

125 1978-79

Dole evaluates election results

By Jean Christensen

WASHINGTON — Senator Bob Dole, R-Missouri, who wants to run for President, needs a strong Republican Party to give him any hope of success.

Since he lost his bid for vice-president in 1976, Dole has crisscrossed the country, speaking in nearly every state, often in behalf of Republican candidates. He has also set up a political action committee to finance his travels in support of Republicans.

The elections last week gave him reason to be pleased.

In a statement released by his office Dole contented Republicans are building "solid power base."

In Kansas the Senator's only disappointment was the loss of Governor Robert Bennett to John Carlin. Republicans expected to lose Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Whitaker, but they won the rest of the state's seats in Congress, beating incumbent Democrat Martha Keyes of Manhattan and replacing a retiring senator and a House member.

"As a result of Tuesday's election, Republicans now control the govern-



DOLE LIKED what he saw election night saying Republicans are building a "solid power base."

norships in all the populous states in the Midwest," Dole said, apparently ignoring Missouri, as well as Kansas. "If we can build on this strength now, we will go into the 1980 election year with a strong base of support from the far west and these big industrial midwestern states."

"The same thing happened in 1966, when we established a pattern of support in these states and shipped away at the Democrats' traditional power base in the northeast and south."

Dole said Republicans have traditionally drawn candidates for federal office from the state legislatures, but because of losses in state offices since 1968, Republicans have had "weaker candidates" for federal office.

This year, he said, Republicans picked up nearly 300 seats in state legislatures, "providing a pool of well-qualified candidates for the future."

But Dole conceded that Republicans have a basic problem. "Since we are a minority party, if candidates of equal qualification are presented to the voters, the Democrat will usually win."

"But," he added, "in those instances where we can show some measurable difference in the quality of the candidates, Republicans can win."

Tuesday, November 28, 1978 THE KANSAS CITY STAR 3

Dole Tries Spiel on Convention

By Thomas G. Watts

A Member of the Staff

The scene was familiar. Red, white and blue bunting and streamers hung from the ceiling. And, despite the early hour, band music filled the air.

The only differences were that the streamers read "American Hotel & Motel Association"—rather than GOP—and no one intoned over the loudspeaker, "... the next president of the United States ..."

But Sen. Bob Dole came to the rostrum anyway and proceeded with a 30-minute political address before an appreciative group of hotel and motel owners at the Crown Center Hotel.

The Kansas Republican has not announced his candidacy for the 1980 presidential race. But he left little doubt at the breakfast session that that's where he is heading—even though he did not mention his off-expressed "interest" in the nation's highest job.

Dole began with a light patter of political jokes, talking about the 1976 presidential campaign, when he was the No. 2 man on the Republican ticket. Gradually he worked in messages about growing fiscal conservatism and the need for positive leadership.

While encouraging the 1,800 dele-

gates at the convention to spend a little money in Kansas before leaving the area, Dole said, "Kansas City, Missouri, is a very special place for me. In 1976 the Republicans had a little meeting here."

He said that when he answered the telephone call from President Gerald Ford asking him to be Ford's running mate, "I said 'yes' before I identified myself, thinking he had the wrong number."

The senator joked that he consulted a seer named Zeldia about who would be the next vice president. When she told him he would be the one, "I said, 'Thank you, Zeldia.' She said, 'Thank you, Fritz.'"

Dole began mixing his political message with the jokes and said, "I'm not going to stand here and say I have all the answers. I'm not sure President Carter has all the answers."

"He's come a long way," Dole said, and added, "When the new pope was elected, (Carter) sent a telegram saying, 'Congratulations and tell the misbegotten hell.' He's learned a lot about foreign policy."

He told the conventioners that they understand many of the frustrations of the American public because they deal with them every day and, as business-

men, they understand the need for fiscal conservatism.

He predicted the next Congress would be far more conservative than its predecessor, saying the success of Proposition 13 in California and its resulting political fallout throughout the nation was a lesson for all officeholders.

"It cured the hard-hearing in Washington," Dole said of the California tax-cutting amendment.

The senator said it is unfair for Republicans to blame all the nation's economic ills on the president and the Democrats. "If we're unwilling to make that move—that we're going to tighten our belts—then whatever we say isn't going to have much impact on this audience or anyone else," he said.

Dole criticized proposals for labor law reform, saying they are "labor organizers' bills" to help unions bolster their sagging memberships. Of conservative hopes of limiting labor reform, he said, "You may as well kiss that goodbye. It's not going to happen in the 96th Congress."

And the senator attacked excessive government regulations that constrict the business community—drawing loud cheers. "We've got to free up the

business community," he said, "give it a chance to expand."

Dole said businessmen and the American public as a whole are fed up with often-conflicting regulations of such federal agencies as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, that are "foisted on the American business community or anyone else."

He called on the hotel and motel owners to participate more actively in U.S. politics, particularly Republican politics, and said that many persons are returning to the Republican fold now that the stigma of Watergate is beginning to fade.

"I happen to believe that the elections (on Nov. 7) were a step in the right direction. Right in two ways," he said. "I'm not talking about some right-wing nut who has his head in the sand. And to the Republican members in this audience, I'm saying we have had a problem with that in the past."

He said the perception by many Americans that the Republican Party was arch-conservative had hurt the party's efforts to gain a broad base of support in the past. But he said he feels that perception is changing.

Dole said national leaders ought to give bi-partisan support to what is good for the country.

10 Running for 'the big banana'

The Salina Journal, Monday, January 1, 1979

Bob Dole plans no changes in strategy

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A few months ago Gerald Ford told Bob Dole he had no objection if his 1976 running-mate entered the 1980 New Hampshire primary.

So Dole opened the throttle on his ill-concealed but not-formally-announced bid for the 1980 GOP presidential nomination.

One of his interesting recent steps has been to add to his Senate staff two presumably liberal advisers — a move Dole, darling of many a conservative, says was made not because of their ideology but because of their familiarity with New England.

In an interview, the Kansas Republican denied the addition of Bob Waite as press secretary and Rick Smith as speech writer signaled a move of his own toward the left.

Useful contacts

But he did say, in effect, the two former aides to outgoing Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., could be useful in opening contacts with the liberal wing of the party.

Besides Dole, Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., Reps. John Anderson and Phil Crane, R-Ill., former Treasury Secretary John Connally, former CIA director George Bush, Illinois Gov. Jim Thompson and, of course, Ronald Reagan, are in the running for the nomination.

Dole, however, has said he will not make the race if Ford wants another shot.

"He obviously knows what we're all doing," Dole says of the man who surprisingly picked him to run against the Carter-Mondale ticket in 1976.

"He said, 'Keep doing what you're doing.' And we talked about 1980, and I think he pretty much said to me what he said to everybody else — he wouldn't get into the early primaries. He didn't have a candidate."

"I told him, 'Well, I certainly don't want to get involved in this if you're going to run,' and 'What about my entering the New Hampshire primary?' He said, 'There's no problem.' Dole recounted, taking pains to note Ford specifically disavowed rumors that he tacitly was backing Bush.

Dole thinks his campaign, embodied in 259 events in 42 states during 1978 — including five trips to New Hampshire — is doing "quite well. But I also know that Reagan is light years ahead of us now. And underscore now."

The next six or eight months, he says, will clear the crowded field considerably. The task is to raise money, build an organization and stake out a definable constituency.

Dole has the organizational vehicle already in his "Campaign America" political action committee. And he has a voting record in the 90 percent conservative range.

Does the hiring of Waite and Smith signal a move — however slight — to the left?

Dole says he doesn't even know their politics but thinks they will "probably agree" with him on most issues.

"And of course they know the territory pretty well in that part of the country" where the primaries come early. "They have contacts. They know the people in the business. If they know the people, maybe I can get to know the people."

Dole also indicates that while his instinct for the jocular still thrives, running for "the big banana," as he calls the 1980 prize, requires a slightly more subtle approach than he used in 1976 when he was Ford's "hatchet man" in attacking the Democrats.

"I've been under the pressure, and I don't say I always responded the way I

liked — you look back and you probably could have done better — you know, it's a lot of pressure, even running in the No. 2 spot."

"I think that has to change. Now you're cast in the role where you're the

leader. You're on the firing line, but in a little different way. You're not the advance party. If you're really serious about this, everything you say once you get your hat in the ring is serious business."

Won't yield reputation

On the other hand, he is not about to yield his reputation as one of the best out-and-out partisan slashers — a senator whose office must consume dozens of trees a year in putting out publicity releases on topics ranging from China to cruelty to rabbits.

"You've got to be able to get people to respond. You know the old story. You've got to feed them a little raw meat now and then. I mean you've got to toss something out there that people want. They want to know you're different."

"... Hopefully, we can develop that in a positive way — when they see you standing up they'll know you're going to say something that you believe and you're not going to waffle on it."

Dole never has tired of picking on Walter Mondale, a verbal sparring partner in past Senate debates and, of course, his successful counterpart in 1976.

He keeps it up, without mentioning the vice president by name. Mondale decided in 1974 not to run for the White House because he had neither "the overwhelming desire to be president" nor the tolerance for two years of sleeping in Holiday Inns.

"It's one thing to sit around with your friends and talk about the issues. It's another thing to be out on the hustings under a lot of pressure," says Dole.

"... I think I've been able to demonstrate I can stand it. And I don't dislike Holiday Inns. Or Howard Johnsons. Or Ramada Inns."

Peking route planned

THE HAGUE (UPI) — Holland and mainland China have agreed to open an air route for their airlines, KLM and CAAC, between Amsterdam and Peking. The date remains to be negotiated, the transport ministry says.

40—Topeka Capital Journal, Sunday, January 7, 1979

Dole's gestures heroic in Taiwan

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole is a hero in Taiwan.

His exalted position is understandable since the Kansas Republican reacted with vengeance to President Carter's mid-December announcement that the United States was shifting official diplomatic relations from Taipei to Peking.

In rapid succession, Dole said the administration "caved in" to mainland China's demands that the U.S. sever ties with Taiwan, called for a complete Foreign Relations Committee investigation of future U.S.-Taiwanese relations, and sent a telegram to Carter saying that the China policy clearly violates a Dole-sponsored amendment requiring the President to consult Congress before any changes are made in a mutual defense treaty with Taiwan.

Even though he said normalization of relations with mainland China probably was inevitable, Dole said the United States cannot afford to abandon allies and friends for short-term political gains.

He invited President Chiang Ching-kuo to come to the United States for urgent consultations on defending Taiwan. Chiang declined Dole's invitation because of pressing work in Taiwan. Dole said he was disappointed but pleased by Chiang's "gracious response."

Heroes are made from such words and gestures.

The Taiwanese embassy in Washington followed up Dole's invitation by sending H. K. Yang, vice foreign minister, in Chiang's stead. Dole and the Taiwanese official met last week in Dole's office for about a half hour.

Yang informed Dole that he was "very popular" in Taiwan. Dole responded by saying he has a few legislative ideas to insure that the United States continues to live up to the mutual defense treaty. He declined to reveal them.

"We've had a couple ideas. We don't want to give our hand away yet," Dole said in a brief interview after Yang departed.

He evidently will seek to nail down official congressional opposition to substituting mainland China for Taiwan in any of some 58 treaties now in effect between the United States and the island republic.

He also reportedly will work toward maintaining some official government liaison or mission office in Taiwan, similar to the type of U.S. office open in Peking before the policy change.

His main concern is that the United States continue to honor the defense commitments to Taiwan. Dole said Yang considers as pure propaganda any mainland China overtures for a peaceful solution to the Taiwan question.

Dole said the Taiwanese believe it is crucial that pro-Taiwan members of Congress stay together to resolve the defense question.

"They would like to work with the Congress because they feel they have more friends in Congress than in the administration," he said.

A CUP OF BEAN SOUP AND SOME BROMIDE, PLEASE — The Senate dining room, abuzz with gossip as usual, was the setting last week for some gupping staff members of three potential Republican presidential aspirants, including Dole. Their common dining time was spiced by a local newspaper column that heralded a late January visit to Washington by Ronald Reagan. The column said Reagan plans to woo Republican congressional members

over to his side as part of a strategy to get the nomination locked up at least a year in advance of state primaries.

Besides Dole aides, others who shared the newspaper glimpses were staffers for Sens. Howard Baker of Tennessee and Lowell Weicker Jr. of Connecticut.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN — Rep. Robert L. "Bob" Whittaker and his aides are still scratching their heads about Joe Skubitz's decision to resign on the last day of 1978. The decision of the retired GOP 5th District congressman sent state officials into a minor scramble to figure out how to reconcile state law on congressional succession with the U.S. Constitution.

Skubitz, who resigned only three days before his term officially expired, was under a mistaken belief that Whittaker would gain some seniority over other freshman GOP House members, according to Whittaker and Chuck Pike, Whittaker's administrative assistant. House rules have no such provision although the Constitution provides seniority in the Senate, they said.

Gov. Robert F. Bennett has signed a proclamation stating that Whittaker can assume the unexpired term of Skubitz. The U.S. Constitution requires a special election to fill unexpired terms but since that was impractical, state officials dredged up a nine-year-old state law that said the November general election meets the constitutional requirements for a special election.

In the legal confusion, Whittaker was waiting for the official proclamation from the governor's office.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE — Whittaker, his right big toe throbbing because he dropped a chest of drawers on it as he was moving into his Virginia home, slowly began to get his office organized last week and expressed mild pleasure at all the amenities available to members of Congress.

A former state legislator from Augusta, Whittaker looked at his private office and recalled that in Topeka, three House members and a secretary would share the same amount of space. He was equally thrilled at the number of typewriters at his disposal.

Walking around in stocking feet to ease the pain in his badly mashed toe, Whittaker was distressed at the amount of mail already stacking up. His office, however, was organized. Desks and staff members were mostly in place and only the phones needed connection.

Phones and just about everything else needed connection in the office of 2nd District Republican Rep. Jim Jeffries. Stanley Armstrong, Jeffries' administrative assistant, and a personal secretary were the only ones in the office. Their attendance was sporadic as they ran to different places for necessary items. The bare bones look matched the walls, more spackled than painted. Armstrong said he was thankful members had from Jan. 3 to Jan. 15 — the date they are sworn into office — to get organized. Jeffries was driving to Washington in the van he used during the campaign. He was scheduled to arrive here Sunday.

Democratic Rep. Dan Glickman switched offices, taking over the suite formerly occupied by Pat Schroeder of Colorado. Glickman's new office was a cluster of desks, lamps, bookcases and files for awhile. The most striking part of Glickman's new office are the high sections of wall, decorated with colorful paper cutouts of mountains and pine trees, not at all like Kansas.

Mrs. Judy Aitken, administrative assistant to former 2nd District Democratic Rep. Martha Keyes, has a new job. She has joined the staff of Keyes' husband, Democratic Rep. Andy Jacobs Jr. of Indiana. She is officially called a "special assistant" to Jacobs and her duties will include work on the Ways and Means Committee.