

229, 1987

The Hays Daily News

Monday evening
January 5, 1987
Our 58th year - No. 48
Hays, Kansas 67601
12 pages, 25¢

200P 2338 A05 01-05-88
RUSSELL PUBLIC LIBRARY
SIXTH AND KANSAS
RUSSELL
KANSAS 67665



Photos by Jim Evans

Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of Transportation, and Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., applaud Gov.-elect Mike Hayden and his wife Patti as they acknowledge the standing ovation given them Sunday in the Atwood High School gym.

Dole invites northwest Kansas to Hayden's party

By BRUCE BAIR

ATWOOD — Dinner for 2,000 was on Bob Dole.

After Mike Hayden won the Kansas Republican gubernatorial primary, Dole promised him a party if he became governor. Sunday in Atwood, Dole made good.

Dole, the U.S. Senate Republican minority leader, and his wife, Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole were hosts. Mike and Patti Hayden and everyone in northwest Kansas were invited.

"Just a victory celebration for a western Kansas guy," said John Mickey, the Rawlins County Republican committee chairman, adding the party had been in the planning for a month.

People began arriving at the Atwood High School at about 3 p.m., though dinner - beef and pork barbecue, potatoes and coleslaw - was not scheduled to start until 4.

By 5, the gym was nearly filled. Many people waited more than two hours to meet the Doles and Haydens.

Most of them were Hayden's personal friends or acquaintances.

Theresa Leitner, Atwood, once Hayden's baby sitter, said he had been a "good baby." Her politically astute companions would only say "he was a normal boy" when asked what was the worst thing Hayden ever did.

Wayne Hasper, Atwood, said "this is Mike Hayden's day."

Marion Fryer, Atwood, lived within a block of Hayden. She said that after three

girls had sailed over the bar in a neighborhood high jumping contest, and Mike had failed and landed on his back he had boomed, "put it up another notch."

Bob Neuenschwander, Scott City, was typical of the people who traveled from at least a dozen counties to attend the party. He came with a contingent of 20 Scott

Citians "who helped get Mike elected."

"He has integrity," he said. "It's a little hard to find that nowadays, and it means a lot."

Before going to the gym, politicians granted news conferences, shook hands and sampled barbecue in the high school shop. The party had been Dole's idea from the

start, said Hayden.

"You have to remember he's from western Kansas, too. In one way or another, he's been representing these people for 28 years," he said.

The Doles arrived at about 6 p.m. in a black Lincoln. Bob Dole emerged with a wave and a smile, wearing a farmers cap designed for Mike and Patti Hayden's inauguration. No one escaped a hand shake. The Doles had flown to Colby from Washington in a private jet, accompanied by Life magazine photographer Harry Benson, who is preparing a photo-essay on the Doles for the March issue.

Dole granted a quick news conference, while the Secretary of Transportation sampled the barbecue. An aide hovered nearby, holding Elizabeth's yellow coat, and at one point reached out to pluck a tiny piece of lint off Dole's jacket as he spoke to reporters.

A journalist asked Dole to comment on a news clipping mentioning his Presidential aspirations.

Dole smiled an I've-got-a-secret smile, and said "no comment."

In the reception line in a high school hall the hand-shaking was high-energy. Dole and Hayden greeted many by first names, receiving and returning hugs.

Atwood Mayor Bob Creighton made the introductions.

"We're here to celebrate a political mir-

HAYDEN THANKS
Continued on page 3



About 1,500 people filled the gym.

Hayden thanks supporters for believing in him

Continued from page 1

acle," he said, pointing out that Hayden is the state's first governor from northwest Kansas, and that 12,000 of Hayden's 32,000-vote majority came from the area, which has only 3 percent of the state's population.

Elizabeth Dole thanked the crowd for giving her the opportunity to travel with her husband. She doesn't get to do that very often, she said. She joked about who made the bed, and put in a pitch.

She couldn't help comparing Bob Dole to a laser beam, she said, "cutting through complexities to find answers."

Bob Dole talked about roots. "The day we forget about where we're from is the day we ought to get out of office," he said.

Hayden hugged his wife on the podium.

"Behind every good man is a good woman," he said.

"At lot of people, especially those in the press, didn't believe this could happen when we announced

our intention to run for governor on the courthouse steps when it was nine below. But a lot of you believed," he said, "and that's all it takes."

"We didn't promise much," he said. "All we really said was if you trust in us we will repay you by being the best governor and the best first family we can possibly be."

"Home on the Range" rang through the gym as the Doles and Haydens were ushered out. They had entered to "God Bless America."

The Doles were to fly back to Washington that night in the private jet. For Bob Dole, it had been a long day. It began with "This Week with David Brinkley." He had stopped in Russell to visit his family before going on to Atwood. At the Colby airport, he waited for members of his party to arrive, the chilly wind whipping his coat tails.

Congress would reconvene Tuesday.

He wanted to be in bed by midnight.