

Dole staff gets wake-up call

Dole's Run Puts Kansas in Spotlight

By JULIE WRIGHT
The Wichita Eagle

If it seems like the elections of 1994 just ended and it's way to soon to think about the elections of 1996 brace yourself.

Sixteen months before the election, the next presidential race began in Kansas.

As the home of United States Senator Bob Dole, the apparent front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, Kansas gets less of a break between election cycles than other states this time around.

Recently, Dole supporters paid \$1,000 a person to attend a fund-raising reception at the Marriott in Wichita. Forty-three of the city's biggest hitters — leaders in aviation, manufacturing and banking — sponsored the event.

On Aug. 19, Dole supporters piled into buses in Wichita, Russell, Topeka and Johnson County for a trip to Ames, Iowa, site of a straw poll designed to raise money for the Iowa GOP and to demonstrate the relative support for each of the Republican candidates.

Every four years, the most enthusiastic political activists from across the country descend on Iowa, the state with the first caucus, to campaign for their candidates. A good showing in Iowa is considered important to build momentum for later caucuses and primaries.

Everyone who attended the Ames gathering and paid \$25 got to cast a "vote" for the GOP presidential candidate of his or her choice.

The point of sending rank-and-file Republicans from Kansas to Iowa, said longtime GOP leader George Parsons, was to raise Dole's visibility.

"It was very important that Senator Dole do very good and show that he had a good organization built," Parsons said.

Jack Ranson, Kansas Republican National Committeeman, said Dole supporters made a similar trip in 1988. Ranson considers the effort an important indication to Iowans of Dole's home state popularity. And, he said, it makes Dole feel good.

"Bob likes to get back to Kansas, and he likes to see Kansas," Ranson said.

Parsons had 38 travelers penciled in for a 47-seat bus that left Wichita at 6:30 a.m. on the 19th. Just so the trip didn't get dull, organizers had asked riders to bring guitars, banjos and fiddles.

Dole's Washington campaign office was unable to answer questions about how many were expected at the Saturday reception, but its sponsor list read like a Who's-Who in Wichita business: Former chairman of Fourth Financial Corp. Jordan Haines; Cessna chairman and chief executive officer Russ Meyer; Learjet president Brian Barents; Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon founder Jaimie Coulter; developer Jack DeBoer; Rent-a-Center chief Bud Gates; Boeing Wichita vice president and general manager Dan Heidt; industrialist Charles Koch; oil man and developer Don Slawson; Raytheon chairman Art Wegner; and Realtor Nestor Weigand Jr.

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From staff and wire reports

Sen. Bob Dole's poor showing in Iowa sent a wake-up call to one of his veteran organizers.

Tom Synhorst, an Iowa native who managed Dole's victory in the 1988 Iowa Republican presidential caucuses, is working to shore up the campaign's weaknesses following Dole's tie last weekend in Iowa with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm.

"We can't take anything for granted," said Synhorst, who runs a political telemarketing company in Kansas City, Mo. "We're acting like it's the race of our life."

Synhorst planned to work on Dole's campaign after Labor Day, but he is taking a more active role now after the sena-

Senator to attend Kansas State Fair

The Hutchinson News

Senate Majority Leader and GOP presidential hopeful Bob Dole, R-Kan., is scheduled to attend the first weekend of the 1995 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, a spokesman for the Dole for President campaign said Thursday. The first weekend of the fair is Sept. 8 to 10.

While the senator's exact schedule has not been worked out, the campaign tentatively has Dole scheduled to attend the fair the first weekend.

Previously, fair officials announced Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., would appear in the Farm Bureau Arena at 11 a.m.

Glickman, a Wichita Democrat, was named agriculture secretary late last year and was confirmed for the position this spring.

Plans for Kansas' junior senator have not been completed. A spokesman for Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., said the schedule is not yet complete, but the senator normally attends the fair at some point each year.

The 1995 fair will be Sept. 8 to 17 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.

tor's seemingly impregnable Iowa lead was dented by his tie with Gramm.

"People who support us were complacent about it and thought Sen. Dole would win," Synhorst

said. "People said they were sorry they didn't show up." In Kansas, it seems, confu-

sion about the importance of the Iowa straw poll vote and personal commitments kept many from making the long bus ride to Iowa.

The Gramm crowd was put together by a calculated effort involving direct mail and major corporations. The Dole crowd came through invitations issued to local county GOP officials.

Kansas GOP Chairman David Miller of Eudora said he encouraged Kansans to attend the event and even went himself, casting a straw vote for Dole.

Yet Miller said party rules preclude him and the state organization from taking a more

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active pre-primary role in its favorite son's candidacy.

"There's a strong feeling in the party that the party should not be involved in the situation," he said. "I feel Dole is a little different."

The party's hesitancy may be due, in part, to bad feelings that resulted from a 1990 decision to support Mike Hayden for governor. The state GOP supported incumbent Gov. Mike Hayden prior to the primary even though Hayden had significant opposition from Wichita businessman Nestor Weigand.

"I know we got in a lot of trouble in the party when we supported Hayden in the primary," said

Senate President Bud Burke, R-Leawood. Burke, a supporter of Dole, had a family commitment Saturday and was unable to attend the Iowa poll.

A family commitment also kept Kansas House Speaker Tim Shallenburger, R-Baxter Springs, from attending the Iowa event.

Shallenburger said no one should question Miller's commitment to Dole.

"I have talked to him on a couple occasions about Dole," Shallenburger said. "He's Dole all the way."

Kim Wells, chairman for the Dole campaign in Kansas, said county chairmen and other party faithful were contacted about getting people to Iowa for the poll. Many of the estimated 500 from Kansas came from the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Kansas' geography made getting many Republicans from a wider area difficult.

"From Hutchinson, it was a 10-hour bus ride," Wells said.

Indeed, leaving for Iowa meant Central Kansas getting up at 3 a.m. to arrive in Salina for a 6 a.m. bus, said Pamela Minix, Rice County GOP chair. She said she contacted a half dozen or more people and got two to attend the event.

For party faithful in Morton County, the time constraints would have been more significant with the county four or five hours from Central Kansas. Dick Akers, Morton County GOP chairman, said he was contacted about the Iowa trip, but it wasn't fully explained to him what the event was all about.

"I did not go," he said. "I did not

understand it when I got the call."

Later, the GOP chairman for the past 10 months in Morton County said he learned more about the event by watching it on TV, but put little stock in it.

Generally, the Gramm/Dole tie in Iowa is viewed by Kansans as meaning little — other than big bucks spending by the Texan and a chance for the Iowa GOP party for a major fund-raiser. The Iowa party benefited from the \$25 poll charge.

"Phil Gramm was going nowhere," Wells said. "So they spend a half million or million dollars to win a straw poll."

Also involved were concerted efforts on the part of some corporations to bus people to support Gramm.

Wells and others like to point out one historical footnote to

Saturday's event. The last time Dole ran for president — 1988 — he finished third in the Iowa poll. Winning the poll was Pat Robertson, who, like Gramm, was able to mobilize an army of supporters for the event.

Dole went on to win the Iowa caucuses the following winter before bowing out to then-Vice President George Bush.

Campaigning in Florida this week Dole acknowledged the need to examine what might have been done differently in Iowa. Still, he termed the poll "absolutely meaningless" because voters were bused in from all over to cast ballots for \$25 apiece.

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Iowa vote will point Dole in wrong direction

By E.J. Dionne Jr.

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Why should anybody take seriously that straw poll in Iowa, given that some people — Lamar Alexander's chief consultant Mike Murphy, for example — confessed to voting twice? Voting early and often is a rule that applies only to straw polls and, occasionally, to elections in my beloved home state of Massachusetts. The Iowa losers have ample reason to trash the whole process.

Still, one suspects that Murphy would not have acknowledged his sin had Alexander won, proving that politicians make of these events what they can and what they must.

The Iowa results are indeed bad news for Sen. Bob Dole, not because Sen. Phil Gramm unexpectedly tied him for first place, but because they will push Dole in all the wrong directions. Dole will now pay far too much attention to Gramm, and far too little to Sen. Bill Bradley, who offered politicians in both parties the best political advice of the week.

The lesson Dole and his lieutenants are likely to draw from Iowa is not, on its face, unreasonable: that the Republican activists likely to dominate caucuses and many primaries next year are deeply ideological and very right-wing. Not only did Gramm do exceptionally well, but so did columnist Pat Buchanan, who makes up with ideological fervor what he lacks in cash. Alan Keyes, with his passionate eloquence against abortion, ran only a few hundred votes behind Alexander and far ahead of candidates deemed more electorally serious. Dole is thus now likely to redouble his efforts to get right with the right, figuring he can always tack toward the center later.

That would be in keeping with the advice the late Richard Nixon gave him. But when Nixon was executing his own skillful twists and turns nearly 30 years ago, he had the big advantage of not holding office.

Nixon could do what he wanted with words. Words, having no immediate consequences, could mean anything Nixon wanted them to mean. Dole, on the other hand, has to run the Senate and pass



Gramm



Dole

legislation. The surest way for Dole to tie the Senate up in knots is to sway even further right on issues such as welfare, the budget and taxes. Dole's moderate friends have cut him a lot of slack, but they also have principles. Sens. John Chafee, Bill Cohen, Olympia Snowe, Jim Jeffords and Nancy Kassebaum are not about to grant Phil Gramm veto power over all the Senate does.

But trying to become an ideologue would hurt Dole even if he could figure out how to manage the Senate. It has been said that all a good actor needs is sincerity — and if he can fake that, he can fake anything. Dole, to his credit, isn't good at faking being an ideologue. He is what he always has been: a conservative of the old school that took shape before the days of elaborate litmus tests. He was someone who could make principled concessions here and there — to food stamps, to civil rights. Dole will never be as "pure" — or as narrow or as consistent — as Phil Gramm.

Nor does Dole have to be. The large misunderstanding about what's happened in American politics these last nine months rests on the assumption that the 1994 elections proved that a majority of Americans had shifted decisively to the right.

In fact, the elections simply showed that consistent political conservatives now represent the single most active and cohesive political force in the country. They could thus dominate low-turnout mid-term elections. But they are still far from a majority. Purist conservatives represent no more than a third of the whole electorate. Consistent liberals account for about a fifth.

That leaves about half the electorate at sixes and sevens. This half is not nec-

essarily "moderate" or "centrist." Mostly it is unhappy, mistrustful of the ideologues and equally mistrustful of politicians who appear to lack principle.

Many in this anxious middle will simultaneously attack government and all its works and demand that government do more about health care and crime. President Clinton will.

And so will Bradley, who turned his retirement from the Senate last week into a call to arms for the disheartened.

Bradley's retirement and flirtation with an independent candidacy were taken as a bad sign for Clinton, and they are. The worst thing for the president is that the issues Bradley is talking about are the very issues Clinton thought he was addressing. Bradley told Newsweek his goal is "to try to get the democratic process to focus on the increasingly precarious position of middle-class America, by which I mean people who've worked 20 years at a job being told one day that you're fired and losing health insurance and pension benefits as well." Haven't we heard very similar words with an Arkansas twang?

What Bradley understands that the Republican ideologues do not is that the core worries of the electorate in 1995 are essentially the same as they were in 1992, and they are not rooted in ideology. Clinton's problem is not that he misunderstood the voters, but that too many of them mistrust him and don't think he delivered what he promised. Bradley's appeal — beyond his integrity and intelligence — rests on the promise that he might be able to pull off what Clinton could not.

Clinton, at least, knows this. So, in an odd way, does Pat Buchanan, who has not let his right-wing faith get in the way of efforts to connect to the "precarious position of middle-class America." If Bob Dole wants to draw the real lesson of the last week, he will ignore the bad night in Iowa and listen carefully to Bill Bradley. If instead he chases Phil Gramm and the ideologues, he may well win the nomination — and help re-elect Bill Clinton.

Dole returns donation from gay GOP group

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Sen. Bob Dole's presidential campaign said Friday it is returning a \$1,000 contribution from a gay Republicans organization because Dole disagrees with the group's views.

The Log Cabin Republicans immediately criticized Dole's decision, saying the Republican senator from Kansas knew of the organization's support of gay issues.

"We are extremely disappointed over this incident," said Richard Tafel, executive director of the group, which started its three-day national convention Friday in Cincinnati. "We were encouraged by the Dole campaign for months to support them financially, and any indication that they were unaware of our involvement is dishonest."

Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said the \$1,000 was mailed on Thursday back to the Washington-based organization, which claims 10,000 members among 43 chapters in 35 states.

"It's our policy to decline contributions from political groups that have

an agenda that is not in line with Senator Dole's position on the issues," Warfield said. "We've gotten over 200,000 checks, and this one clearly slipped through the cracks."

Warfield said Dole, an Army veteran who served in World War II, opposes lifting the ban on allowing gays to serve in the military. That runs counter to the Log Cabin Republicans' position, and is one example of why Dole is returning their contribution, Warfield said.

Tafel, whose organization refused to endorse President Bush for re-election in 1992, said the group hadn't endorsed any GOP candidate this year and encouraged its members to support any candidate they choose.

"With full knowledge of senior Dole campaign officials, many of our members contributed the maximum amount, and I have told them that it's time to demand their money back," Tafel said. "There are gay people in every Republican campaign, some in high positions, and I hope this will lead them to confront their candidates."

Deb Price, a Washington-based columnist for the Detroit News,



Sen. Bob Dole

checked Federal Election Commission reports and found that the group's political action committee contributed \$1,000 to Dole's campaign on June 19.

Price, in a column prepared for release today, said Dole's campaign decided to give the money back two days after she told his campaign she would be writing about the contribu-