

Pool Report

Pool report on Dole-Bush meeting--

Sen. Dole and the Vice President stood behind Dole's desk in his Capitol office. ~~On either side~~ Republican senators past and present stood on either side. Dole read his remarks while Bush stood beside him with his hands clasped behind his back, nodding occasionally. ^a When Dole bashed the Democrats, the senators said: "Hear, Hear" and "Amen."

After Dole finished, he put his arm around Bush's shoulder and clapped him on the back. Then the two shook hands while the senators applauded.

Bush then made his brief remarks which accented the unity theme. He said how much he appreciated Dole holding the reception and said "no one could possibly be more gracious than Bob Dole."

"I think the party is unified," Bush said.

He said he didn't like "certain aspects of the primaries, trying to find differences ~~at~~ with someone with whom I have so much in common."

"I don't like that part as much as I look forward now to going after the Democrats," Bush said. ^E He went on to talk about the differences between the Republicans and Democrats which "are so clear." He said he was not going to ~~set~~ back, but planned to go to primary states to discuss those differences.

^u Bush got his biggest hand when he said ~~that~~ he would be speaking about "the need to get control of the Senate again."

"I will do my part and I'm not going to be outworked by any of those Democrats," Bush said.

He finished by thanking Dole again for his "most gracious statement." Everyone applauded and then everyone left, heading for lunch because the fare was sparse at the reception.

Dorothy Collin

P.S. The atmosphere was cordial and correct. There was no great enthusiasm nor was there any tension. It was a meeting of political people doing what is best for their party.