

Pg. 101-1992

Dole uses methods tried and true

Continued from page 1-E

to reducing it: "We'll just get you boys together and work it out," he says in his best Texas twang. Then he adds, "I wish I'd thought of that." The crowd eats it up.

Dole ends by saying his job "is a lot of fun. It beats working." Another standing-O.

Veda Monday, a Kansas City, Kan., councilwoman, has been "amen-ing" some of Dole's proposals during his speech.

"What he says makes sense," she says later. "What sets Dole apart is his sensitivity and pragmatism. He encourages autonomy and self-actualization. He's always delivered for Kansas."

But she's a Democrat. "You could be Godzilla. I don't care. Do you deliver?" she says.

Dole is late for his meeting with the Kansas City Star's editorial board, a brief sojourn out of Wyandotte County. He thanks a server, shakes the cashier's hand, then bids his farewell: "The Star is waiting to pick on me."

Two aides shuttle him to his meeting in a burgundy Chrysler Le Baron (Dole campaign sticker in back). By 2:30 p.m., he's looking somewhat lonely at the end of a long wooden table in a lamp-lit room of plush carpets on the Star's third floor. Four people line each side of the table. A photographer snaps pictures. Dole is being grilled, politely.

On prospects for an improved economy next year: Much of the problem is consumer lack of confidence; the economy is "not as sick as some evening news people would have you believe."

On cutting entitlements, such as Medicare: Not sure Congress has the will to act.

On campaign finance: Not in favor of public financing of campaigns; rather see reform of present system. (Dole's Federal Election Commission report filed this month shows his campaign has received more than \$1

million in contributions this year, owes \$1,500 and has more than \$1.4 million cash on hand.)

On boosting agriculture: Need increased exports; supports the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to level the playing field between nations.

On why Bush should win re-election: One reason is character.

On perceived extremism in the ranks of the Republican party: Diversity is necessary; all is well as long as the extremes aren't in control.

On perks for Congress members: "We've taken care of the so-called perks. I don't know if there are any left out there."

Wait. The Star isn't convinced on that one. They ask him about his own chauffeur-driven car. Dole bristles.

"Somebody drives me to work," Dole says. "But I drive my own car on weekends. I've never been to the Senate gym. I paid for my operation out of my insurance."

Dole entertains cutting one-quarter of government staff.

He makes a similar stop at the Kansas City Kansan. Meanwhile, somewhere in rural Wyandotte County, the four Amino brothers, all in their 70s, are grilling 200 pounds of homemade Italian sausage in anticipation of his arrival at their high-way construction company.

The company, now run by nieces and nephews, is housed in a red brick building surrounded by old truck bodies, dirt roads and scrub grass.

It's the kind of place where management finds it necessary to put up signs telling employees not to spit in the water fountains.

The brothers are big political supporters (Gov. Joan Finney included). They're serving up beer to about 50 people, some recycled from lunch, in the company basement.

A shelf against the wall sports the Finney's autographed picture ("To my beloved friends, the Aminos")

and a picture of two men on toilets, pants down, with the words, "I'm easy to please, just do it my way."

"We think a lot of Bob Dole," Victor Amino says. "He's one of the best people we've had in Washington for Kansas."

"Too bad he didn't make it as president."

At 5 p.m., the senator enters. "Hi. Bob Dole," he says as he shakes hands all round. "I'm going to try some of that good sausage."

The cigar smoke is thick as Dole sits down to sausage, Italian salad and bread with mustard. He holds court. People wait to him. Amino brings him some pasta with broccoli and parmesan.

Steiniger calls the group to attention. Dole compliments the sausage and says he will send some broccoli to Bush. (Laughter.) Dole says he appreciates all the Democrats here who are going to vote for him. They count double. (More laughter.)

He gets his picture taken. An aide tells him he's late. He's going on to a state candidate fundraiser in Johnson County, a rally for other candidates in Atchison and an Atchison vs. Effingham high school football game. He will fly to his hometown of Russell and overnight there.

"It's been a pretty easy campaign day," Dole reflects. "The weather was good. I wasn't chased by any dogs. Any day you get an endorsement by a Democratic mayor is a good day."

Sunday, October 25, 1992

Dole sticks with what works

By BARBARA JOSEPH
The Capital-Journal

It's no accident Kansas Sen. Bob Dole is in Kansas City, Kan., on this brisk Friday morning.

One of his aides says Wyandotte County is the most Democratic county in the state, and the Republican senator has been working hard here for years.

Today, Dole gets a bonus. Mayor Joe Steiniger, a Democrat, endorses Dole, and it's a gusher. "I know I'm crossing party lines here, but some things are more important," Steiniger tells a group of mostly Republicans and media people gathered at the city council chambers, where light pours in through colored-glass windows.

Steiniger adds, "Whenever I've called Senator Dole or his staff for help, the answer has always been 'yes.' I strongly support the re-election of Bob Dole."

Dole stands nearby, his war-injured hand clutching his trademark pencil. Despite surgery for prostate cancer less than a year ago, the 69-year-old looks robust in his dark-blue pinstriped suit, red tie and pristine white shirt with gold cuff links.

Steiniger lists a variety of areas in which he says Dole has helped the city.

Dole modestly accepts the praise. He will take credit for moving one of his state offices to this city but says he had a lot of help from Congress on the other kudos. He plugs one of his themes: His office serves constituents equally, regardless of party.

The Senate minority leader, seeking his fifth consecutive six-year term in Congress, also assesses his race.

"The election looks pretty good, but we keep making contacts every day," he says in his deep, gravelly voice. His own tracking polls show him besting his main opponent, Democrat Gloria O'Dell of Silver Lake, 60 percent to 20 percent.

He will debate O'Dell, independent Christina Campbell-Cline and Libertarian Mark Kirk, both of Wichita, the next night in Topeka. And as he will throughout the day, he goes for the laugh on the event's timing — smack in the middle of the World Series.

As the cameras roll, Dole hits on another of the day's themes — term limits. He's against them. As he sees it, small states such as Kansas have their best shot at wielding power in Washington decision-making if their House and Senate members have some seniority. They sure won't have the numbers in this next session: Kansas will have six representatives in the House and Senate, compared with California's 54.

"Universal term limits might sell, but not state by state," Dole says. He acknowledges the issue probably won't affect his political career.

State Republican chairman Kim Wells watches as Dole does some media interviews. He says Dole's campaign philosophy is start early, finish late, see as many people as you can.

"I've been with him since 1974, and the pace has not changed one bit, here or in Washington," Wells says. "He's one of those political animals that's good at it, relishes it and likes people."

Steiniger adds, "He comes in with that power. He gives you that feeling that 'yes, yes, I can get the job done.'"

Dole tells a television reporter asking about the presidential race that there wouldn't be a race

without the economy, an albatross for President Bush. But he insists the president's numbers aren't that bad. He tells a newspaper reporter doing a story on Dole's different personas in Washington and Kansas he has to be more partisan in Washington because of his leadership position.

He tells another newspaper reporter he listened to the previous night's presidential debate on the phone while flying back from Alaska. He called a friend who put the phone to the television.

Henry and Peggy Graham of Kansas City, Kan., squeeze through to thank Dole for helping Henry get his insurance company to pay for his liver transplant.

It's 11:15 a.m., and Dole's three aides whisk him off to his local office. Later, he will reveal he called former President Richard Nixon to talk politics.

Meanwhile, at Fasone's restaurant blocks away, a crowd of almost 200 KCK Chamber of Commerce members awaits Dole. He's to speak at their congressional forum, a monthly rehash of Washington events.

The aroma of steak and baked potatoes fills the low-ceilinged room, which by night must be haunted by disco dancers. A silver mirrored ball hangs from the ceiling and disco lights back the podium. There's shiny gold paper and red carpet on the walls.

Chamber president Bert Cantwell announces to the crowd at 12:35 p.m. that Dole will be a little late. He's amused how the information was conveyed. Dole apparently called his Washington office, which called the restaurant.

"That shows you how the federal government works," Cantwell says. The crowd laughs.

Five minutes later, the man himself strides in, sits at the head table and tries to wolf down his lunch.

Kansas Republican Rep. Jan Meyers introduces Dole as "our equalizer in the Senate," one who can get it done there when the House can't. "He's worth his weight in gold," she says.

It's a standing ovation for Dole, who puts the best face on congressional efforts this session. He ticks off some accomplishments, including the Freedom Support Act. The act provides some support for Soviet republics struggling for democracy.

"I know most people aren't for foreign aid, but this is different," Dole says. "We may have to invest a few billion to preserve democracy." The alternative, he says, is another arms race and maybe war. But other countries need to assume their share of the burden, too, he says.

Before he's done, he will touch on most favored nation status for China (needed to keep China at the table so it can be pressured to adopt civil rights); health care (wants to keep private insurance companies; tough congressional battle ahead); presidential line-item veto power (for it); balanced budget amendment (for it); enterprise zones (would further complicate the tax code; rather resurrect the Civilian Conservation Corps); the media (sometimes goes overboard to be negative); and the \$4.3 trillion federal debt (across-the-board freeze may be better than targeting specific programs).

Dole has lots of jokes for the crowd. He says he had "Dole/Yeltsin 92" buttons made when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited Kansas in June.

"Yeltsin didn't understand why my name was first," he says. "I said in Moscow, it would be 'Yeltsin/Dole.' The crowd loves it."

He does a mean imitation of Ross Perot on the debt, mocking what he considers Perot's simplistic approach

Continued on page 2-E, col. 3

Sen. Bob Dole talked with Herman Ochs of Leavenworth, left, during a stop at the Amino brothers' place.

—Jane Rudolph/The Capital-Journal



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1992 • THE ELLSWORTH REPORTER • PAGE 7-C

BOB DOLE
Independent Leadership for Kansas

Thursday, October 29, 1992 THE WICHITA EAGLE 3D

DOLE

From Page 1D

next week to Democrat Bill Clinton. "As you go around the country, you get a lot of conversation like that: 'Wish you were running,' or 'Hope you're going to run in '96,'" Dole said.

"Bush is going to win, so that probably won't come up. If he doesn't win, I assume there will be a lot of jockeying around by a lot of people."

"If I win (re-election next Tuesday), and I'm still the Republican leader (of the Senate), then I'll be in the thick of it, trying to figure how we're going to keep everything together."

Pressed about whether his age would rule him out in 1996, Dole said, "Oh, you never know. I'm in good health. After you have your prostate out, you're supposed to be real healthy."

Dole underwent successful prostate cancer surgery in December. He has said he is fully recovered.



Sen. Bob Dole last ran for the presidency in 1988.

Dole said he is trying to get the Bush campaign to schedule an airport appearance by the president in Wichita or Topeka, and that it probably would have to be Sunday if it were to occur. However, he said, nothing has been decided.

THE WICHITA EAGLE Thursday, October 29, 1992

✓ Dole won't refuse run for White House

By Lew Ferguson
Associated Press

TOPEKA — Sen. Bob Dole said Wednesday that he hears "a lot of conversation" from people who wish he was a candidate for president this year, and some tell him they hope he runs again in 1996.

If President Bush isn't re-elected, Dole said he expects a "lot of jockeying" among Republicans for the party's nomination in four years. He intimated he could be among them.

Dole, who tried unsuccessfully for the GOP nomination in 1980 and 1988, is 69. He will be 73 on July 22, 1996.

He joked about his age at a news conference, saying in '96, "I'll be 96."

But he didn't rule out the possibility he could make a third run for the presidency, especially if Bush loses

See DOLE, Page 3D