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6A THE WICHITA EAGLE Sunday, January 22, 1995

Dole more popular than Clinton or Gingrich, polls show

By Tom Webb

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — While Americans are evenly split on whether they like President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, they seem to be finding more and more to like about Sen. Bob Dole.

A raft of nationwide polls since the November elections show that Dole, the new Senate majority leader, is being viewed more favorably — and often ranks as the most popular political figure in the country. "He's soaring," said Norm Orn-

stein, a congressional analyst with the American Enterprise Institute. Ornstein thinks the emergence of Gingrich has helped Dole, R-Kan., in a peculiar way.

"Because of the combative nature of the (Gingrich) persona, and combined with the nature of the president, to an awful lot of Americans it looks like two adolescents duking it out in the school yard, while Dole is the adult in the group," Ornstein said. "He's the one being responsible, being mature, being above the fray. So this has all had the quite

interesting consequence of making Bob Dole look avuncular."

Polling figures since the election back up that opinion.

■ By 62 percent to 25 percent, Americans approved of how Bob Dole is doing his job, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll released this month. Not so with Clinton and Gingrich, whose job approval ratings were slightly more negative than positive.

■ Dole easily had the highest marks among Americans surveyed by the Gallup Organization in a

CNN/USA Today poll released this week. Dole received good ratings by more than a two-to-one margin, whereas both Clinton and Gingrich barely eked out a favorable rating.

■ An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released this week showed that since October, Dole's approval ratings have climbed while his disapproval ratings have fallen. Again, not so with Clinton or Gingrich. Furthermore, when asked who best represents the Republican Party and its values, 60 percent answered Dole, and 20 percent answered Gingrich.

polls, Dole consistently emerges as the most popular Republican by a wide margin. Among Republicans and independents, Dole was favored almost three-to-one over his nearest rival, according to an NBC News poll.

Only Gen. Colin Powell consistently draws higher national approval ratings, although nobody seems to know whether he's a Democrat or Republican. Either way, he's not primarily a political figure.

Jim Sheffield, a Wichita State University political science professor, attributes the new dynamic in part

to Dole's long experience in the national spotlight, which gives the public a certain level of comfort.

"He comes across, compared to Gingrich, as restrained and tolerant, those kind of things, and inspires a little more confidence for that reason," Sheffield said.

He added: "It's clear that Gingrich and Dole are somewhat rivals for influence in the national party itself, and that's understandable. It's kind of like the young bull and the old bull about who's going to run the pasture."

8-A The Topeka Capital-Journal, Monday, January 23, 1995

Dole says he will seek presidency

By JOHN ALOYSIUS FARRELL
The Boston Globe

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Sunday Congress should not, and would not, cut off all benefits to young welfare mothers who cannot find a job.

Speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation," Dole also predicted he will run for president. He staked out political turf somewhere between the Democratic White House and militant House Republicans on issues like welfare, immigration, gun control and the balanced budget.

Asked if he sided with House Republicans who say benefits should be cut off if welfare mothers can't find a job, Dole said: "I don't think it's going to happen. I don't believe we can do that. I wouldn't recommend that."

The Kansas senator, whose own family at times relied on public relief during his childhood days in the Depression, said government "still has an obligation" to help the poor.

"If you can't find a job, if you can do every other thing you try to do to find some alternative and you can't find it, somebody has to take care of the child," Dole said. "In this case, children — babies having babies."

Dole's comments on welfare, if they reflect the political mood of the Senate, make it more likely that Congress may pass a bipartisan welfare bill that President Clinton can sign.

While not explicitly using the word "veto," Clinton has said he will oppose legislation that would terminate welfare benefits for unwed mothers ages 18 and under, and their children.

Dole's stand puts him at odds with House speaker Newt Gingrich and the other authors of the GOP's "Contract With America" and showed the political obstacles that House Republicans face in winning passage of their agenda in the more moderate Senate.

When it came to presidential politics, Dole forsook coyness Sunday. Asked when he would make a formal announcement of his presidential candidacy, with money already being raised under the name of an exploratory committee, he said "sometime in April or late March."

"You're running?" asked CBS newsman Robert Schieffer.

"I think so," Dole said. "Last time I checked."

Hutchinson News Monday, January 23, 1995 Page 3

Dole hints GOP better off if Gingrich nixes controversial book deal

The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Sunday that the furor over House Speaker Newt Gingrich's book contract is continuing to detract from the Republican agenda and suggested that the GOP would be better off if Gingrich abandoned the deal.

Even though Gingrich, R-Ga., has voluntarily reduced the proposed book advance from \$4.5 million to \$1, the controversy has persisted and, as Dole noted, "it does take the focus away from the issues."

Since Gingrich's book contract was disclosed, Democrats have

seized the issue, questioning the propriety of his entering into an agreement with an international media mogul, Rupert Murdoch, whose companies have business matters before Congress and various federal regulatory agencies.

The controversy reached a crescendo last week during a disorderly session on the floor of the House as Republicans sought to squelch Democrats who were questioning Gingrich's contract.

On CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" Sunday, Dole said he has heard that House Republicans are fearful that the controversy will fester and continue to disrupt legislative business.

Wednesday, January 25, 1995 THE WICHITA EAGLE 3A

Chief strategist, manager named for Dole's campaign

By Tom Webb

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole on Tuesday named a pair of veteran Republicans to key posts in his budding presidential campaign.

William Lacy, 41, a longtime Dole adviser who once served as President Reagan's political director, was named deputy campaign chairman. Scott Reed, executive director of the Republican National Committee, will be Dole's campaign manager. The two begin work Feb. 1.

Lacy, who will be the campaign's chief strategist, ran Dole's 1992 Senate campaign in Kansas and was a senior adviser during Dole's 1988 presidential campaign. "I've been signed on (with Dole) for a long time," Lacy said.

Reed, who was chief of staff to Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, will manage all campaign operations. During his tenure, Dole's staff said, the RNC has raised and spent more than \$100 million and the Republicans have gained control of Congress.

Still to be filled is the post of campaign chairman, who will be "a senior figure," said campaign

spokeswoman Kathryn Coombs. With Lacy and Reed on board, JoAnne Coe becomes finance director of the Bob Dole for President campaign.

Dole is expected to formally announce that he's running for president in late March or early April.

14A THE WICHITA EAGLE Monday, January 23, 1995

Dole casts doubt on some GOP ideas

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, a master of the politically possible, told fellow Republicans Sunday what's impossible, including a tough version of the balanced budget amendment and repeal of the ban on some assault weapons.

Dole also had a word of caution for House Speaker Newt Gingrich, suggesting he may need to take further steps to calm the furor over his lucrative book deal.

Dole, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," sought to bring a sense of reality to some of the more ambitious Republican proposals for reforming the government. He said that although he favors a provision in the balanced budget amendment that would require a three-fifths majority to raise taxes in the future, "I don't think there are the votes."

The provision has strong backing in the House, particularly among GOP freshmen who say Congress needs stronger obstacles to future tax increases if the amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

"We ought to make the effort" to put the three-fifths clause in the amendment, Dole said. But, "If you can't get that provision, we ought to go out and still do the balanced budget amendment without it."

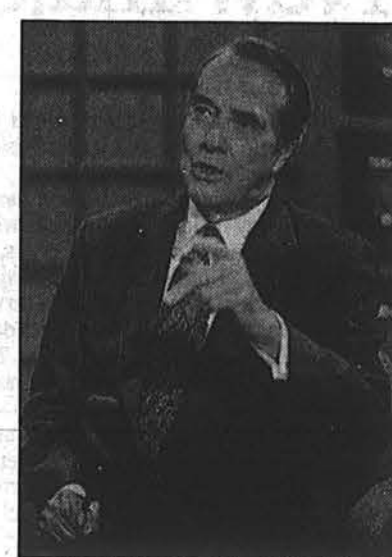
Dole said a repeal of the ban on some assault weapons would not pass the Senate. Republicans will bring up a crime bill, but the focus will be on other issues, such as curbing illegal immigration and deporting illegal aliens convicted of felonies, he said.

Dole also said he opposes two ideas that many Republicans want to see as part of welfare reform — cutting off aid to teenage mothers and denying public assistance to legal aliens.

"I don't think it's going to happen," he said of proposals to cut off benefits to teenage mothers who don't get jobs. "Somebody has to take care of the child, in this case children — babies having babies, in effect."

On legal aliens, he said, "If they are here under our law, then I think we have some obligation."

Dole also indicated that his deci-



Sen. Bob Dole appears on CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday in Washington.

sion to run for president in 1996 is all but certain.

"We've probably made it (the decision), but we're going to make it formal" in April, he said.

The Sunday news programs continued to be dominated by the controversy over Gingrich's book deal with a publishing company owned by Rupert Murdoch, who has been seeking congressional help in a media ownership dispute with federal regulators.

Dole praised Gingrich's decision to give up a \$4.5 million advance and settle instead for \$1 and royalties on book sales. But, he added, "If this is going to cause his colleagues and his party any problem, then he's going to have to find some other way to deal with it."

Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Democrats are continuing to vilify Gingrich over the book deal because "they come onto the battlefield of issues unarmed, and that's why they stoop to this kind of stuff."

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, speaking on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," theorized that Gingrich was having a problem going from "what was generally attack dog in the minority" to speaker.

Hutchinson News Saturday, January 28, 1995 Page 3

Dole questions south-of-the-border bailout

By Ray Hemman

The Hutchinson News

Before Congress considers a \$40 billion loan bailout for Mexico, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole would like to know the answer to one question:

Who is being bailed out? During his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas media, Dole, R-Kan., said his office phones have been "ringing off the wall" with calls from Kansans concerned about another bailout for Mexico.

Dole has been supportive of efforts to help Mexico with its financial problems, but he isn't ready to sign an unlimited line of credit.

"When someone says '\$40 billion,' that's the end of the argument," Dole said, referring to responses from telephone callers.



'It's a gift, and it's going to cost us \$40 billion.'

— Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole

"As far as many callers are concerned, that is foreign aid or it's not a loan. It's a gift, and it's going to cost us \$40 billion. They can think of a lot of things we ought to do with that."

And the Kansan believes several questions must be answered before Congress approves the loan money. Central to the questions is who exactly is being bailed out.

"Are we bailing out Wall Street

believes the United States could see an increase in illegal immigration, cheap goods being dumped onto the market in this country, and a lack of economic development in Mexico.

In fielding calls over Mexico, Dole and his staff have sensed the rekindling of an old battle that many thought was past.

"Some people are reflagging NAFTA ..." the senator said, referring to the North American Free Trade Agreement. "I don't see any relationship between the two, but people can make that conclusion."

Also during the press conference, Dole said three Kansans will introduce Agriculture Secretary-designate Dan Glickman to the committee, which will consider his confirmation. In addition to Dole, Kansas Sen. Nancy Kas-

sebaum and Kansas Rep. Pat Roberts will join Glickman. No timetable has been set for that appearance.

Dole said he hopes Glickman is confirmed soon in order to get work on the 1995 farm bill under way.

Glickman, a Wichita Democrat, was defeated in his bid for reelection in November by Todd Tiahrt. The Wichitan was a leading candidate for the post two years earlier when it went to Mike Espy, who ended up resigning last fall in the midst of an ethics controversy.

Most observers believe Congress will not begin work on the 1995 farm bill until later this spring after the GOP "100-day" agenda is moved through Congress.

The Salina Journal

2 Saturday, January 28, 1995

Dole sees fireworks in Senate on budget

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anticipating Democratic delaying tactics, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole predicted Friday there will be "fireworks" when senators take up the balanced budget amendment.

"It's going to be a long struggle," the Kansas Republican said. "I hope we can do it."

Dole said he believes supporters are "one or two" over the 67 votes necessary to pass an amendment to the Constitution in the Senate. But he said Democrats, led by Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, will use the rules to block the measure.

"I think you're going to see a lot of fireworks in the Senate," he said.



Dole

The amendment would mandate a balanced federal budget by 2002 if passed by the Senate and ratified by three-quarters of the states. The House approved it Thursday night on a 300-132 vote, with all four Kansas representatives voting in favor.

"People are tired of a bloated federal government that can't balance its books and can't keep its promises," said Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan.

In the Senate, the rules provide for unlimited debate unless 60 senators agree to stop. Dole said Democrats already are rounding up at least 40 to demand changes in the balanced budget amendment.

"It's that the case, it could be a big, big problem," Dole said. Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said the Democrats would continue to ensure every item on the GOP agenda is given close scrutiny.