



BOB DOLE
Senate
Majority Leader
Dole, whose baleful
skepticism has been
with us forever, it
seems, now will
have a new role-
playground monitor
for the revolution

Dole will run in '96; Cheney bows out early

By Susan Page
Newsday

WASHINGTON — More than a year before any voting starts, the Republican presidential contest for 1996 suddenly began to shake out Tuesday: Bob Dole said he's in. Dick Cheney said he's out.

And likely candidate Dan Quayle was ailing again, admitted to the hospital for an appendectomy.

Dole, the Senate majority leader, said he probably would move by early next week to take the initial step toward his third bid for the presidency.

"We'll be meeting later this week, early next week, on

whether or not we should move ahead with what we call an exploratory committee, which is the next logical step," the Kansas Republican said in an interview Tuesday on WFAN-AM. "And I assume we'll probably do that."

Dole, 71, who ran for the Republican nomination in 1980 and 1988, has had his presidential ambitions fanned by encouraging hypothetical matchups in national surveys — including a Newsweek poll published this week that showed him beating President Clinton 48 percent to 38 percent — that show him to be the strongest Republican contender.

Meanwhile, after months of testing the waters across the country, former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney issued a surprise three-sentence statement announcing that he had decided "after careful consideration" not

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Dole

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to become a candidate. "I look forward to supporting the Republican nominee for president in 1996," he said.

Aides refused to elaborate, but other Republicans said the 53-year-old former Wyoming congressman had found the prospect of raising millions of dollars and organizing a credible national campaign to be daunting. "I don't think their Rolodex was that strong, and they knew it," Republican consultant Eddie Mahe said.

Dole described Cheney as "a quality person who would have been a formidable presidential candidate."

And Quayle, also considered a likely contender, was admitted to Indiana University Medical Center Monday afternoon with an enlarged appendix. In remarks relayed by a spokeswoman, Quayle said he "just wants the thing out," adding, "I don't need it, anyway."

Anne Hathaway, executive director of Quayle's political action committee, Issues '96, said he would undergo the surgery Wednesday or Thursday and re-

main in the hospital about a week. He was discharged from the same hospital a month ago after undergoing treatment for blood clots in his lungs. While aides said he has almost fully recovered from that episode, he is still taking anti-coagulant drugs, which briefly delayed the surgery.

Doctors discovered his appendix was swollen during a checkup, Hathaway said, dismissing any political repercussions. "Basically, they've gone over every inch of his body and after they take out the appendix, I think he'll be a pretty healthy guy," she said.

Republicans prepare to take over leadership

Dole says GOP will unite behind agenda

By JIM ABRAMS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's the Republicans' turn in power and the party will unite to stop any effort by Democrats to sidetrack their agenda, incoming Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Sunday.

"We control the Congress now and we're going to set the agenda," the Kansas Republican said.

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Specifically, Dole said he would work to defeat any attempt by the Democrats to attach a gift-ban amendment on the Republicans' "Congressional Accountability Act" bill that would make members of Congress abide by the

same laws that all other Americans must obey.

A Republican filibuster in the Senate effectively killed efforts in the last Congress to pass a bill that would have banned nearly all gift-giving from lobbyists to lawmakers.

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Dole says Republicans to focus on priorities

campaign finance reform might come up later in the session, but "we have a majority; we haven't had it for a while. Give us an opportunity to address some of these questions."

Dole and others emphasized that the new GOP majority will focus on priority issues such as a balanced budget amendment and a tax cut for the middle

class. Social issues such as federal funding for family planning will be left for later.

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., the next head of the House Judiciary Committee and a vocal anti-abortion lawmaker, said his panel will wait until after the first 100 days of the session before revisiting the "gag rule" that bars doctors in federally financed family planning centers from discussing abortion with patients. The Clinton administration has lifted the rule.

Dole, too, said that while the

abortion issue might be taken up later, it was "not on the legislative agenda" now.

Dole defined the middle class tax cut being sought by Republicans as "a good, reasonable tax cut that's paid for, that will have some impact on the people who receive it and some impact on the economy."

He said he will look at cutting the capital gains tax, long a favorite goal of Republicans that "sends chills down the spines of some liberals who say we're helping the rich."

Dole: It's our turn now

The Associated Press

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Senate leader warns Democrats

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Dole advances on foreign policy

Bills on Bosnia, peacekeeping missions introduced

By BARRY SCHWEID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas, moving quickly to challenge the Clinton administration on foreign policy, introduced a bill Wednesday to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry called the move unfortunate and "not a wise course of action." He said the result could be widening the war in the former Yugoslav republic and require the United States to take on the "moral responsibility" of arming and training Bosnia forces.

"How that could be achieved without massive use of U.S. force unilaterally, and very, very likely, the introduction of U.S. ground troops is a question that

someone, I hope, will pose to Senator Dole," McCurry said.

It was the first foreign policy confrontation between the new Republican majority in Congress and the Clinton administration. Other dust-ups are expected over foreign aid and an agreement with North Korea to stop its suspect nuclear program.

Dole also introduced legislation Wednesday to restrict the use of U.S. forces and funds in U.N. peacekeeping operations. Further, the new majority leader said the Senate would question the legality of aiding North Korea and the cost of helping Haiti.

Dole's bill would end U.S. participation unilaterally in the U.N. arms embargo as it applies to Bosnia — without going through the U.N. Security Council. It would require President Clinton to end U.S. adherence to the embargo when Bosnia asks for help or by May 1, whichever comes first.