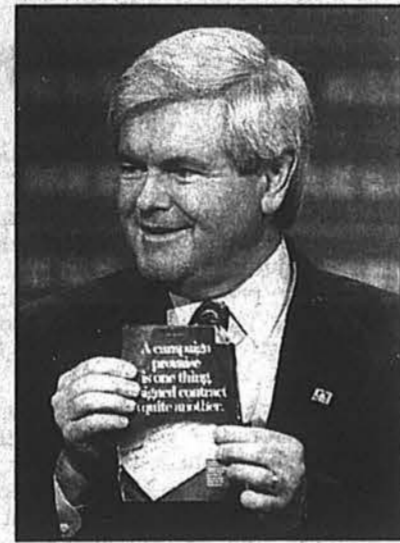




Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas may be pushed to the right by new Senate leaders.



Sen. Tom Daschle is among the Democrats distancing themselves from President Clinton



Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia leads the conservative charge in the House.

New leaders set combative tone for House and Senate

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Congress' next generation of leaders, Democratic and Republican alike, are setting independent tones that augur an era of sparring between the two parties as well as within them.
New, younger men have captured three of the four top leadership jobs in the GOP-controlled House and Senate that will convene in January. And though everyone spoke of bipartisan cooperation when possible — an age-old Washington refrain — the leaders made clear that they will aggressively pursue their interests and protect their constituencies.
But no one can guarantee that there will be peace and harmony within each party, either.
The sole remaining chieftain from this year, Senate GOP leader Bob Dole of Kansas, will have combative conservative Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi looking over his shoulder as his top lieutenant. And the two new Democratic leaders, Tom Daschle of South Dakota in

the Senate and Richard Gephardt of Missouri in the House, warned that they would distance themselves from the administration and President Clinton, who is blamed by many for the Democrats' Election Day debacle.
"We want very much to work with the White House," Daschle said. "We will not be led by them. We will not view ourselves as an extension of them."
Perhaps the most assertive new leader will be Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., to be anointed by Republicans today as their candidate for speaker, a choice that will be confirmed by the full House when it convenes Jan. 4.
Gingrich, 51, is one of the most conservative of Republicans. The Georgian with a thatch of white hair and his loyal leadership team are determined to carry out their "Contract With America," a campaign-season doctrine promising tax cuts, stark changes in welfare and other measures that are likely to spark frequent conflicts with Democrats.

For some Democrats, combat with Gingrich will be based on more than ideology. He is a bitter foe who helped bring down Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, and whose aggressive tactics have been personally vexing for years.
As for Dole, his colleagues by one vote stripped his longtime second-in-command, Whip Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., of his job and handed it to Lott.
The Mississippian is more doctrinaire than Simpson, and leads a growing flock of conservative GOP senators who constantly pressure the more moderate Dole to move to his right. That could portend more confrontation with Democrats.
Lott is closely allied with Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, who is likely to challenge Dole for the GOP presidential nomination soon. This could make things uncomfortable for Dole, who would prefer to spend time focusing on his presidential campaign and not worrying about what Lott might do running the Senate in his absence.

Gingrich gives harsh assessment of U.N.

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The United Nations is a failed institution with "grotesque pretensions" and the United States should rethink its commitment to the world body, future House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday.
"The United Nations is a totally incompetent instrument anyplace that matters," Gingrich said. "When you get to a serious problem with serious violence, the United Nations is literally incompetent, and it kills people by its behavior."
The Georgia Republican's harsh critique of the United Nations was another indication of the rough road U.S.-U.N. relations face under the new Republican leadership in Congress.
Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., in line to become the next chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is a longtime foe of

funding for U.N. programs. House Republicans are committed to banning U.S. forces from being put under a U.N. command.
Gingrich spoke specifically of Bosnia, saying the United Nations and the international community "look pathetically helpless" there. He said it has been "a terrible blow to the United Nations."
He said the U.N. peacekeeping forces should be withdrawn from Bosnia, and the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims lifted.
But in general, he said the United States "should radically overhaul our entire attitude toward the United Nations."
Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., the next Senate Majority Leader, repeated his position Sunday that U.N. peacekeepers should be withdrawn from Bosnia. That could spell the end of international peacekeeping efforts, he said, and "maybe that's one plus."

Dole lists health care items on GOP agenda

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas said Wednesday that congressional Republicans would push health care reform in 1995 by supporting legislation to bar insurance companies from denying coverage to people changing jobs or with health problems.
Dole said Republicans also would look for ways to help make health insurance more affordable to small employers and allow the self-employed and others without employer-sponsored insurance to deduct all of their premium costs from their tax returns, just as large companies can.
"My view is (that) health-care is still a problem," Dole told reporters. "I'm not sure how much we can do, but we ought to fix what we can. But whatever we do won't be on the scale of a grand design like Presi-

dent Clinton's."
Dole indicated the Republican legislation would start in the Senate, not the House, where the GOP leadership intends to press the Republicans' "Contract with America."
Clinton, on Sept. 23, 1993, proposed an overhaul of the \$1 trillion U.S. health industry. The original Clinton plan would have guaranteed universal health insurance cover-

age, with a comprehensive package of benefits.
The Clinton plan also would have required employers to contribute at least 80 percent of their employees' health insurance premiums, and the president also called for the creation of regional purchasing pools called health alliances to negotiate with the major health insurance companies.

However, the Clinton plan died in Congress earlier this year.
Dole's statement is the first signal by the Republican leadership that the new GOP majority in Congress will push health care reform, but in relatively small doses.
A spokesman for House Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich also said House Republicans would take up health care reform.

Disability group founded by Dole honors Disney, ex-lineman

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Walt Disney Co. and former New York Jets defensive lineman Dennis Byrd were recognized Monday for working to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

The recognition came from The Dole Foundation for Employment of People with Disabilities, founded in 1983 by Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.



Byrd, 27, has almost fully recovered from a broken vertebra suffered in a collision with a teammate during a game Nov. 29, 1992. Doctors at first were unsure if he ever would walk again.
Although his gridiron career is over, Byrd worked as a football analyst for CBS-TV and is devoting much time to the Dennis Byrd Foundation, which intends to create a summer camp for physically disabled children.
The Dole Foundation honored Byrd with its 1994 Media Awareness Award.

Disney got the foundation's 1994 Leadership Award for its effort to make its theme parks accessible to the disabled.
"We recognize the importance of sharing the magic of Walt Disney World and Disneyland with everyone," said Judson C. Green, president of Walt Disney Attractions.

Bob Dole explores presidential bid

By The New York Times
U.S. Sen. Bob Dole will form a presidential exploratory committee next month, a key step in a possible run for the office, an adviser to the senator said Wednesday.
The committee will enable Dole, the incoming Senate majority leader, to start raising money a year before the Republican primary season, and to test the waters for an actual campaign.
The 71-year-old Kansas Republican has not said whether he will run and has indicated he will decide by spring.
But Tom Synhorst, an adviser who works in Mission said a bid is almost certain.
"I can only tell you what I think," said Synhorst, who ran Dole's winning campaign in the Iowa Republican primary in 1988. "And I think the odds are 95 per-



cent or better that he's running."
He described the committee's formation as another "step that has to be taken if you're going to be in the hunt."
Dole could not be reached for comment Wednesday, but on Tuesday he told the Boston Herald that he was close to making a final decision about 1996.
"The next logical step for us is to have an exploratory committee, which doesn't commit you but it gets you in the position where you start raising money," he told the newspaper.
The senator was in Boston to be with his wife, Elizabeth, who underwent surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital to clear a blockage in an artery of her neck. During his stay in Boston, he met with Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, another possible presidential contender.
Others close to the senator confirmed Wednesday that steps were being taken to form the exploratory committee.

Dole is seen as factor in denying Gramm key post

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — In a quest for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996, there would be no better perch for Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas than the Senate Finance Committee, which will be at the center of efforts to cut taxes and change the welfare system.
That may be why Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, who has also set his sights on the Republican nomination for the White House, saw to it that Gramm was not likely to get the seat, an assignment he had expected and talked about for months.
Although both senators deny it publicly, several Republican lawmakers and their aides said privately that Dole, who will be majority

The Finance Committee is a good assignment for a senator running for president, says a former Republican staff director of the panel.

leader when the new Senate convenes next year, maneuvered to make sure that Gramm would be denied a seat.
Unfortunately for Gramm, the Finance Committee is not only the most high-profile assignment but also the most lucrative for extracting big campaign contributions from groups with interests before the panel.
There were five Republican openings on the panel, but Dole made

certain that five senators with more seniority than Gramm took the slots, according to the Republican officials. It was not a particularly hard sell, since the committee is a highly desirable assignment, and indeed some senators were happy to do a favor for the Republican leader.
While Gramm has told associates that Dole was behind what happened, he refused to accuse anyone publicly. "Any effort to keep me off the committee would be petty and

mean-spirited and I don't choose to believe it," he said. "I'm going to be heavily involved in welfare reform, whether I'm on the committee or not."
Last week, Gramm presented his own proposal to cut taxes for the middle class, another area over which the panel has jurisdiction.
Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming, who took one of the five slots on the committee, denied that he was a participant in any plot to undermine a fellow Republican.
"This isn't the First Act of King Lear," Simpson said. "I'm not dividing the kingdom. There's no mystery, no fun and games."
Nonetheless, Simpson is shedding no tears for Gramm, who helped lead the successful candidacy of

Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi to be the assistant majority leader. Dole had wanted Simpson in the post.
By joining the committee — and giving up a seat on the Environment and Public Works Committee — Simpson also helped deny a slot to Lott, who also had eyed the assignment.
Gramm had wanted to trade his seat on the Appropriations Committee, which is less desirable in this era of budget cutting, for a spot on the Finance Committee.
"My guess is Gramm wanted to get on the committee because it's so powerful," said Robert Lighthizer, a former Republican staff director of the committee.
By contrast, Dole will benefit not

only from exposure as majority leader, but also because he serves on the Finance Committee. A spokesman for Dole, Clarkson Hine, denied that there was behind-the-scenes jockeying, saying: "There's nothing to this whole thing. Senator Dole hasn't talked to anyone about it."
Calculated or not, the exclusion of Gramm causes a break in longstanding Senate tradition. It is rare for two senators from the same state to serve on a major panel such as Finance. But under the new roster, two Republicans whose states are already represented by Democrats on the committee will join the panel: Sens. Alfonse D'Amato of New York and Larry Pressler of South Dakota.