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Iowa

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Dole checks sentiment for presidential bid

By ERIC WOOLSON
Courier Staff Writer
and The Associated Press

DES MOINES — Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole came to Iowa Monday to tell Republicans that he is "interested" in seeking the presidency in 1988.

The third-term Kansas senator did not formally announce his candidacy during appearances in six cities, but made it clear he will be a contender for the nomination.



Dole

"I'm here to indicate that I'm interested in 1988," Dole told reporters. "We're going to do what we can to let people know we're interested."

He also is running for re-election, but does not yet have an opponent. Dole, who was the GOP's 1976 vice presidential nominee, dropped out of the 1980 presidential race after poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"There are the five Ms in politics: Management, manpower, media, money and momentum. I didn't have any of them last time," he said.

Dole, 62, said he has a better campaign staff and more funding this time.

Asked if it is too early to begin the next presidential campaign, Dole

said he had to begin making the rounds because "it's the nature of the beast."

"Some campaigns started several years ago," he said, referring to New York Congressman Jack Kemp and Vice President George Bush.

Michigan, which moved ahead of the Iowa GOP's first-in-the-nation status, will hold caucuses this summer.

Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, former Delaware Gov. Pierre duPont, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, television evangelist Pat Robertson and former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick have also been mentioned as possible candidates.

"I believe things have changed since 1980," Dole said. "There are no

more clones of Ronald Reagan. We all have our own voting records for you to look at."

"As Majority Leader I've had to make a lot of hard choices and I will stack my hand choices up with theirs," he said.

Dole said earlier that Kemp and Bush will have troubles in Iowa defending the poor farm economy.

"What are they going to talk about?" Dole said. "I've never been a big cheerleader for supply-side economics. I suppose Jack Kemp can talk about the gold standard."

DOLE JOKED that his wife, Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole, also was considering a bid.

"We've thought about a Dole-Dole ticket. We really could save some

money," he said as his Des Moines audience broke into laughter and applause.

Dole, who served 18 years on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said he knows more about farm policy than any other candidate.

The Reagan administration, after "showing insensitivity at times," is "moving in the direction of a market philosophy and moving in the direction of (greater) responsibility for farmers," he said.

Meeting behind closed doors with Polk County Republicans, Dole also warned against complacency in Sen. Charles Grassley's re-election effort.

Grassley enjoys a large lead over Democrat John Roehrich in polls and fund-raising.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC
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Tax reform depends on cuts in spending, Dole tells state GOP

By DON HARRIS
Arizona Republic Staff

SCOTTSDALE — Congress must cut federal spending first to improve chances for tax reform, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Tuesday night.

Dole, addressing a Trunk 'N' Tuck Club fund-raising dinner for the Republican Party, said he thinks President Reagan is correct for insisting on spending cuts.

A tax increase, Dole said, is a last resort toward reducing the federal deficit.

Dole mentioned Amtrak as one federal program that could go, noting that taxpayers subsidize every passenger rail ticket by \$36.

"A lot of people need Amtrak," the Republican said, adding that it serves his home state, Kansas.

"What we don't need is this debt."

"There are a lot of programs out there that you'd never miss."

If nothing is done to curb spending, Dole said, the national debt will reach \$3 trillion by 1990, with the annual interest on the debt costing \$200 billion.

"The deficit is not going to go away until we in Congress are willing to make some hard choices," he said.

Chances for tax reform moving out of Congress this year, Dole said, are no better than 50-50.

"There is not a great deal of enthusiasm among Republicans for tax reform," he said.

Originally, the tax bill was to have provided simplicity, but, Dole said, that no longer is possible because the legislation totals 1,300 pages.

"Only the accountants are smiling," he said.

Regarding the Senate's approval last week of \$100 million in aid for the anti-Sandinista "contra" rebels in Nicaragua, Dole

termed it "a wise investment," adding, "It may cost more."

Dole criticized Democrats for having defeated a similar bill in the House.

He called Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "a Marxist and a Leninist" and said Ortega must be prevented from spreading communism throughout Central America.

Some lawmakers wanted to give the \$100 million to U.S. farmers, Dole said. He suggested chopping \$100 million from the \$154 million Congress gives itself for franking privileges.

"You'd still get more newsletters than you bargained for," he said.

About 800 Republicans attended the \$100 a plate dinner at the Registry Resort.

The state party honored two workers, Mildred Rossini of Payson, as GOP woman of the year, and Ernest "Ham" Pratt, longtime Mohave County activist, as man of the year.

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MAKING HIS PITCH — U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., (left) talks about Asa Hutchinson

Tuesday in Little Rock. Hutchinson is trying to unseat Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark.

Dole backs help for Contras at Hutchinson fund-raiser

By PATRICK CASEY
Democrat Staff Writer

Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., made a strong pitch for President Reagan's policies in Central America during a campaign appearance Tuesday in Little Rock.

"I get tired of people apologizing for (Nicaraguan leader) Daniel Ortega on the floor of the Senate," Dole, who spoke at a \$250-per-plate luncheon fund-raiser for Republican senatorial hopeful Asa Hutchinson, said. "If they want to apologize, do it someplace else."

To critics of Reagan's plan to send \$100 million in military and humanitarian aid to rebels fighting the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, Dole asked "What are the alternatives?"

The senator, who "doesn't see Nicaragua as another Gulf of Tonkin," said most people would back Reagan on the issue once they understood the realities of that country.

"One way for Ortega to end the situation is to call for free

elections, let the people decide," Dole said.

The 1986 presidential contender expressed optimism that the Republican Party would do well in upcoming Senate races by holding its own and possibly "adding to our numbers."

"I think we can add a seat or two, even in the Farm Belt," Dole said. "We have good candidates in good positions. There will be some surprises."

Dole said the GOP "has a chance in Arkansas" and cited philosophical differences between Hutchinson and Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., as a key to that particular race.

"I think philosophy means a great deal. I'm not here to criticize Sen. Bumpers. I don't do that, come in and criticize a state's sitting senator," Dole said. "I know the odds are tough. It will be a competitive race."

The senator, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, also expressed concern about providing prompt finan-

cial relief for farmers caught in the recent spate of hepatitis contamination in meat and dairy products.

In Arkansas, 34 dairy herds are under quarantine for hepatitis contamination. The hepatitis is believed to have originated from contaminated feed sold by Valley Feeds of Van Buren. Hepatitis is a pesticide banned for use on seed and food grains.

"We have a bit of hepatitis in Kansas. I am willing to help," Dole said. "It ought to be dealt with very quickly. I don't know how soon, though. The money has been appropriated. I think the bureaucracy moves slowly sometimes."

During his speech, Dole described the American trade deficit as "a bipartisan issue that should be dealt with."

He said Americans "believe in open markets and free access to those markets" and said American businesses should have equal access to foreign markets, such as in Japan and Korea.

KANSAS CITY TIMES PAGE B1
April 5, 1986

U.S. should go after terrorists, discourage some travel, Dole says

By John A. Dvorak
Of the Mid-America Staff

The United States should retaliate for this week's bombing of a TWA jetliner in Greece, but only if the perpetrators can be identified, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Friday afternoon at his Kansas City, Kan., office.

"If we can find the source of this latest attack, we ought to go after them," the Kansas Republican told a news conference.

But the United States must be cautious, he said. "We have a higher standard in this country. We don't want to be involved in killing innocent women and children."

Some foreign airports need to tighten security, and "we ought to be discouraging people from traveling into some of these countries," Mr. Dole added. Economic pressure caused by fewer American travelers might spur security efforts overseas, he said.

Mr. Dole himself was the apparent target recently of a terrorist-type act when a letter bomb device was mailed to him.

"I didn't consider it to be that serious," he said. "There are people



Bob Dole

... urges cautious retaliation

out there who have all kinds of strange ideas."

The device was intercepted before it reached Mr. Dole's office, and it didn't go off, Mr. Dole said mail to

his office and home now was being checked more closely, but he said the incident hasn't markedly affected him.

"I don't think about it much. I don't have any bodyguards," he said. "It's part of a larger problem. It certainly does underscore what a lot of Americans feel when they get on an airplane."

Later Friday Mr. Dole attended a political fund-raiser held at the Victory Hills Country Club by the Republican Central Committee of Wyandotte County.

Sue Young, committee chairman, said 125 people were expected to attend and generate about \$5,000 to help establish a GOP headquarters in Wyandotte County.

The committee doesn't have a permanent home, Mr. Young said, adding, "I'm operating out of the trunk of my car."

The political event was one of many that Mr. Dole has been attending recently as he continues to crisscross the nation in support of fellow Republican candidates. Recently he has been in Arizona, Iowa and Arkansas.

A16—The Sioux City Journal, Sunday, April 6, 1986

Dole tells local GOP Contra aid will pass

By Kathy Hoeschen
Journal Staff Writer

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole said Saturday he believes the House will pass the president's proposal to provide \$100 million in aid to Nicaragua's Contra rebels as the representatives realize the possible impacts denying aid could have.

Dole, in Sioux City to garner support for Iowa Republican candidates such as congressional hopeful Fred Grandy and Sen. Charles Grassley, spoke to Woodbury County Republicans at the Hilton Inn on Contra aid and other national issues.

On March 27, the Senate approved President Ronald Reagan's plan to send \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in non-lethal aid to help Contras in their effort to oust the Sandinistas.

The House is expected to vote Tuesday on the package.

"There's no doubt in anyone's mind, except maybe for a very few in the Congress, that (Nicaraguan President Daniel) Ortega is a Marxist, a communist who in effect has taken away many of the civil

liberties of people in Nicaragua," Dole said.

The Kansas senator said Ortega has "tried to close down the church in many areas, been guilty of scores and scores of human rights violations. We just have to ask ourselves, do we want another Cuba in this hemisphere? And if we do, all we have to do is leave (and not provide aid to the Contras opposing the Nicaraguan government). I don't believe the Contras can win without us."

Critics of the aid package have argued that the money could be put to better use at home, such as helping America's farmers through the current farm crisis.

But the \$100 million doesn't take money from other programs because it's reprogrammed money from the Pentagon budget, Dole said.

"So in my view, the President's right. He has the support of the Senate. I believe the House, when they vote on April 15, will concur with the President," he said.

More financial aid may be needed in Nicaragua in the future, Dole said.

"The danger is fairly obvious. I

must say that we may not be able to do it with \$100 million. It may take more. If you're talking about aid to the Contras, I think we have to rely on the people who have the facts — the president, the secretary of state, and certain key committees in Congress ... but we do have a route to Panama that's threatened."

"If we do nothing or if the Contras are defeated, I'm not certain whether Ortega's going to be satisfied, whether (Cuban leader Fidel) Castro's going to be satisfied, or whether Mr. Gorbachev is going to be satisfied," Dole said. "I'll admit that Nicaragua's a third-rate country and they don't deserve the time of day. And we're not really worried about containing Nicaragua, we're worried about what may happen if we fall in our efforts to help the freedom fighters."

Dole, who was unsuccessful in his 1980 bid for the nomination of GOP presidential candidate, would not specifically say Saturday whether he would be pursuing the nation's top office again. He did say, however, that a good performance in political office the past two years could prove helpful to him in 1988.

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