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DOLE ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE: THE "REAL REAGAN" SHOWED UP

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, campaigning in Michigan for Republican Senate candidate Jack Lousma, said today that last night's debate has returned the focus of the presidential race to estimating "the size of the Reagan victory."

"Last night, the real Ronald Reagan showed up. His strong performance in Kansas City blew away any momentum Mr. Mondale may have gained from his first encounter with the President. Thus, the debates have cancelled each other out, meaning now the only mystery left in the presidential race is predicting the size of the Reagan victory," Dole said. "Walter Mondale's back to square one, not a very good place to be two weeks before the election."

Dole, continuing his ambitious October schedule of appearances on behalf of Republican candidates, said President Reagan's debate victory is a real plus for the GOP.

"President Reagan's triumph is good news for Republican candidates from the courthouse to Capitol Hill. It's quite clear the President is a strong leader -- not only for the nation, but for the Party as well. I believe we will see the benefits of that leadership on November sixth," Dole said.