

Title: Robert J. Dole Senate Papers-Personal/Political Files, 1969-1996

ID: 01/005

Primary Creator: Dole, Robert J. (1923-)

Extent: 266.5 Linear Feet

Arrangement: Where materials were originally arranged chronologically, this scheme has been preserved. Otherwise, materials are arranged alphabetically.

Languages: English

Scope and Contents of the Materials

This series documents the Senator's political activities during his tenure in the Senate. As such, these files deal more directly with the Senator than those of the other series. Because of their non-legislative nature, these files contain little insight into the Senator's staff. The material is primarily concerned with his daily activities, meetings, correspondence, and issues of particular interest to him. Of the five series, the Personal/Political Files contain more of Senator Dole's personal views. The correspondence contained herein illuminates those whom Dole considered friends and allies, both within the Senate and without. Daily schedules and event invitations chronicle his comings and goings and the social circles in which he operated. In essence, the Personal/Political series describes Senator Dole's life as a U.S. Senator, but does not delve into the specifics of his work. They describe a man committed to building his party, and one who sought to use his influence to benefit his fellow Kansans and all Americans.

Administrative Information

Repository: Robert J. Dole Archive and Special Collections

Access Restrictions: Some materials within the Dole Archive are restricted because of their sensitive nature or because they contain personal or confidential information. These records are protected by federal laws such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Examples of restricted records are personnel files, medical records, financial records, and any materials containing personal information such as addresses and social security numbers. Restricted materials are identified at the box and/or folder level within the finding aid. Questions about these materials may be directed to the Senior Archivist of the Dole Archives.

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concerning copyright restrictions to every researcher who requests copies of documents. Although the copyright law is under constant redefinition in the courts, it is ultimately the responsibility of the researcher to properly use copyrighted materials.

Series 1: Appointment Log, 1968-1995 (Box 1 – 20)

Description: These files are a chronological record of Senator Dole's daily activities, as prepared by his personal assistant. The materials are heavily annotated with last-minute changes, and contain some related background information on those meeting with the Senator or travel itineraries for events.

Series 2: Campaign Files, 1964-1996

Description: Most of these files are associated with Dole's Senatorial re-election campaigns, but they also contain some material concerning his Vice-Presidential and Presidential campaigns. It is not known why these materials exist outside of the Dole Campaign Papers.

Sub-Series 1: Advertising, 1968-1980 (Box 20)

Description: These files contain samples of printed campaign materials and materials related to radio and television campaign advertisements. It is somewhat limited in scope.

Sub-Series 2: Clippings, 1968-1988 (Box 21 - 23)

Description: This sub-sub series is an assemblage of campaign-related news stories clipped or photocopied from newspapers and magazines. Many of the files are concerned with Dole's campaign and the people associated with it, while others deal with the campaigns of other Republican candidates or Democrats. Others contain topical information relevant to political issues at the time.

Sub-Series 3: Committee Records, 1967-1980 (Box 23, 24, 445)

Description: These files were generated by various campaign committees, political action committees, and independent consulting firms to aid the strategic decisions of the campaign staff. As already noted, these materials are limited in scope. More information on campaign strategy decisions can be found in the Dole Campaign Papers collection.

Sub-Series 4: Correspondence, 1966-1988 (Box 24 - 39)

Description: These files are routine correspondence regarding campaign activities and issues. Included are thank you notes for donations to Dole's campaigns, responses for issue mail inquiries directed to the campaign staff, and congratulatory notes on Dole's vice-presidential nominations.

Sub-Series 5: Events, 1973-1980 (Box 39 – 42, 445)

Description: This sub-sub series includes logistical, planning, and promotional information for campaign related events such as fundraisers and debates. Included here are Senator Dole's talking points for the 1976 vice-presidential debate against Walter Mondale and a selection of speeches from campaign stops and fundraisers. The Dole Campaign Papers collection contains a more thorough collection of speeches from Senator Dole's various campaigns.

Sub-Series 6: Financial Records, 1964-1988 (Box 43 – 45, 447, Oversize A)

Description: Boxes 43-45 contain restricted financial information related to donors and expenditures to Dole's various campaigns.

Sub-Series 7: Name Lists, 1968-1992 (Box 46 – 54, 445, 447)

Description: These files contain lists of campaign volunteers and donors and fundraising contacts. They are indicative of the demographics that the Dole campaign reached out to and of those groups that could be considered Senator Dole's base.

Sub-Series 8: Opposition Research, 1962-1994 (Box 55 – 66, 445, 447)

Description: Opposition research consists of topical information and talking points compiled by campaign and/or Republican Party personnel to assist the Senator in crafting political strategy. The files display a particularly thorough account of the policy stances and opinions of Kansas state representative Bill Roy, Dole's opponent in the 1974 election, which was the biggest challenge to Dole's seat during his career. It also contains extensive information of President Jimmy Carter's policy stances from the 1976 Presidential campaign. There are also several files of research on the candidates in the 1990 Louisiana Senate election campaign that pitted Democrat J. Bennett Johnston against Klansman David Duke. It is not known why the Senator would have such extensive research on this campaign.

Sub-Series 9: Press Files, 1967-1996 (Box 66-68, 445)

Description: Press Files consists of all of the media and promotional activities of the Senator's campaigns. This sub-sub series contains a limited array of press materials such as magazines, clippings, newsletters, and press releases. Most of the information is related to the 1980 Presidential primary campaign. A more substantial collection of press materials may be found in the Dole Campaign Papers, the Dole Leadership Papers, and the Press Related Materials series of the Senate Papers.

Sub-Series 10: Reference Materials, 1961-1990 (Box 68 - 74)

Description: These files contain polling information, briefing books, and background research on issues relevant to the campaigns. Most of the information originates in the 1980 primary campaign. Some of the information is similar to that found in sub-sub series 8: Opposition Research, but is less in-depth.

Sub-Series 11: Schedules, 1974-1990 (Box 74, 75)

Description: Senator Dole's weekly schedules during campaign seasons may be found here. These files are similar to sub-sub series 5: Events, but are more routine in nature. Many Schedules files lack correspondence and other such corroborative material.

Sub-Series 12: State Reports, 1967-1988 (Box 75 - 78)

Description: Boxes 75-78 contain reports on the activities Senator Dole's various state campaign committees, mostly concerning the 1980 primary. These files also contain state polling information accumulated by the campaign staff for general information.

Sub-Series 13: Subject Files, 1968-1995 (Box 78 - 84)

Description: This sub-sub series contains general information on a variety of topics and issues accumulated by individual campaign staffers for their personal use. The type of information found herein is closely related to other Subject Files sub-series elsewhere in the Dole Papers (notably the Personal/Political and Press series of the Senate Papers, the Dole House Papers, the Press series of the Dole Leadership Papers, and the Dole Campaign Papers).

There are several files dealing with the 1980s savings and loan crisis, as well as information on scientific, agricultural, and health care issues (notably AIDS awareness).

Sub-Series 14: Voting/Position Papers, 1965-1988 (Box 84 - 87)

Description: These files document Dole's voting record on a variety of issues. This information was accumulated for creating talking points and campaign strategy, to highlight Dole's conservatism and contrast his record against the records of his opponents. A more thoroughgoing but less curated account of Dole's voting record can be found in the Legislative Relations series, Voting/Attendance Record.

Series 3: Caucus/Political Party Records, 1971-1985 (Box 87 – 99, 445)

Description: These files contain routine paperwork and correspondence regarding GOP matters. While these materials may touch upon legislative issues, the bulk of the materials are concerned solely with political matters, such as Dole's campaign for Senate Republican Leader (boxes 92-96). Included are files about Dole's 1976 vice-presidential campaign, correspondence from Republican state governors, and fund raising event miscellanea. The sub-series contains two groupings of correspondence: letters regarding Dole's vice-presidential nomination and those regarding the Republican Leadership election.

Series 4: Guest Books, 1970-1995 (Box 100, 101)

Description: Guest Books include the sign-in books for Dole's Senate office as well as events honoring the Senator, such as the 1972 National Salute to Bob Dole held in Wichita, KS and other receptions. In most cases the individual guest books have been preserved as-is.

Series 5: Invitations, 1966-1996 (Box 101 - 195)

Description: Boxes 101-195 contain invitations to various events and the Senator's responses. The invitations span the gamut from political fund raisers to charity dinners to social activities. The materials cover Presidential Inauguration activities, Kansas festivals, legislative conferences, college speaking engagements, and organizations seeking Senator Dole's endorsement. In most cases the files contain little information that can be associated with any given event except an invitation letter and the Senator's response. As the Senator's fame grew throughout his career, his personal assistants began separating declined invitations from accepted invitations, a system that has been preserved here whenever it was observed.

Series 6: Job Recommendations/Patronage, 1965-1984 (Box 196 - 208)

Description: Boxes 196-208 contain correspondence between the Senator and individuals seeking appointment to office or a job recommendation. Nearly all of these files contain personal information about the petitioners, and as such have been restricted indefinitely.

Series 7: Memos, Telephone Conversations, E-mails, 1976-1995 (Box 209 - 213)

Description: This sub-series represents intra-office correspondence between the Senator and a few of his key assistants during a 19 year period of his career. Those staff members included here include legislative assistants Mo West and Alec Vachon, and office manager Jo-Anne Coe. Many of these memos are routine, dealing with internal office matters, photograph and interview requests, or speaking engagements. Others concern matters of legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, cerebral palsy research, education, and awards. These materials are similar to those found in the staff files for these individuals (Legislative Relations, sub-series 6: Legislative Assistants). It is not known why they were separated, though it likely because they are more of an informative nature, as a progress report, than strictly policy-oriented.

Series 8: Personal Finances, 1966-1996 (Box 214 - 239)

Description: Boxes 214-239 contain Senator Dole's private financial information from his period in office. These files do not include any information on the finances of the Senator's office or his staff or his financial disclosures. They are entirely concerned with his personal bills, taxes, and other associated personal financial information. As such, they are restricted indefinitely.

Series 9: Save Files, 1966-1988 (Box 240 - 251)

Description: These files contain brochures, handbills, playbills, programs and other ephemera related to events that the Senator attended. The sub-series is simply an accumulation of these items and contains little associated information.

Series 10: Senator's Correspondence, 1968-1995 (Box 251 – 364, 447)

Description: These files contain Senator Dole's personal correspondence. These files are non-legislative in nature, though legislative subjects may appear herein. Senator's Correspondence differs from Issue Mail in that they do not necessarily address specific issues, and because Issue Mail is mostly concerned with the views of constituents, whereas many of the letters in Senator's Correspondence are from politicians, heads of state, and/or other important persons. Many letters are as mundane as birthday greetings, get well wishes, and condolences. The files represent a variety of arrangement schemes: some files contain alphabetical correspondence, some files are dedicated to specific government agencies, and some files refer to topics such as banking or the armed forces. Other files are maintained chronologically. This reflects the different philosophies of the several individuals who tracked the Senator's personal correspondence throughout his career. Some larger groupings of files include birthday wishes; get wells; condolences upon the death of Senator Dole's mother, Bina, and father, Doran; congratulations upon his wedding to Elizabeth Hanford Dole and his vice-presidential nomination; correspondence with officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; get well cards for Dole's kidney stone removal and his prostate surgery; correspondence with fellow members of the Kansas Congressional delegation; and White House correspondence.

Series 11: Subject Files, 1969-1996 (Box 364 - 413)

Description: Subject Files describes a group of records kept by the Senator and his personal staff as general reference for matters in which the Senator was closely involved or about which he was curious. The materials range from political to legislative in nature, and include such topics as the savings and loan

crisis, meeting with Pope John Paul II, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, international debt, records of foreign investment in the United States, the Family and Medical Leave Act, Senate committee hearings, the coal industry, and campaign finance reform.

Series 12: Trip Files, 1969-1994 (Box 413 - 446)

Description: Trip Files contains all materials associated with Senator Dole's official travel, including itineraries and arrangements, lists of accompanying personnel, some correspondence, and briefing books and other materials associated with specific meetings. It describes both international and national travel, particularly trips to Kansas. The files in this sub-series are divided into two organizational headings: briefing books, which are materials assembled by the Senator's staff to inform the him about whom he will be meeting and what issues will be addressed, and travel schedules, which are basic daily itineraries for the Senator's trips. Trip Files includes information about official Congressional delegations, campaign-related travel, meetings at Camp David, and Boris Yeltsin's tour of Kansas. Related material may be found in the Legislative Relations series, sub-series 1: Briefing Books.