ... It's up to us, up to the administration if we don't get a deal. There are things we can do to be tough on trade. We'll just wait and see what happens."

Congress was one of the few institutions open for business on

Friday in Washington as more wintry weather afflicted the city, shutting down all but necessary operations of government. One of the reasons the Senate was in session was to approve aid for California earthquake victims.

Earlier this week, the Senate defeated a Dole effort to pay for the aid as it was used instead of declaring an emergency and shifting the expenditure off the regular budget.

"Under the emergency provisions, they don't have to pay for it," he said. "That's the theory around here. Charge it up to some other generation. We tried to strike out all the emergency provisions and pay for it. We thought we had a good amendment. It failed. We got 42 votes and had five or six absent senators who would have voted for me. We tried."

Dole expressed concern about certain individual items included in the earthquake package. For example, there is money for an interchange that was damaged in an earthquake four years ago. The interchange was repaired after the 1989 quake, but now California officials want the federal government to pay \$315 million for the relocation of the interchange.

"We did the best we could," he said. "I think everybody understands we want to help earthquake victims, flood victims, hurricane victims, but we ought to pay for it. We are just kidding ourselves. Somebody has to pay for it sometime."

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As a skeptical Congress prepares to wade into the administration's health care proposal, President Clinton invited both Kansas senators to a White House dinner aimed at keeping the debate focused on reform.

Republican Leader Bob Dole and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, also a Republican, were among a group of eight key senators chosen to attend Tuesday night, the first of several such sessions planned by the White House.

Dole said the meeting is an indication the reform plan faces uncertain prospects, at best.

"I think the president recognizes there's some real problems



Kassebaum Dole

with his proposal," Dole said. "There's a lot of questions, not just by Republicans. I think it's a preliminary effort to reach out and see if we're on the same road."

Democrats scheduled to attend were Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell of Maine, Sen.

Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Sen. Daniel Moynihan of New York. The other GOP senators on the list were Don Nickles of Oklahoma, Bob Packwood of Oregon and John Chafee of Rhode Island.

Vice President Gore and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also planned to attend. But administration officials said the session wasn't intended to lobby for specific parts of the health care plan.

"The president will not be negotiating the details," said administration spokeswoman Lorrie McHugh. "It will be a discussion on how to keep the process moving. The negotiations will be going on in Congress."

On the Republican side, Dole

and Kassebaum both are important to passage of any health care reform bill.

As minority leader, Dole has enough votes to block legislation in the Senate. And Kassebaum is the ranking Republican on the Labor and Human Resources Committee, which is chaired by Kennedy and will have a hand in shaping any health reform bill.

Right now, Clinton probably doesn't have the votes in either house of Congress to pass health care reform, Dole said. But Republicans stand to lose politically if they simply block passage.

"We all agree there should be some reform. The question is, how much, how fast and how far, and who should pay," he said.

Hutchinson News Sunday, February 27, 1994 Page 9

## GOP gets jump on '96 maneuvering

By John King

AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — At Dick Cheney's office, aides use tacks on a

map to track his travels: 35 states since leaving the Pentagon's top job a little over a year ago. Bob Dole's got a travel log too: 39 states and counting in the past year.

The frequent flying and friends made along the way might come in handy if, as expected, Cheney and Dole enter the next presidential election campaign, because a new, front-loaded 1996 GOP primary calendar could result in an extraordinarily fast — and expensive — selection of a Republican nominee.

With the Iowa caucuses on Feb.

12 and the March 26 California primary as bookends, 33 states, including the eight most populous, and Puerto Rico are tentatively scheduled to hold Republican presidential primaries and caucuses in a six-week span in 1996.

That would be 10 more GOP presidential primaries in that period than in 1992.

A few more states are considering moving up, as the changes Democrats have sought to speed their nomination process are taking hold on a Republican selection process that for years was deliberately stretched out, with an emphasis on caucuses over primaries.

"It clearly helps the front-runners, those with solid name identification and the ability to raise solid sums of money quickly," said Ralph Reed, executive director of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, an active voice in many states with early Republican contests.

So it's little wonder that the 1996 Republican presidential prospecting is under way so early. Money and organization are likely to count more than ever because of a crowded calendar that some believe could result in a de facto nominee by mid-March.

"It is going to put a premium on having the money needed already raised and set aside, and place a premium on organization and people with logistics experience," said David Addington, a political adviser to Cheney, the former defense secretary. "If you decide to run, you are going to have to have February and March 1996 planned out in detail to the last dollar, the last airplane ride."

Texas GOP Sen. Phil Gramm used his position as head of the National Republican Senatorial Committee to visit more than 30 states, and his political travels included seven stops in New Hamp-

shire and five in Iowa.

Gramm's campaign accounts — he has two — entered 1994 with an impressive \$7.2 million on hand.

Former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp also revved up his fund-raising, establishing a new political action committee, Campaign for a New Agenda, and holding a major Super Bowl event to get it up and running.

Another active Republican is South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell, who has gained media attention in his role as chairman of the National Governors Association and a frequent critic of President Clinton's health care plan.

Campbell traveled to 20 states in the past year, including several forays to Southern states that appear early on the 1996 primary calendar, and he has a busy schedule for the first half of this year.

A-12 The Kansas City Star Sunday, February 13, 1994

## Dole 'stop number one on the media's shopping list'

Continued from A-1

most anyone else," said Stephen Hess, a Brookings Institution scholar who in the mid-1980s studied senators' relations with the media. "He's the ideal soundbite. He's a generalist, meaning because he's the minority leader you can get him on anything."

### Much sought after

Dole's barbed demeanor, which has hurt him in his two presidential bids, doesn't hinder coverage of him as the Republican Party leader, said Stephanie Larson, a media expert political scientist at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

"The tendency for sharpness," Larson said, "... only generates more coverage."

William C. Adams, a media analyst at George Washington University, agreed. "He's a constant reminder to people for good or ill what the alternative to Clinton might be," Adams said. "Every wisecrack from Bob Dole has considerable implications."

For his part, Dole said he is mainly trying to answer the flood of requests he receives each week.

"I don't think it's a question of how much you do. I guess it's a question of if you're going to be the Republican leader and you get a request, you respond," Dole said in a recent interview.

"We can't do them all. We pick and choose, do what we can, try to make ourselves available and ac-

cessible, try to return our calls from the press. Always have."

From January to November last year, President Clinton garnered 2,631 stories during the evening broadcasts on ABC, CBS and NBC, according to the Center for Media and Public Affairs. Hillary Rodham Clinton was the focus of 286.

Third, far ahead of Vice President Al Gore, all Cabinet members and all other members of Congress, was Dole: 201 stories.

Dole is a fixture on Sunday morning television. On NBC's "Meet the Press," he holds the record with 46 appearances, including one this morning when he discussed health care and Bosnia. No. 2 is the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who did 25 shows.

Betty Cole Dukert, the show's senior producer, said Dole, like Humphrey was, has been versatile, bright, humorous and well informed about public policy. Dole doesn't seek the show out; Dukert calls him. He's frequently available.

Carin Pratt, executive producer of CBS's "Face the Nation," on which Dole has appeared more than two dozen times, called the Kansas a good interview. "He makes news all the time. And he also represents the other party well."

Dole receives as many as 100 requests a week for interviews ranging from Kansas news organizations to Japanese and French television programs. A staff mem-



Bob Dole

... third in network stories

ber compiles lists for Dole, who chooses the ones he'll squeeze into his schedule.

On many Fridays, Dole does a telephone news conference with about 10 reporters for Kansas news organizations, mixing newspapers, radio and television stations.

Responding to Kansas and world events, his staffers work at least 10 hours a day, often on Saturdays and Sundays. They churn out press releases for the elaborate fax machine that is programmed with dozens of numbers of news organizations, monitor news wires and seek information for reporters.

"It's a minute-by-minute battle in the arena of public policy issues," said Riker, who left last year for McDonald's corporate affairs office after 12 years in the Kansas Republican's office. "And he wants to be in there fighting for his issues."

No one has been named yet to replace Riker, but Clarkson Hine, 30, deputy press secretary, and press aide Kristin Hyde, 26, carry on the frenetic pace inside the press office.

It's as cluttered as a small newsroom with books, position papers, computers and four televisions. Dole frequently ambles through, passing by photographs of presidents stretching back to Dwight Eisenhower.

The office usually is fluid, chaotic. Telephones ring and ring. The *Wall Street Journal* is on one line. Minutes later, *The New York Post*.

Sometimes Dole knows as early as Wednesday whether he's wanted on Sunday morning shows. He may not decide which program he'll do until Friday.

The morning after Clinton's State of the Union address, Dole was seen on four television morning shows and did a radio interview, all performed with almost assembly line precision from the Senate Radio TV Gallery. The crowded schedule, however, was aided by the taping of two of the interviews.

When the Serbs bombed Sarajevo last weekend, Hine returned

home from errands and found six machine requests on his answering machine. Dole did a telephone news conference with several national newspapers last Sunday.

"If something's happening in the world, you were the first to know," Riker recalled. "I use they all wanted reaction from Senator Dole."

### 'Classic Dole toughness'

Sometimes, however, reporters and editors get a different kind of reaction.

Dole and his staff often write letters to newspaper editors clarifying or criticizing editorials or news coverage of him. On the Senate floor, Dole occasionally derides the "East Coast liberal media," but he also aims at Midwestern organizations.

Dole pays particular attention to *The Wichita Eagle* and has publicly lambasted its coverage of him in recent months.

Last summer, after the Federal Election Commission fined Dole's 1988 presidential campaign \$100,000, Dole told an *Eagle* reporter that Kansas didn't care about the matter. The *Wichita* paper editorialized against that view several days later.

Dole personally called Davis Merritt Jr., the editor, to complain in two "long" conversations, Merritt said.

"At one point I was thinking, 'This man wants to be the leader of the free world. Why does he care about that story?'" Merritt

said. "I probably should have asked him that."

"It's classic Dole toughness. Agreeing to disagree is not an acceptable tone for the senator."

Dole and his press staff also have refused interview requests from one of *The Kansas City Star's* Washington correspondents, Andrew C. Miller, saying that all his coverage was negative.

In 1992, responding angrily to questioning by an Associated Press reporter about a political contribution he had received, Dole said AP stood for "Always Partisan." In the same manner, he once dubbed *The Hutchinson News* the "Prairie Pravda."

For his part, Dole said in the recent interview that he recognizes he sometimes deserves criticism, and lets that go.

But if someone, in his view, is "totally wrong" or doesn't understand his position, he feels compelled to challenge them.

"When you get to the point where that doesn't bother you, then I don't think you're a good public servant," Dole said. "If you let anybody, I don't care who it is, attack you personally or your judgment or your motives, your integrity, you ought to move on."

"Particularly in editorials where we think our side wasn't presented, we try to respond, whether it's something in *Newsweek*, or *The New York Times*, or even occasionally in the *Kansas City paper*."

Thursday, March 3, 1994 Page 13

## Dole: Congress shouldn't give up on health reform

By Curt Anderson

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's health reform plan is "probably dead," but Congress should still try to extend health insurance coverage to people without it, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Wednesday.



Dole

Dole, waving copies of opinion polls showing sagging support for the president's plan, said in a Senate floor speech the proposal has no chance of passing in its current form.

"It is probably dead — dead in its present form," said Dole, R-Kan. "The more time this program is around, the lower it's going to sink in the polls."

Clinton shrugged off the poll numbers, saying health and insurance interest groups have spent millions of dollars to "trash the plan."

"In the end ... I think we'll get it done," the president told reporters.

Dole said doubt continues to rise in Congress and among the American public about the bureaucracy, costs and regulations proposed by the president.

"We're a little skeptical that everybody's going to get more out of this program and we're going to save money. That's a hard sell," Dole said.

Yet Dole said Republicans, who gather today and Friday for a health care retreat at a hotel in Annapolis, Md., should seek compromise on a plan to help the millions of people who have no health care insurance.

"There's got to be a better way," Dole said. "Some people in America fall through the cracks. Some people don't have coverage. We ought to make sure they have coverage."

He mentioned vouchers and tax credits as possible solutions for low-income people who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid. He said the GOP lawmakers probably wouldn't endorse a particular plan.

4A THE WICHITA EAGLE Friday, March 4, 1994

## Clinton tells aides to stay clear of Whitewater investigation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Embarrassed anew by White House handling of the Whitewater affair, President Clinton ordered aides Thursday to "bend over backward" to avoid meddling in a federal investigation involving him.

Insisting that "no one has actually done anything wrong," Clinton nonetheless expressed regret that his advisers had received private briefings on a government investigation into a failed Arkansas thrift.

"I'm concerned about that," Clinton said. "I think it would be better if the meetings and conversations hadn't occurred."

Critics have wondered aloud if the White House was trying to influence the investigation into Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association and the related Whitewater land venture formerly co-owned by the president and Hillary Clinton.

"You're asking for big, big trouble and showing some stunningly bad judgment when you start mixing politics with the law enforcement," Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said.

In a letter to Senate leaders, 43 Republican senators promised to block approval of the administration's nomination of Ricki Tigert to head the Federal Deposit Insurance

Corp. until a congressional hearing is conducted on a White House briefing by Roger Altman. Altman is a Clinton appointee and interim head of the Resolution Trust Corp., the S&L cleanup agency.

Clinton's comments mark the second time in a week his administration confirmed private meetings about the inquiry with government officials. All told, there were three such meetings, the White House said.

To dampen the fire, Clinton ordered a memo from Chief of Staff Mack McLarty outlining procedures for staff contacts with other government officials.



Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole says the Clinton administration has risked big trouble by "mixing politics with law enforcement."