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Ben Harris/Salina Journal

Sen. Bob Dole answers questions Monday morning from the public during a stop at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Dole brings home good news

Discount store, crop relief on tap to aid Russell area

By ALAN STOLFUS
Journal Staff Writer

RUSSELL — Sen. Bob Dole brought news of economic development and relief to his hometown Monday.

A new discount store will open soon in Russell, and Congress will draw up a crop disaster-relief bill when it returns from its summer recess, he said.

Also, wheat prices should rise this fall after the Soviet Union buys \$500 million worth of grain, and \$900,000 worth of improvements at Wilson Lake will create new jobs for the area.

Monday was the third day of a nine-day tour of Kansas for Dole. Beginning the day in Russell, he made stops in Ellsworth and Minneapolis before going on to scheduled stops in Concordia, Beloit and Osborne.

Dole announced that a Parnida discount store soon will open in the old TG&Y building in the Klema Plaza in Russell. An announcement will be made later about the store's opening date and how many employees it will have.

The senator said he was looking out for his constituents by trying to win approval for the Wilson Lake project. Dole originally had suggested the lake be designated a national recrea-

tion area.
The senator was criticized by some for seeking national status for the lake.

"I don't see anything wrong with trying to do something for your hometown," he said. "If I'm guilty of that, I'll plead guilty to the people in this room."

Dole said his office is working on about 15 other projects that will bring economic development to Kansas.

Included in the proposed lake improvements are new electrical and water hookups, rest rooms, an amphitheater, boat ramps, docks, fish-cleaning stations, a picnic site, a playground, a new swimming area and public dressing rooms.

"I don't know how many people in this room will use the lake, but I bet quite a few," he said.

When Congress begins work on the disaster-relief bill, Dole will work to make sure Kansas farmers are included. Sunday's rain will help ease parched fields, but drought conditions still exist.

The relief bill could have as much as \$2 billion worth of federal funds.

Soviet grain sales this fall could mean a 25-cent boost in wheat prices. Besides the Soviet government, Soviet republics also want to buy grain, which also will help prices, he said.

The United States should sell as much grain as possible to the Soviets and China to help wheat

prices, he said. Continued sales to China will help bring changes to that country by not isolating it from the world.

The Chinese government's crushing of a pro-democracy rally in Tiananmen Square in 1989 should not be forgotten, he said. But breaking relations would only slow changes.

Soviet republics want to buy American grain to avoid the central government, which withholds grain to affect regional policies, he said.

Looking for MIAs

In Ellsworth, Dole called for a presidential commission to determine whether U.S. prisoners of war and soldiers listed as missing in action are alive in Vietnam. Several studies have been done, and some have determined no U.S. prisoners remain.

"I don't know if anyone's alive; I kind of doubt it," he said. "But if someone believes there is, we ought to check it out."

Because the issue is so emotional, the commission's findings likely would not be accepted unless someone with a strong reputation heads the commission. Dole suggested Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, who is retiring from military duty soon.

"I know he can make millions of dollars now, but if he could just take a couple of months off it would mean a lot to a lot of people," Dole said.



Photos by Ben Harris/Salina Journal

Christy Masch (left) joins a group of pro-choice advocates in asking Sen. Bob Dole about his position on abortion issues at a public meeting at the Minneapolis Country Club on Monday. Dole (above) speaks to a group in Russell earlier in the day in the first of his visits to several Kansas towns.

Dole deflects pro-choice confrontation

Senator says he believes in rights of unborn child

By ALAN STOLFUS
Journal Staff Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Sen. Bob Dole clashed Monday with pro-choice advocates over his stand on abortion.

About 25 people turned out for a public forum at the Minneapolis Country Club to question Dole about his stand on abortion issues and also the recent pay raise Congress approved for senators. More than 100 people attended the forum and a luncheon that followed.

Dole's response to the group drew laughter several times from the audience. Sometimes, Dole and members in the group argued about who had the floor to speak.

After the meeting, group members expressed their dissatisfaction with Dole's remarks.

"He was trivializing some of the issues, and we think they are pretty important," said

"I thought he knew what he was doing, but he's more like Red Skelton than a politician."

— Don Barnhart of Clay Center

Mary Rachael, a farmer and rancher from Narka.

About 25 people from Salina, Concordia, Narka, Minneapolis, Clay Center and Glasco attended the meeting to show their support for pro-choice issues.

Wearing buttons that read "Be a Voice for Choice," members of the group questioned Dole about his support for a federal policy that bans federally subsidized family planning clinics from discussing abortion as an option for pregnant women. Dole voted against a proposal that overturns the policy, they said.

Dole asked where the group got its information and said they should ask him about his voting record instead of believing newspaper

articles.
The issue of overturning the policy was not decided on a roll call vote, he said.

"I'm opposed to using federal funds for abortions," the senator said, which brought applause.

Dole said he has a pro-life opinion about abortion. But he declined to speak to Operation Rescue supporters Sunday in Wichita because he doesn't support their actions.

When Janice Norlin, Concordia, questioned Dole about leading the effort in the Senate to preserve President Bush's anticipated veto on the proposal to overturn the clinic ban, Dole asked her to wait before making up her mind on the issue.

"President Bush may not veto it," he said.

"Don't give up on that issue. We're still trying to find a solution."

The clinic issue is one of First Amendment rights, said Norlin's husband, David. If the government withholds funds from clinics over abortion, it could withhold funds to libraries and schools and dictate how they operate.

"You're entitled to your view and I'm entitled to mine," Dole replied. "I also have to vote for unborn children."

Dole speech includes disputes

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Another member of the group, Don Barnhart of Clay Center, asked Dole if the \$23,200 pay raise senators voted for themselves last week was necessary. The raise would bring Senate salaries to the same \$125,100 the House has been paid since Jan. 1.

"I thought I was entitled to what Dan Glickman makes," Dole said. U.S. Rep. Glickman, a Wichita Democrat, is considering running against Dole next year.

The pay raise was only the 17th in congressional history, Dole said. While he has been in office, he has voted against eight of 12 pay raise proposals and 22 of 27 cost-of-living increases, he said.

Barnhart and his wife, Margaret, are students at Kansas State University and have four children; they would like such a hefty pay raise, he said.