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Editorial Opinion

Education pays off

Russell gets results from school support

The world seems surprised that two men who grew up in the same small Kansas town are now actively, and seriously, seeking to become president of the United States.

But the people of that small town, — Russell, America — probably wonder what all the fuss is about.

Don't Bob Dole and Arlen Specter have as much right as anybody to aspire to the nation's highest office? Isn't that what they say about America? That any boy can grow up to be president?



Dole

ed the schools. When the town came into a little money — oil money — that helped the community weather the Depression, one of the things the people invested that money in was their schools, even outbidding surrounding communities for the best teachers.

The teachers, in turn, expected the best from their students.

Decades later, the whole world can see the payoff of this long-ago investment. One of them may very well become the most powerful man on earth.

What will people be writing about the products of Kansas schools 50 and 60 years from now?

From what we can see today, it doesn't look promising.

The willingness to pay for schools, good schools, is not what it once was, and it has to flow through Topeka to be felt.

Across Kansas, the per-pupil budget of all public schools has been frozen for three years and the Legislature may have to labor mightily to bring forth an increase of 1 percent.

In Salina, the city eager to build jail cells but not to pay for teaching technology, the school district has been forced to give its first-year teachers notice that they may be let go if more money cannot be found.

This is not the way to attract and hold the kind of teachers that Bob Dole and Arlen Specter remember to this day, the teachers who are likely to be recalled fondly in campaign speeches and, maybe, in an inaugural address.

What will the products of Kansas schools be doing in half a century?

Remembering how they escaped, probably. Remembering how, if they made it, they did it on their own and owe the land of their birth nothing but a Christmas card.

And not, most likely, a White House Christmas card.

Isn't this what any community wants for its children, to give them the ability to do the best they can with the abilities they were born with?

Outsiders coming to Russell to see what it is about the town that produced two such successful exports have built a long list of factors.

There are small town values, supportive families and friends, a safe environment in which to grow up and try your wings.

And one thing more that keeps coming up as Specter and Dole recall their formative years — education.

As in most small towns, Russell's public schools were the center of life for many people, the common ground that supported the children of long-time residents and those who were new, families that went to church on Sunday and families that were looking for a synagogue on Saturday, boys who played football and boys who were on the debate team.

And people who remember Russell 50 and 60 years ago remember that the schools supported the community and the community support-

Reception Being Planned For Bob, Elizabeth Dole

Russell and Russell County residents are planning a Homecoming Reception for U.S. Senator Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, Friday, April 14. The non-partisan event will be in the Russell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6240 and the nearby Memorial Park from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

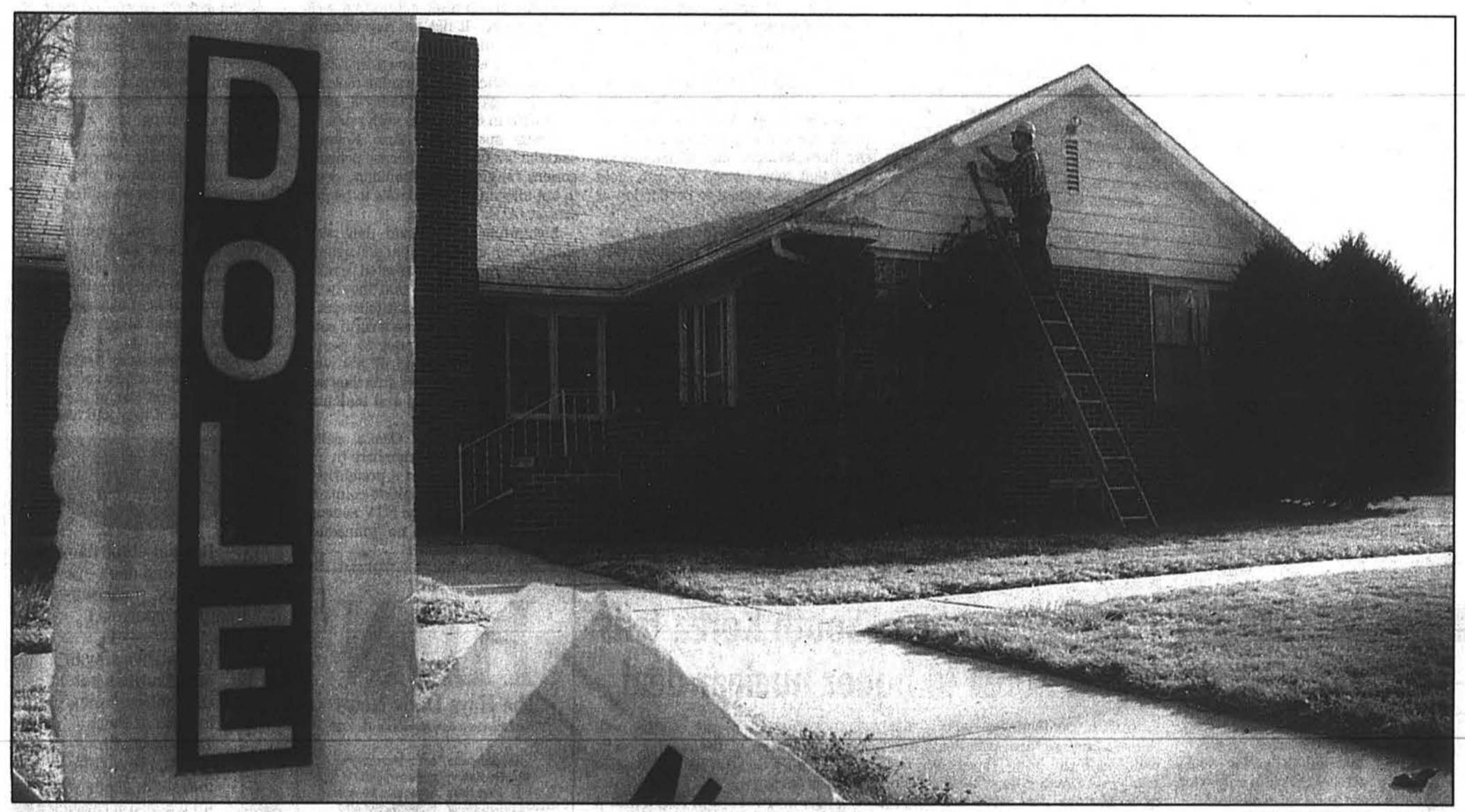
The recognition and reception will provide Kansans an opportunity to renew friendships with Senator and Mrs. Dole and will give the Doles an opportunity to meet and greet their many Kansas friends. A free pancake breakfast will be provided, with serving continuously from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

The homecoming will mark the climax of a busy week of Dole's campaign as he seeks the Republican nomination for president. The big week will open with a Prayer Breakfast followed by a formal announcement of the Senator's bid for the nomination from the State Capitol steps in Topeka, on Monday, April 10. In the whirlwind campaign swing beginning the same day, Dole also will announce his candidacy in New Hampshire, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Iowa, Colorado, Texas, Florida and North Carolina before coming home Thursday, April 13, to Russell, where he was born and grew to manhood.

The day has special meaning to Senator Dole. It was 50 years ago, April 14, 1945, when Lt. Dole received near-fatal wounds while engaged in an assault on a hill in the Italian Alps where he was serving with the United States Army's 10th Mountain Division. In the long years of recuperation and rehabilitation, the former athlete, who wanted to become a doctor, found he could continue to serve his people and country in law and public service.

Elected first as a representative in the Kansas Legislature where he served two years while attending law school at Washburn University, he was elected county attorney in Russell in 1952, serving for eight years. The move to the U.S. Congress came in 1961. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1968, where he is presently serving as Senate Majority Leader.

Senator Dole and Elizabeth will attend the informal breakfast as their time permits, and plan to meet with constituents and sup-



All Doled up

Ben Arnold, Russell, puts a fresh coat of paint on U.S. Sen. Bob Dole's home in Russell Thursday afternoon. The home, in which Dole grew up, is being spruced up for Dole's visit to Russell on April 14 and 15. Dole's formal announcement that he will seek the Republican nomination for president will conclude with a pancake breakfast in Russell April 15.

CHARLIE RIEDEL / Hays Daily News

Dole pushes land compensation

By CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saying regulations have mounted a "sustained assault" on property rights, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole filed legislation Thursday aimed at compensating people when government actions reduce the value of their land.

"We need to ensure that when we pursue otherwise laudable goals, that we do so in ways that allow the government to take private property only as a last resort," Dole, R-Kan., said.

The legislation, which consolidates four bills into one and has 32 co-sponsors in the Senate, would require the federal government to pay landowners if its actions cut the value of private land by at least a third.

The measure would set up new procedures for people to make claims that the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act have reduced the value of their property. Government agencies would have to analyze all new rules to determine the cost to pri-

ivate property, and to choose the alternative with the least impact.

In the past, environmental groups and other opponents have contended the cost of such a law to government could be astronomical.

But Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., said the Congressional Budget Office has determined the measure to be "budget neutral" and added it will have no financial impact on state or local governments.

"The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution provides that private property cannot be taken for public use without just compensation," Heflin said. "This is designed to balance the federal government's necessary taking of land while protecting private property rights."

Dole, who has also introduced legislation to trim government regulations, said the current system is out of balance.

"A regulatory state that seems only to grow and grow, that is increasingly intrusive, has provided the means for a sustained assault on private property rights in America," he said.

The bill drew praise Thursday from the 182,000-member National Association of Home Builders.

"In the past, a builder or property owner could lose 20, 40 or 100 percent of the use of his land under an endangered species wetlands or other federal regulation and not receive a dime of compensation," said Jim Irvine, a Portland, Ore., builder and president of the organization.

The House has passed a similar measure, but that version sets a 20 percent threshold for lost value and applies only to regulations concerning wetlands, endangered species and water use on public land. The Senate bill applies to all regulations.

The Dole watch

Word out of Topeka: Dole of Kansas wants a big, big, BIG crowd when he announces on April 10 in Topeka that he will be running for president.

In letters dated March 15 to Kansas Republicans, Dole extended invitations that read, "I would be honored if you would join me, my wife Elizabeth, and my family and friends on the most important day of my life."

Dole enclosed two "VIP" tickets in each letter for "this very personal and historic event."

The last two times he ran for president, Dole made his



Bob Dole

announcement in his hometown of Russell, Kan. This time, he's picked the state Capitol, where he once served as a lawmaker, for his kickoff.

"This campaign will be our final mission together," Dole wrote. "And as a long-time friend and supporter, it would mean a great deal to me personally to know that you are with me from the start."



—Associated Press
Sen. Bob Dole met reporters Thursday to announce introduction of the Omnibus Private Property Rights Act of 1995. With him was Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas. See story on page 9-A.