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# Dole discusses his bid for president

L.A. Times-Washington Post Service  
In the following interview with the Los Angeles Times, Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas discussed his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination, the campaign and the issues.

**SCHEER: Is the president milking the Afghan crisis for political purposes?**

**DOLE:** I see it as a diversion from the Iran thing — the hype is running out, there's not much more mileage in Iran unless the hostages are freed, so while they're trying to figure out some way to pull that off you'd better focus on some other explosive thing like Afghanistan. And then you talk about embargoes, Olympics, and all these things, and that suddenly it's got the people thinking about patriotism and sacrifice. I asked National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, 'Isn't there a lot of focus off Iran?' Well, he didn't say yes or no, but I think I got the message. I think there is a little diversion going on — trying to pump up that leadership. And since '78 they, the Russians, have controlled Afghanistan. And I wonder about the word 'invasion' — I guess it's an invasion, but they've had the country for 20 months. Suddenly it's like it's just happened overnight — and this great friend of the West has been taken over by the Soviets. You know, how many people have been focusing on Afghanistan in the last 20 months?

**SCHEER: Well the administration's concern is that a lot of Russian troops were put in suddenly.**

**DOLE:** I understand that, but the point is that the Soviets had control, really, since April '78.

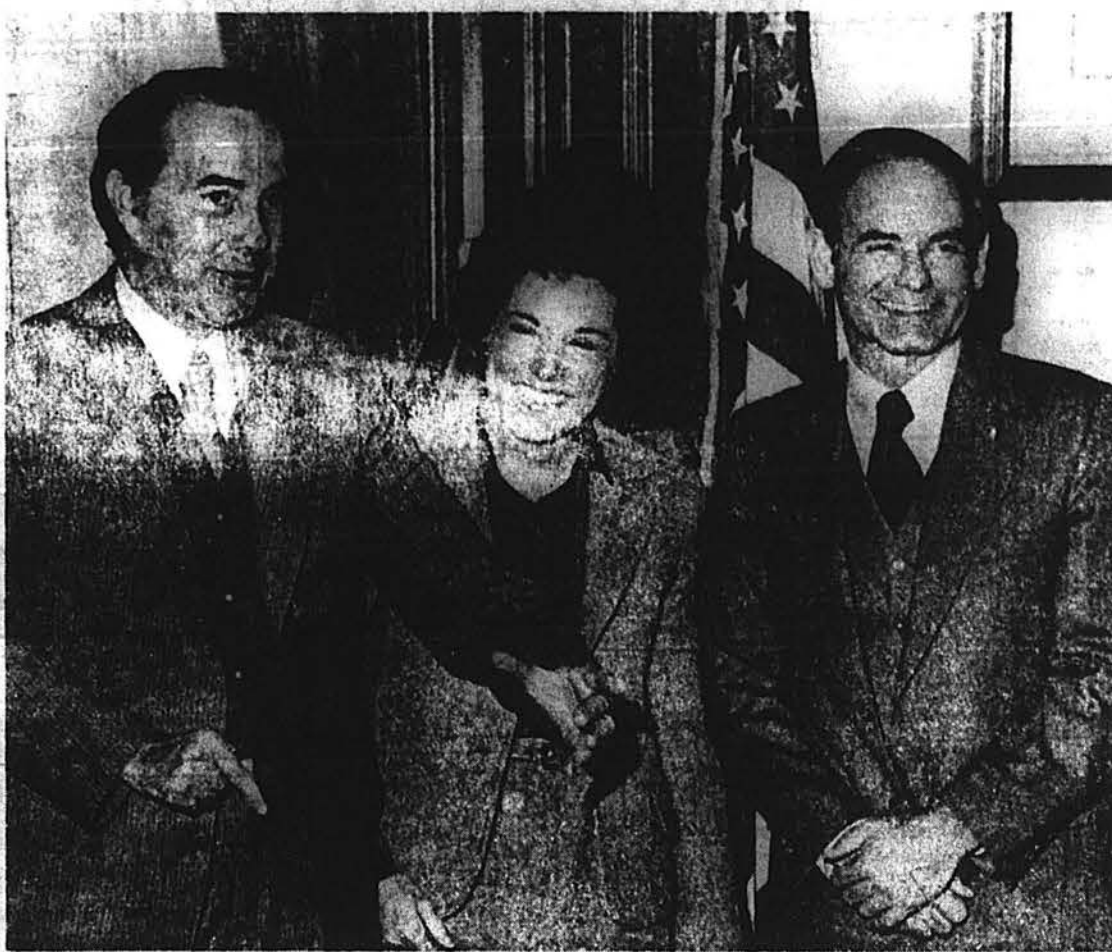
**SCHEER: So it might be an election gimmick?**

**DOLE:** It might — if they can keep it hyped up.

**SCHEER: But Soviet tanks are roaming all over Afghanistan, which is an expansion into a sensitive region. On Vietnam you were a hawk. If you were president, would you be tougher than Carter?**

**DOLE:** I've been saying you have to watch all the macho talk, all these people running around beating their breasts and saying we're going to do this and we're going to do this and we're going to make the Russians face up to these things. If you're running for the presidency, you'd better be careful what you say, because you may be nominated and elected. There's always a tendency, when you've got a group out there, to try to bring them out of their chairs with a lot of jingoistic rhetoric. I hope I'm balanced, I hope I'm firm — not tough and nasty but firm — and would do what I had to do, but I'd have to rely on a lot of good advice and I'd want good advisers, and I'd want to study the intelligence and then I'll make a judgment.

**SCHEER: Are you still opposed to reviving the draft, and registration —**



Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, laughed along with Iowa Gov. Bob Ray Friday at a press conference in the governor's office. Gov. Ray has remained neutral in the Republican presidential campaign.

**do you still believe in a voluntary Army?**

**DOLE:** 'Been talking to Bill Cohen and Bill Proxmire and George McGovern — it just seems to us if we had some emergency, certainly we're not going to stand there and say, 'Well, we shouldn't call anybody up.' But if you look at the Defense Department study, as far as manpower call-up, you're not going to gain that much and why go out and frustrate and discourage a lot of young people who are still trying to get over the Vietnam tragedy, and make them go down and sign their life away, in effect — even registration is offensive to some. We can do it by beefing up the Selective Service system, computerizing the system, and we can have it rolling.

**SCHEER: Your reputation is that of a tough conservative, but you're coming out differently in the campaign.**

**DOLE:** Next to John Anderson, I'm probably the next in line as to moderate. I'm basically conservative but I'm not going to sit there when I see a problem and just hold up my negative hand and say well, that's too bad, the people can go without food stamps or they can go without benefits, that's the way the

ball bounces; that's not true. Some people never have the ball bounce. It's not their fault. You know, it's hard, once you have the reputation, and maybe it's my own fault, maybe I made it myself. But you know there is a tendency by some to put you in little pigeon holes, the right wing is here, the moderates are there, and the liberals are here. And I may have started out in one group, and moved to the other, but nobody ever noticed it.

**SCHEER: In terms of your image, the most harsh aspect is that some people think of you as the chairman of the Republican Party who was in there swinging for Richard Nixon, be it on Cambodia, be it on Watergate, Carwell, and so forth. Do you feel this is still a burden you're carrying?**

**DOLE:** I don't feel this is a burden. I got tied into the Carwell nomination and frankly I think I'd like to take that vote back, but I can't.

**SCHEER: Do you have any other regrets about any of that Nixon period?**

**DOLE:** I thought I was independent in rejecting more of the garbage that you used to get from different people in the White House ... but the party chairman by virtue of the office has got to be

the party spokesman and if the president in this case can't say it — if it's too political or something, then somebody outside the administration, like the chairman, says it ... (As to regrets) I remember making a speech in Baltimore about the Washington Post — it was a very tough speech. I may have referred to Ramsey Clark one time as a left-leaning marshmallow, nothing serious but it means he was soft — some of those things ... today I certainly wouldn't be interested in that ...

**SCHEER: One of the reasons you have the reputation as a hardliner is your frequent caustic remarks about liberals. For instance, you once said that "William Douglas should have been impeached a long time ago." You also charged that Common Cause was associated with the left-wing movement in the United States. Do you in any way regret any of those statements?**

**DOLE:** I don't have any quarrel with Common Cause, but I think they have been associated with the liberal wing. Douglas — I don't know what I said about that anymore but I didn't agree with Douglas but I didn't think I wanted to impeach him because he married

some young girl — that never bothered me. I think Jerry Ford has some flap with him, can't remember what it was.

**SCHEER: What's your assessment of Kennedy as a senator? You've been in close contact with him for 17 years.**

**DOLE:** I think he's a good senator. I don't always agree with him but he's got a good staff, he's smart. I think he does his homework, he's effective from the standpoint he has influence. You know when Kennedy offers an amendment, you've got X number of votes to start with. I mean he's got that much clout.

**SCHEER: You say he's smart, yet in these interviews on television and so forth he seems to be coming off as inarticulate ... what's going on?**

**DOLE:** I don't know, I think he surely must have anticipated this would happen — the Chappaquiddick thing is a tough one to deal with, that might unsettle anyone, I don't know. But I've been a little surprised frankly at sort of the stumbling way the campaign got started. You expect from a Kennedy, you know, for everything to be perfectly scheduled and matched and everything happens on the second it's supposed to happen. It hasn't happened yet, but I still think when you watch Kennedy against Carter, that Kennedy is much superior as far as exciting the audience.

**SCHEER: Do you feel he's superior in his grasp of the issues?**

**DOLE:** I think so. I think he may be misguided on some but I think he understands the issues much better than Carter.

**SCHEER: Do you think Chappaquiddick should be an issue?**

**DOLE:** No.

**SCHEER: Why not?**

**DOLE:** I think maybe from the standpoint of judgment but to get into all the gore and the horror stories and all the smart jukes you hear around everywhere you go, it's sort of sick ... I remember in '76, Mondale used to say we're not going to raise Watergate as an issue, we're not going to raise that as an issue, then he'd go into his speech. My God, he'd already killed us over the opening.

**SCHEER: Which Republicans do you think would be the most effective aside from yourself against the Democrats?**

**DOLE:** Maybe Howard Baker, someone with experience.

**SCHEER: Not Bush?**

**DOLE:** I don't know about Bush. I think now Bush has got the momentum in Iowa, at least he's got the organization, and so the rest of us are all trying to finish third. If I could finish third, that would be so much higher than some believe that it would be a victory for me, it might even overshadow Bush's finishing second because he's had it virtually to himself for a year and a half.

**SCHEER: What about Dole?**

**DOLE:** Well, we've got to do some good in Iowa and New Hampshire.

## DISABLED USA U3#8 '80 An Interview With Senator Dole

"I know disabled people are out there, but I don't know how you're ever going to get the groups and the individuals together. You've got the ear people and the kidney people and the paraplegics."

The words are those of U.S. Senator Bob Dole, the Kansas Republican who, until mid-March was a candidate for his party's Presidential nomination.

Disabled himself by a serious wound sustained in World War II, Dole achieved national recognition as President Ford's running mate in 1976, and has long been identified with the rights and opportunities of America's handicapped people.

During his own bid for the Presidency, he was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying he hoped to build his effort, at least in part, on a constituency of "farmers and disabled people."

To Dole, the handicapped are a constituency, but one which has historically failed to maximize its impact on the political process. In a recent interview in his Capitol Hill office, he suggested some of the problems and some of the potential that he sees in the movement to organize the 30 million Americans who have disabilities.

"It seems to me," he explained, "that disabled people are a special interest group—maybe it would be more precise to say a group in which we should have a special interest."

"There should be some way to do it, because disability cuts across party

lines, it cuts across ethnic lines, it cuts across color lines. It's larger than the traditional party structure, yet to date, it has remained a sleeping giant.

"They're out there," Dole said of disabled people, "and they ought to be in the mainstream, participating. That may sound selfish when a politician like me says it, I don't know about the Democratic Party, but in our Party there hasn't been any real effort made to start a dialogue with all these millions of people."

A former National Chairman of the GOP, Dole speaks from authority when he expresses concern about the relationship between America's politicians and her handicapped citizens. "I've asked questions as I've gone around the country, question like, 'How many disabled people are here in this meeting tonight?' Well, not everybody is going to stand up or roll their wheelchair into the aisle, but you know from watching the door that there aren't any to begin with. It's hard enough to see from a practical political standpoint ... when you think of your own involvement in the issue, your own special relationship, then it practically breaks your heart."

When asked about the role of disabled people in his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, Dole cited two examples to prove his contention that, in politics, "disabled people can be quite successful."

"My chairman in one of the New England States, a man in a wheelchair who holds a State office himself, put together an effective campaign when he was running himself. However, things came to such a pass in our campaign that he quit in disgust," he said, smiling wryly. "One of my leaders in Florida, in the Tampa area, was a woman who uses a wheelchair, so I know some disabled people are out there and working effectively in politics."

Regarding the upcoming Presidential election, Dole focused his attention on party platforms. "There ought to be

some way to get the attention of the Democrats and the Republicans, either at the platform hearings or somewhere else along the line. I certainly hope disabled people have gotten themselves organized enough to have an impact on the party platforms.

"The main thing is that they be active, whether they're Democrats, Republicans or Independents. They should be where they have the most strength. They should speak up as loudly and persistently as anyone else—but the key is organization."

Senator Dole made the telling point that disabled people are involved in politics already, although in ways that do not always serve their own best interests. "The politics within different groups of disabled people make our two-party system look tame."

"About 10 years ago I decided that we were always talking about handicapped and disabled persons and what we ought to be doing. The fact is, we were talking more than we were acting, and we hadn't really developed a cohesive or united front among the various groups. So, once when I was getting ready to make a speech on the floor of the Senate, I asked all the different disability interest groups from around town to get together."

"What happened next was a textbook illustration of the problems affecting the politics of disability. Some had never met each other. It was as if they had been saying, 'I'm dealing with hearts, not kidneys, and I don't want anybody messing around with this heart area. This is my constituency, and I don't want you trying to invade it.' I can understand that—it's called politics, but I don't know if it's good for disabled people."

Dole stresses the need for disabled people to come of age politically. "Having disabled people get elected to office is very important, not only for awareness. For example, right now Nancy Kassebaum is the only woman in the Senate. Well, there should be 25 more—and

some people say 50 more, which would give women all the power." He smiled. "It's a lot like that for disabled people."

"Strangely enough, we find that many of the 'lobbyists' for different disability groups aren't handicapped themselves. If a group doesn't have enough confidence to have one of its own up front saying, 'We're here for the whatever-it-is,' it really blunts their impact. Yet that's often the case. Generally, it's some 'whole' person they send to Capitol Hill."

Dole professes to see some optimistic signs. "I think the transition to disabled people representing themselves is coming of age. Now there's some kind of evolution. Disabled people have been through it and they understand it. The able-bodied person can be outstanding in his or her own way, but isn't the same. An individual with a cause or an experience can state the case better than anybody else."

In closing, Dole reiterated, "Disabled people are out there. I just don't know how we'll get in contact to put it all together with them politically."

Looking back, it seems that Dole may have said more than he knew. If an experienced politician with a personal interest in disabled people and a commitment to their political activity and well-being—on either side of the party line—doesn't know how we're going to get it together politically, that says something. It says that disabled people must overcome the tendency to protect "our territory" and we must quit our own political infighting.

It means we have to come forward and be willing to get involved. In this election year, we have to start making enough moves and changes so that in two years, or four years, no politician will wonder where we are.

Senator Dole, your message came through loud and clear.

— Lynn Park  
Ms. Park is on the Communications staff of the President's Committee

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## Pressure mounts for Dole to quit

By ROGER MYERS  
Statehouse Writer

The head of Sen. Bob Dole's Senate campaign in Kansas said Thursday he has urged Dole to withdraw from the presidential race, and to make the announcement during Kansas Day this weekend.

Dave Owen at Stanley, Dole's Senate campaign chairman, returned to Kansas Thursday from Washington where he visited an estimated 90 minutes with Dole, whose presidential bid suffered a severe jolt Monday when he finished last among Republican hopefuls in the Iowa delegate selection caucus.

"My advice to the senator was to get into the Senate race fulltime, and that the most opportune time to do it would be at Kansas Day," Owen said.

There were increasing reports that Dole would use Kansas Day, a traditional Republican celebration although through the day about whether the senior U.S. senator from Kansas would bow out during Kansas Day weekend.

Dole aides in his Topeka office said they have been receiving inquiries through the day about whether the senior U.S. senator from Kansas would bow out during Kansas Day weekend.

They said Dole has not advised his Kansas staff of any such move, although they conceded he may have made that decision and is withholding announcement until he returns to the state.

Dole is due in Topeka late Friday. His wife, Elizabeth, is scheduled to address a Kansas Federation of Republican Women luncheon at noon in the Ramada Inn Downtown.

The state's other U.S. senator, Nancy Kassebaum, is sponsoring a reception in honor of Dole starting at 8:30 a.m. Friday.

Owen said Dole had not decided what use of action to follow at the time he was in Washington early Friday.

He said the presidential race is going to be a tough struggle and that Kansas would be a sure thing.

Dole has campaigned little for reelection to the Senate and many Kansas Republicans are concerned that he is jeopardizing his seat, and the party's bid on it, by continuing to concentrate

on winning the Republican presidential nomination.

The Kansas senator, whose current six-year term expires this year, has entered his name on the New Hampshire presidential primary ballot and has spent both time and money campaigning there.

He must make a decision soon on whether to enter the Kansas presidential primary. The filing deadline for this state's presidential preferential selection is Feb. 12. The Kansas primary is April 1.

It places Dole in the dilemma of possibly having his name on the Kansas primary ballot after he has withdrawn as a candidate for the nomination.

Owen said he believes most of the people talking to Dole are advising him to abandon the presidential bid.

"From just being around the office and hearing what people were saying, I would judge that most of them are advising him to concentrate on the Senate," said Owen, who also was head of Dole's unsuccessful run for vice president of the U.S. in 1976.

The Kansas senator is receiving advice from a host of Republicans, both home state and non-Kansas.

One to whom he has not yet talked is long-time friend and prominent Kansas Republican, McDill "Huck" Boyd of Phillipsburg.

Boyd said he has been gathering comments from state Republicans on what they believe Dole should do in light of his dismal showing in Iowa, but declined to reveal the consensus until he can talk with the senator.

Boyd said he has asked Dole's staff in Washington to have the senator call him, and if they fail to make contact he definitely will sit down with Dole while the senator is in Topeka for Kansas Day.

"I don't want to comment until I can sit down with him and tell him what people out here are saying," Boyd said.

"But I'm going to have to be honest with him," he said, indicating he also will say the consensus is that the presidential adventure should be dropped.

"He's a strong-willed individual and quite a scrapper," Boyd said.

Dole has said in Washington he will decide "in a few days" whether to continue with his quest for the GOP presi-

dential nomination, lending some credence to reports Dole will announce his withdrawal from the presidential sweepstakes on Kansas Day.

Boyd said Dole needs to decide "pretty quickly so his friends will know what to do."

Owen said a Senate re-election campaign organization for Dole already is in place, with chairmen in key locations throughout the state.

"We're sitting on ready, waiting for him to tell us which way he wants to go," the Dole Senate campaign chairman said.

Owen had said earlier he believes Dole wants to stay in the presidential race until at least the New Hampshire primary, which is scheduled for Feb. 26.

"He feels it is a different sort of test because New Hampshire is an actual primary and Iowa wasn't. I think he wants to measure his strength in both types of activity," Owen said.

In New Hampshire, voters will select delegates to the nominating conventions according to their percentage of the vote for the various candidates. The Iowa vote picked delegates to later caucuses where delegates actually will be selected.

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