

# Dole faces delicate balancing act

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas was elected unanimously Friday by Senate Republicans for his second stint as majority leader, but this time the Republican from Kansas faces an incredible balancing act as he mulls a third try for the White House.

"Everybody knows it won't be easy," said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., who was chosen as Dole's chief deputy. "He knows it better than anybody."

Complications abound for the 71-year-old Dole, who has been minority leader for eight years.

There's the conservative, aggressive GOP leadership in the House led by incoming Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who has never been a Dole ally. There's a stronger conservative wing among the Republican senators led by a presidential rival, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas.

And there's President Clinton. Dole won't want to give the Democratic White House too many legislative victories, yet he doesn't want to be blamed for gridlock or appear unable to accomplish anything in Congress.

Lott's election as GOP whip signaled the rise of the conservatives within the party. By a single vote, Lott topped Dole's choice for the No. 2 job, Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming.

**"Whether it's agriculture, tax fairness or job creation, I will be on the front lines fighting for Kansas."**

— Sen. Bob Dole

Dole, who was not challenged for the top position he previously held from 1984-86, will have in the 53-year-old Lott a much younger deputy who is an ally of Gramm and Gingrich.

Gramm said he did not see the whip race as a contest between him and Dole.

"I always thought Senator Simpson's portrayal of the race as a contest with Senator Dole was not fair to Senator Dole," Gramm said. "I never sought that contest. It doesn't give me any greater say."

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But if Dole runs for president — he promises to decide by March — Lott will essentially run the Senate while Dole campaigns around the country. Dole, asked by reporters if that prospect worried him, said, "I don't think so."

"I can always adjourn the Senate,"

he said with a chuckle.

Dole, who also sought the White House in 1980 and 1988, said he didn't see the whip race as a referendum on his leadership.

"All this stuff gets started around here. Al Simpson had done a good job for me. I didn't see any reason why he shouldn't be re-elected," Dole said.

Lott said he is not seeking the majority leader's job and pledged he would work with Dole and not against him despite the backdrop of presidential politics.

"Bob Dole is the majority leader. I'm pledged to him. I looked at him and said, 'You're the leader. You're my leader,'" Lott said. "We love Bob Dole. Without Bob Dole, we wouldn't be in the majority."

Sen.-elect John Ashcroft of Missouri said his support for Lott should not be seen as lack of commitment to Dole.

"Bob Dole is a great leader,"

Ashcroft said. "I have the highest respect for Bob Dole."

Yet the man Ashcroft will replace, retiring Sen. John Danforth, said Lott's selection will pull Dole further to the right as he acts as leader for the 53 Republican senators.

"If a majority of them are of one persuasion in the Republican Party, he's going to have to speak to that constituency and lead that constituency," Danforth said.

Dole was nominated by fellow Kansas GOP Sen. Nancy Kassebaum for election to the Senate's top job. Kassebaum has sometimes split with the GOP leadership on key votes, most recently in supporting the Democrats on the crime bill.

"I said that while my judgment may be questioned by some on some votes, no one can question my judgment in putting in the nomination of Bob Dole," Kassebaum said.

"Through the best of times and the worst of times, he's really dedicated himself to the party and the country," she added.

Dole pledged to work hard to "make a smaller government work better" and said his elevation to the top Senate post "gives me a unique opportunity to promote the interests of Kansans."

"Whether it's agriculture, tax fairness or job creation, I will be on the front lines fighting for Kansas," Dole said.

## Daschle, Dole to lead Senate

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the GOP agenda, and said Democrats would "offer vigorous opposition to extreme proposals that threaten economic prosperity of our nation's economic future."

The two parties made their selections in nearby rooms a few paces down the corridor from the Senate floor. Afterwards, Dole stepped briefly into the Democratic meeting to pledge to work cooperatively with Daschle and other members of the minority.

Lott's selection — on a vote of 27-26 — was something of a rebuff to Dole and a triumph for Dole's potential presidential rival, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas. It may also signal closer cooperation with House Republicans, since Lott and Gramm are close to Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who is in line to become speaker of the House.

Despite Simpson's pre-election claim that Lott's victory would complicate Dole's life if he decides to run for president, Lott said, "absolutely not."

"There will not be any change in style or votes or agenda when he is out of town," he said.

Dole, too, said he envisioned no problem. "I can always adjourn the Senate," the Kansan said with a chuckle.

At the same time, Lott expressed a keen interest in working closely with Gingrich and the

new House majority. He pledged teamwork "not just within our caucus but across the Capitol."

For Dole, the elections offer a second tour as majority leader in the Senate, a post he held previously from 1985-1986. A career politician, he is known and admired within the Senate for his toughness. Within the past 10 days, he made himself the gatekeeper for passage of a GATT global trade accord strongly backed by President Clinton.

In talks with the White House, he won a series of concessions, understandings and pledges that underscored his negotiating skills. Secure in the knowledge that GATT would pass, he then jetted off to a NATO meeting in Europe, where he made headlines with comments about the war in Bosnia.

Daschle, like Dole, is a Midwesterner and career politician. But he is also a quarter-century younger, more mild-mannered and, by virtue of his relatively brief tenure, less experienced at the intense maneuvering that often accompanies heated Senate floor struggles.

Even so, said Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., after the vote, "He will not shy away from a fight if necessary."

Daschle launched his candidacy for leader months ago, within hours of a surprise retirement announcement from Sen. George Mitchell of Maine.

## Congress takes step to the right

### Conservatives edge out moderate Republicans

By David Hess and Angie Cannon  
Eagle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Conservative Republicans who favor aggressive confrontation with President Clinton strengthened their grip on congressional leadership positions Friday with the election of Trent Lott of Mississippi to the No. 2 post in the Senate.

Lott, an in-your-face conservative and close ally of House Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., unseated Alan Simpson of Wyoming on a 27-26 vote. Simpson, a moderate conservative who was more inclined to seek consensus, was backed by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

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Senate Democrats, meanwhile, tapped low-key Tom Daschle of South Dakota to replace retiring Sen. George Mitchell of Maine as their new leader. Daschle edged Connecticut Democrat Christopher Dodd on a 24-23 vote.

"We stand ready to work cooperatively," a reserved Daschle said after the vote. "We hope Republicans, in turn, are prepared to reciprocate."

Boostered by several newcomers who share Lott's political point of view, the Senate's GOP conservatives now are likely to be the driving force in that chamber. Lott's support came mainly from the party's most

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conservative wing, including Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who said he felt that the GOP's leadership — Dole and Simpson — had been "too passive. This race (for whip) was about aggressive leadership."

Senate sources said Lott won the close-fought race on the strength of his pledge to fellow conservatives that he would work with them to forge a clear-cut party agenda, similar to Gingrich's "Contract with America" in the House, and push it in the Senate.

Dole has not been enthusiastic about Gingrich's manifesto.

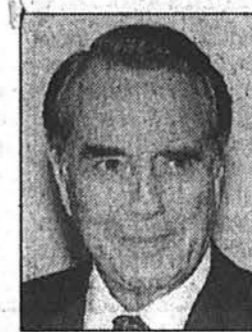
Lott, a 53-year-old lawyer who served in the House for 16 years before moving to the Senate in 1989, pledged to work closely with Dole. "I'm going to ride shotgun for the leader," Lott said. "I want to do his bidding on behalf of our (party)."

Lott is now in line to become the next Republican leader in the Senate, should the 71-year-old Dole run for the presidency and win — or retire.

Within hours of the Senate vote, the new Republican congressional leaders met with Clinton for the first time since the elections.

Gingrich emerged to express optimism about agreeing with Clinton on three bills: a line-item veto, giving the president power to veto specific items in budget bills; a requirement that Congress abide by the same laws as other Americans; and legislation that keeps the federal government from imposing programs on states and cities without giving them money to pay for them.

Earlier, Clinton met with Democratic congressional leaders, and it was apparent that Democrats are still shell-shocked from the election.



**Dole**  
Senate majority leader



**Lott**  
Senate Republican whip



**Daschle**  
Senate minority leader

"The biggest concern we have right now is making sure we adjust to this new status we have," Daschle said.

When asked if the agenda of congressional Democrats differs from the White House agenda, Daschle said: "It's too early to do that."

But House Democratic Whip David Bonior, D-Mich., said, "We will be supporting a tax cut for working and middle America."

Bonior said the Democrats discussed that with Clinton, who, he said, was nodding his head in agreement.

Earlier in a speech broadcast from Washington to the National League of Cities conference in Minneapolis, Clinton said he would oppose any tax cuts that "explode the budget deficit" and would fight an attempt to overturn the ban on assault weapons.

"So, while I favor a middle-class tax cut and I don't rule out working with the Republican Congress on some of their ideas," Clinton said, "my standard will be: Will it help increase incomes for the middle class, will it promote jobs and growth and can we pay for it?"

In electing Daschle, 46, Senate

Democrats selected an amiable colleague but one little known to the public. (His name is pronounced DASH-UL.)

Daschle said Friday that he would first work to establish a new identity for the party apart from the Clinton administration.

Daschle said last month's mid-term elections showed that voters were disappointed in the Democrats' work.

"They want us to do better," said Daschle. "Our challenge is to do so."

## DOLE: Conservatives expect to pull leader farther to the right

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## Dole faces delicate balancing act as majority leader of more conservative Senate GOP

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

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led by a presidential rival, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas.

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