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Dole touts experience in Yakima

'As I've always said, the perfect candidate never runs — so you're stuck with someone like myself.'

By GARY E. NELSON
Of the Herald-Republic

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., may officially be "exploring" a presidential bid, but Tuesday morning he sounded like a man whose course is set.

"It's now a two-man race between myself and (Vice President George) Bush" for the Republican nomination, the Senate minority leader said at the Central Washington Fairgrounds. "And we're catching up. We're catching up in money, we're catching up in support."

Still, Dole said, the early primaries this spring can make or break any candidate. That's why he is visiting Washington this week, and why, he predicted, many other candidates will, too.

Washington is one of the so-called "Super Tuesday" states, since its March 8 precinct caucuses coincide with primaries in several Southern states. Dole spent Monday in Spokane, and also stopped in Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Wash., Tuesday.

A crowd of about 100 had already gathered in front of the Home Economics building at the fairgrounds when Dole arrived just after 8 a.m. Tuesday. A jazz combo on hand for the affair swung into "Happy Days Are Here Again" as the Dole entourage rolled in.

Dole's remarks to the mostly partisan crowd were laced with the light, self-deprecatory humor he is known for.

After talking about his war record ("My brochure says I enlisted — that's technically correct") and his entry into politics in Kansas ("I was kind of the small-town war hero — I wasn't a hero at

Super Tuesday even more super than before — 12A

all, just got shot") Dole said the 1988 presidential race will be different than the last three.

More than 10 years after Watergate soured voters on anyone with close ties to Washington, D.C., Dole said, voters are ready to reverse course.

"The polls are showing now that the American people — Democrats, Republicans, women, minorities — want to return to experience in government," he said. Each candidate offers a different mix of qualities, and voters will have to choose, Dole said.

"As I've always said, the perfect candidate never runs. People always say, 'see, it would be great if he would run, or she would run,' but they never do — so you're stuck with someone like myself."

After praising the Reagan administration for leaving the country better off than it was before, Dole got down to his own list of priorities.

At the top of that list is the federal budget deficit, he said.

Chicago Tribune, Friday, August 14, 1987

Democrats use Bork as 'pawn,' Dole says

Associated Press

Democrats are holding the Supreme Court nomination of Robert Bork hostage, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Thursday, while President Reagan called Bork's confirmation his most pressing issue.

Dole, of Kansas, attacked the Democratic timetable for the nomination in a speech at the Fraternal Order of Police convention in Mobile, Ala.

He said the Bork nomination was being held hostage by Democrats and accused them of unnecessarily delaying the start of confirmation hearings until Sept. 15 and planning further delays when the issue reaches the full Senate.

Dole was especially critical of Sen. Joseph Biden, the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, saying Biden will have spent 70 days preparing for the hearings by the time they begin.

"Over the last 25 years, the average time consumed in bringing such a nomination to a hearing has been 18 days," Dole said. "The longest previous delay has been 42 days. It's all part and parcel of the political chess game being played. Unfortunately, Robert Bork is the pawn and justice is stalemated."

Meanwhile, Biden said Reagan's stumping for Bork in North Platte, Neb., combined with the Pre-

sident's appeal for the nominee in his Iran-contra speech Wednesday, probably boosts the appellate judge's chances for confirmation.

But Biden, a Bork opponent, said in Logan, Ia., that Reagan probably did not sway uncommitted senators, who hold the key to the outcome.

Reagan told civic and community leaders in North Platte that quick action is vital because the "American people want to see a full complement of nine justices on the bench when the Supreme Court reconvenes" Oct. 5.

Dole said Bork's opponents have called the U.S. Court of Appeals judge an "ideologue" and sought appointment of a moderate to the court.

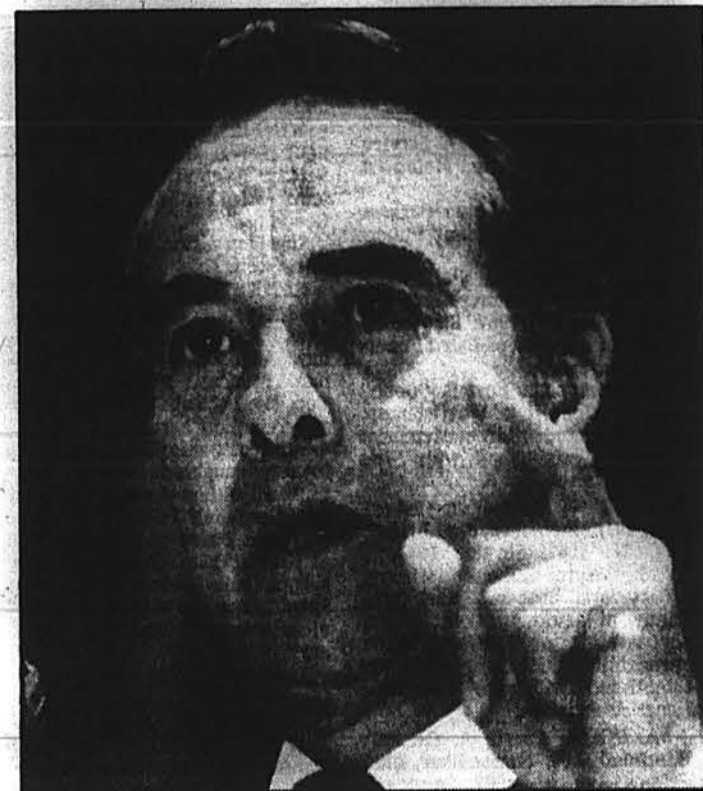
"Well, most of Judge Bork's opponents wouldn't know a judicial moderate from an Iranian moderate," Dole said. He said opponents simply are seeking a nominee who would decide cases in their favor.

Dole has been giving a series of talks on the Bork nomination to counter anti-Bork speeches by Biden.

Biden said Bork is too rigid ideologically and would reshape the makeup of the court on important social questions.

"He is not a moderate fellow," Biden said. "This is a major, major philosophical disagreement."

THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON 8-23-87



Dole knows value of black vote in '88

Imagine this scenario, if you can: Senate minority leader Bob Dole is speaking at a rally in South Carolina. There isn't a black or brown face in the crowd. The presidential hopeful from Kansas tells the all-white group he intends to change the Republican Party's "image of insensitivity to black, brown, poor-white and disabled Americans."

Is Bob Dole off his political rocker?

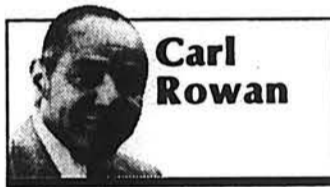
No. Dole knows that the only way he can overtake Vice President George Bush and get the Republican nomination next year is to portray Bush as the elitist, country-club candidate and try to sell himself as the man who cares about people who need food stamps, medicine for their afflictions, help against bigotry.

Now, that's a ploy that would work if Dole were contesting Ronald Reagan, but he's going to have trouble selling people the argument that Bush is a heartless, fat-cat basher of America's down-and-out people. That is a bum rap against Bush that even black Republicans will not swallow.

BUT THE "I'm-for-the-little-guy" campaign is Dole's only hope of overtaking Bush, whose front-runner status always has been suspect.

Dole's appeal to blacks, Hispanics, the underclass has implications for next year's presidential campaign itself, should he by some great political stroke win the GOP nomination.

With luck, personal charm, a lot of misstatements and the privilege of running against weak Democrats, Mr. Reagan proved he could snub blacks, cheat the poor and still win by a landslide. Dole knows that whoever wins the GOP nomination next year cannot win by alienating these groups of Americans. Neither Dole nor Bush can pull off a Hollywood con job. Asked why he was urging the inclusion of blacks while speaking only to South Carolina whites, Dole said: "Because it is the right



Carl Rowan

thing to do, and because votes are the name of the game."

Dole surely knows that Reagan has bequeathed to the 1988 GOP nominee a host of grim problems and embarrassments, including the Iran-contra mess, record budget deficits, a possible Persian Gulf debacle, a Central American nightmare, a U.S. foreign-trade mess. Dole knows the conventional wisdom is that 1988 is supposed to produce a Democratic president.

BUT THE shrewd Kansan sees that the Democratic Party is still in disarray. It has no "white knight" who shows signs he can ride into the nation's capital and take charge. It does have a "black knight," Jesse Jackson, whom the party will never allow to ride out of Atlanta with the presidential nomination.

But I'll wager that Dole has looked down the road to see Jackson winning a lot of Southern convention delegates on "Super Tuesday," March 8. And Dole can see the Democratic Convention refusing to consider Jackson seriously, partly because of his blackness, but even more on grounds he is "too liberal." That's when Dole's pulse quickens at the thought of angry blacks abandoning their party and voting for him.

I read of Bob Dole pursuing his "Southern strategy" and become all the more convinced that I am right in saying:

Vice President Bush isn't even close to locking up the Republican nomination.

The Democrats could become shocking losers in the 1988 presidential contest.

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Dallas Morning News August 29, 1987

DOLE VS. DEFICIT

Nation's gravest problem demands consensus

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole was right on target when he told a Dallas audience on a recent visit that the biggest single threat to the U.S. is the federal deficit.

Since 1981, the U.S. federal debt has doubled — increasing at an average annual rate of 16 percent, which is twice as fast as the gross national product. Interest costs on the debt have grown faster than tax revenue and faster than the gross national product.

The current debt of \$2.4 trillion — up from \$1.8 trillion in 1985 — is costing \$200 billion in interest a year, which is more than it cost to run the government less than three decades ago.

And, even as it was leaving town for its summer recess, Congress was debating a bill to increase the national debt to the unfathomable level of \$2.8 trillion. As a House Budget Committee spokesman put it, "We are beyond the realm of understandable numbers."

This much we know: This crazy pattern of borrowing over the past seven years must be stopped. Yet, no consensus will be formed until both sides of the aisle agree that no aspect of public policy could be more harmful to the nation than the continuation of this mad borrow-to-spend-and-pay-debt cycle.

Who will stop it, unless taxpayers insist on it — and insist now, while members of Congress are at home to hear it.

There is nothing wrong with President Reagan pressing for a balanced budget amendment on national television. But the greater urgency is to deal, now, with the problem that exists. Instead, Republicans

belk at cutting the Pentagon budget or increasing taxes, while Democrats decline to make major cuts in domestic spending. Meanwhile, on their way out the vacation door, Democrats were playing with the idea of a doomsday procedure that would automatically cut defense spending should Reagan refuse to increase taxes.

Speaking in Dallas, Dole gave himself a deserved pat on the back for marshaling through the Senate in 1985 a budget resolution which made the tough choices that were required to reduce the deficit. By a vote of 50 to 49, the Senate passed a budget resolution that would save \$135 billion over a three-year period. It terminated 14 federal programs and froze cost-of-living adjustments one year for Social Security, military retirements and civil service benefits.

This year's answers won't be the same ones, but the choices are just as tough.

The level of the deficit is at least in a temporary decline — \$163 billion for next year as opposed to this year's budget, which had a \$221 billion deficit. But without the automatic forced reductions of the Gramm-Rudman bill, the discipline for eliminating the deficit in five years is simply not there.

Current members of Congress owe it to the nation to return to Washington with the resolve to address this problem with the gravity and responsibility it deserves. And all of the presidential candidates — including Dole — owe it to the taxpaying and voting public to say what hard choices they would be willing to offer Congress in 1989 to continue reversing this disastrous trend.