

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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CONTACT:

During the Senate campaign, a number of political charges were made concerning Senator Dole. To the extent that these comments merited response, he attempted to set the record straight. In other instances, he felt that responding might give credibility to an inaccurate or misleading charge, so he did not respond.

The campaign and election are now behind us. It is important that the people of Kansas, who he will be representing for the next six years, know the facts about charges made in the campaign.

Below are responses to eight campaign allegations:

CHARGE #1: DOLE WORKS FOR "BIG OIL" AND FORGOT SMALL KANSAS ROYALTY OWNERS

RESPONSE: Senator Dole is widely recognized in the Senate as the leading spokesman for small oil royalty owners and independent producers. Senator David Boren, Democrat of Oklahoma and member of the Senate Finance Committee, told 2000 Kansas royalty owners at a meeting in Great Bend, that Bob Dole is the best friend royalty owners have in Washington.

Senator Dole voted for and helped draft the Senate version of the so-called "windfall profits tax". The bill imposed a \$180 billion tax on the major oil companies. But when the Carter Administration and House Ways and Means Committee insisted on taxing small royalty owners at the same rate as the major oil companies and sharply increased the tax on Kansas independent oil producers, Senator Dole voted "no".

Senator Dole attempted to send the final version of the "windfall" tax back to Committee to correct the unjust treatment of royalty owners. His motion was defeated 35 to 61. Only 7 Democrats voted in support of Senator Dole's motion.

On the same day the "windfall profits tax" was signed into law, Senator Dole introduced legislation to exempt up to ten barrels per day of royalty interest (including overriding royalties) from the tax.

Senator Dole is also the author of an amendment which would save Kansas royalty owners up to \$1,000 in "windfall profits tax" next year. This legislation is supported by President-elect Reagan and has already passed the Senate.

CHARGE #2: DOLE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A "50% INCREASE IN KANSAS UTILITY RATES"

RESPONSE: These allegations were based on Senator Dole's support of nuclear power and the belief that when the Wolf Creek nuclear facility goes on line in 1984 utility rates will increase. In fact, the Kansas Corporation Commission has estimated that by 1984, nuclear power will cost about 4.5¢ per kilowatt hour (kwh)-- higher than the current cost of electricity. However, the KCC also says that a coal-fired electric plant will produce power at the rate of about 4.7¢ per kwh in 1984, making nuclear power cheaper than the leading alternative.

(2) A United States Senator cannot control utility rates. Only the Kansas Corporation Commission -- appointed by the Governor -- can set utility rates.

(3) Nobody can accurately predict what utility rates will be in 1984.

(4) Those who believe we can conserve and utilize "alternative energy sources" to keep our factories, farms and homes running are fundamentally mistaken. No responsible energy authority supports this position although nearly everyone, including Senator Dole, favors conservation and expediting development of new energy sources.

We cannot lower utility rates by opposing nearly every known and developed electricity generating source. Those who oppose nuclear power completely and do not want to increase use of coal, our most abundant energy source, are not facing reality.

CHARGE #3: DOLE "FORGOT" THE ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD

RESPONSE: Over 90 percent of the former Rock Island tracks in Kansas are operational today and hundreds of formerly unemployed Rock Island workers are back at work because of the efforts of Senator Nancy Kassebaum and Senator Dole. Senator Dole was involved in nearly every effort to save the bankrupt railroad or provide service in its place.

Senator Dole was instrumental in retaining service along the three main Rock Island segments in our state. He consistently lobbied the Interstate Commerce Commission to approve the Cottonbelt Railroad's application to purchase the "Tucumcari line" from Liberal to Kansas City, and it was finally approved. He brought shippers and government officials together with officials of the Katy Railroad to break a logjam in negotiations for the Katy to provide service on track running from Herington south through Wichita. The Katy agreed to provide that service and has expressed the intention of purchasing the track in the future. Finally, Senator Dole sponsored the legislation (along with Senator Kassebaum) to provide "directed service" along the northern line running from Goodland to Topeka, and has been involved in efforts to provide permanent service.

Senator Dole cosponsored the Rock Island Act which is expediting I.C.C. decisions, providing protection for laid-off employees and providing assistance for the purchase of Rock Island track.

Most recently, Senator Dole was instrumental in securing cheaper rail freight rates for shipments over the key northern Kansas route. The Associated Press account of the ICC's approval of these so-called "transit rights," said that Senator Dole "lobbied hard" for the ICC order.

CHARGE #4: DOLE DIDN'T DO ENOUGH FOR UNEMPLOYED GOODYEAR WORKERS IN TOPEKA

RESPONSE: Since layoffs first occurred at Topeka's Goodyear plant, Senator Dole has been fighting for full Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits for the unemployed workers.

Senator Dole has:

- (1) Met with Harold Bratt, Deputy Director of the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance in the Department of Labor, which is directly responsible for making a decision on the Goodyear workers' petition.
- (2) Assisted in refiling a new petition.
- (3) Sought from the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance decisions they had made in similar cases and supplied to Local 307.
- (4) Written several letters, made numerous phone calls and initiated other actions to secure these benefits.

The only reluctance has been by Carter Administration officials who have so far refused to grant TRA benefits.

CHARGE #5: DOLE REFUSED TO DEBATE

RESPONSE: Senator Dole made seven joint appearance/debates with his opponent, many more than any other incumbent U.S. Senator with a substantial lead in the polls. He did this in the 33 days he had available to campaign full-time between the Senate's recess on October 2 and election day. Moreover, at Senator Dole's insistence, debates were held in all five Kansas Congressional Districts for the first time in Kansas history.

CHARGE #6: DOLE "SACRIFICED HIS POSITION" ON THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

RESPONSE: Senator Dole has served on Congressional Agriculture Committees for twenty years and continues in his role as a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. He remains the leading spokesman for Kansas and all the Midwest farm states on agriculture legislation and this session alone introduced 25 bills to improve the farm economy, some of which have already been signed into law. He will be active in writing the 1981 farm bill.

As the ranking Republican Member of the Senate Finance Committee, the most powerful committee in the Senate, Senator Dole has been able to push several pieces of important farm-related legislation through the legislative process, including reduction of the federal estate tax on farms, the repeal of the "carryover basis" capital gains tax, the limitation on foreign beef imports, and several bills to increase agricultural exports. Beginning next year, Senator Dole will be Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and number two on the Agriculture Committee, allowing him to be of greater assistance not only to Kansas farmers, but all Kansans.

Before deciding to take the position as ranking Minority Member of the Finance Committee, Senator Dole contacted over 600 Kansans, and they overwhelmingly encouraged him to accept the new responsibility. Senator Dole's continuing membership on the Finance and Agriculture Committees gives him the opportunity to help draft nearly every federal law affecting Kansas farmers and ranchers..

An important factor in assuming the ranking position on the Finance Committee was the many responsibilities of the Finance Committee, which allow him to have an input on legislation of importance to all Kansans. The Senate Finance Committee is responsible for a broad range of issues including tax policy, social security, welfare, international trade, health, private pension plans, unemployment benefits and revenue sharing. As ranking Minority Member (and Chairman next year) of this powerful Committee, Senator Dole can do the most good for every citizen of our state, farmer and non-farmer alike.

CHARGE #7: DOLE CARES ONLY ABOUT HIS POLITICAL FUTURE, NOT KANSAS

RESPONSE: During his twenty years in Congress, Senator Dole has maintained a voting record of 95 percent and has been an active participant in legislation concerning agriculture, tax policy, handicapped citizens, health and other issues of importance to Kansans. He is widely respected as a national spokesman for the state of Kansas.

Senator Dole's race as President Ford's running mate in 1976 and his own presidential campaign in 1980 have added to his stature as a representative of the people of Kansas. His many close relationships with national leaders throughout the country help him to be a more effective voice for Kansans and their concerns.

Senator Dole has never let his national responsibilities detract from his duty as a United States Senator. Even while a presidential candidate in 1980, he maintained a voting record of over 95 percent, placing him among the top ten in the Senate. During the heart of the presidential campaign, Senator Dole spent 79 days in committee mark-up, floor consideration and conference on the so-called Windfall Profits Tax bill, ensuring that the interests of Kansas were not forgotten.

CHARGE #8: DOLE DOESN'T OWN A HOME IN KANSAS AND DOESN'T PAY KANSAS TAXES

RESPONSE: Senator Dole sold his residence in Russell for approximately \$19,000 in the sixties. He and his wife stay at his mother's home when they are there. If a Senator is doing his job (and maintaining a 95 percent voting and attendance record as Senator Dole does) he must remain in Washington the vast majority of the time. When he is in the state, most of the time is spent moving around the state, talking to constituents, not sitting at home. Only the very wealthy members of the House or Senate can afford to maintain TWO residences, one in Washington, the other in the home state.

Senator and Mrs. Dole do pay taxes in Kansas. During the past five years, they have paid nearly \$19,000 in income, property and intangible taxes.