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Dole continues on campaign trail with stop in NU

By TIM SCHULTZ
Journal Staff Writer

NEW ULM — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole came to New Ulm to talk about the Republican Party, issues facing the country and his political background.

His speech contained no real surprises. "I accept the nomination," he told the audience after his introduction. Whether or not he gets the

nomination will, of course, be determined at a later date. Dole told the audience why he thinks he should be President. He started off by talking about his recent trip to Central America. "I just returned from Central America, where I had, I wouldn't say the pleasure, but where I met (Sandinista leader) Daniel Ortega," Dole said. "I looked him straight in the eye and told him we

believe in freedom, and I think he got the message." "We're a conservative party. And conservatism means we help each other. And we're going to help each other," he said. "The biggest enemy the country faces is the deficit, which now is somewhere around \$24 billion. It's not an accurate perception, stressed that 'good policy' decisions will have to be made.

"If I'm going to be President of the United States, I've got to make some tough decisions," he said. "And if you don't want to make hard choices, I'm not your candidate."

Dole moved on to farming. He called the 1985 Farm Bill a "lifeline for a lot of farmers."

Dole

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"I talked to farmers in Iowa who said they thought the 1985 Farm Bill was working," he said. He talked about surpluses and exporting, two areas which have not seen good years recently. "We've got to plug the gap and we're doing it with the '85 Farm Bill," he said. "It's working, and for the first time, other countries are reducing acreage."

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Dole says decision on aid to contras hinges on peace plan

By JEFFREY L. KATZ
Journal political reporter

Congress ought to vote on an aid package to the Nicaraguan contras immediately after the Nov. 7 deadline expires for Nicaragua to restore civil rights, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) said Thursday.

Dole, who debated Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Managua on Monday, said in an interview here that if Ortega abided by the peace plan agreed to by Central American leaders, Congress should restrict US support to humanitarian aid to the rebels. But if Ortega fails to restore civil rights, Dole said, Congress should vote Nov. 8 or 9 to give the contras the full \$150 million in military and non-military aid requested by President Reagan.

Dole, a candidate for president in 1988, arrived in Wisconsin Thursday evening for a reception with supporters in Appleton. He spoke at a breakfast at the War Memorial Center Friday morning, and was scheduled to appear at a reception at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville.

In an interview at the Pfister Hotel Thursday night, Dole said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, chief architect of the Central American peace plan, would deliver a speech in Washington this month that "is going to be very important as far as any more contra aid."

Ortega is "getting a lot of pressure" to restore civil liberties, abide by a ceasefire and release political prisoners, Dole said. But he said that even Arias, whom Dole described as a "very impressive person," was skeptical that Ortega would abide by the plan.

Dole headed a delegation of five senators who argued with Ortega during an hour-long public encounter Monday. He said Thursday:

"I think he saw us as an opportunity to sort of use five senators as a prop in his little circus there. But I don't think it worked."

Dole said he viewed Ortega as a "stumbling block" to the Central American peace plan, though "if Ortega wants it to work, I'll work."

Dole said he left Nicaragua with the impression that Ortega was generally "not very popular."

"He's got more guns, but he doesn't have friends," Dole said.

Friday morning Dole spoke for 30 minutes at the War Memorial gathering, which had been organized by his state campaign committee. Several hundred people attended the free breakfast, including Wisconsin's Republican senator, Robert Kasten, and gave the candidate a friendly reception.

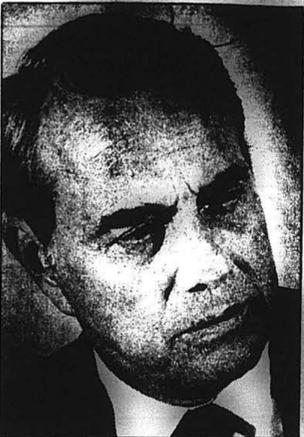
Frequently poking fun at himself and politicians, Dole said that in 1976 Americans wanted an outsider and elected Jimmy Carter. In 1980, he said, they wanted an outsider — but not that outsider — and elected Ronald Reagan.

Dole said that today, due in part perhaps to the Iran-Contra affair, Americans want a "hands-on president, someone who's going to work with Congress."

On other issues, Dole said in the interview:

■ The chances of achieving meaningful deficit reduction this year were "getting pretty dim." He said the Reagan administration was in its waning days and had been weakened by the Iran-contra affair. Democrats have turned their attention to the 1988 presidential election. He said Congress would not act to reduce the deficit before 1989 "unless there's a lot of popular support for doing things — and I don't see it. I think the focus has shifted to the '88 election."

■ The Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork will be strident,



Journal photo by Tom Lynn
Sen. Bob Dole talked about contra aid in an interview Thursday at the Pfister Hotel

featuring some "very sharp questions and some posturing and some politics." But overall, Dole said, "it'll be a fair hearing." The committee chairman, Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Dela.), is leading the fight against Bork's nomination. Dole is expected to lead the fight for it on the Senate floor.

■ Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) is "a good, tight-fisted senator" whose retirement "loosens up the race" for a Republican to win here next year. "It's an opportunity we didn't have," Dole said. "When Proxmire had it, it was a safe seat."

■ Moving the state's presidential primary date from April 5 to March 15 next year would be "a good idea for Wisconsin" because it would lure some candidates here after the March 9 Super Tuesday primaries that will be held mainly in the South and "focus some on issues that are important to Wisconsin."

■ The Republican presidential nomination already was lining up as primarily a race between himself and Vice President George Bush. He expects a poll to be released in Iowa this weekend will probably show them in "a dead heat."

Milwaukee Journal
September 4, 1987

Dole, Bush fight it out for lead in latest poll on GOP Iowa campaigns

By KENNETH PINS

Senator Paul Laxalt and former Nevada Senator Paul Laxalt, who dropped out of the race 10 days ago, received 1 percent support in the poll. Kemp was the second choice of Laxalt supporters, meaning that when Laxalt support is reallocated, Kemp's support climbs 1 point to 11 percent.

Support for the candidates at this point is not firm. Only a third of likely Republican caucus-goers say they are unlikely to change their minds before the Feb. 8 caucuses.

If they do change, Dole and Bush are most likely to benefit: 23 percent name Dole as their second choice; 18 percent name Bush.

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support import restrictions (40 percent), than not (40 percent). Another 11 percent are undecided.

And while 30 percent of likely Republican caucus-goers describe themselves as evangelical or fundamentalist Christians — twice the level of evangelicals and fundamentalists among likely Democratic caucus-goers — it appears unlikely they will line up behind a single candidate.

Dole and Bush each receive the support of about one-fourth of evangelical and fundamentalist likely to attend Republican caucuses. Robertson, whose campaign has sought to bring evangelical voters into the political process, gets support from 19 percent of evangelicals and fundamentalist Christians.

Robertson's candidacy also has stimulated a large negative response. Among all likely Republican caucus-goers, 38 percent name him as the candidate they are least likely to support.

Other results conform with conventional campaign wisdom. Dole, who played a crucial role in getting the 1985 farm bill passed, is more popular among farmers than Bush or any other Republican candidate. Younger Republicans, those age 18-34, are more inclined to support Bush.

Des Moines Sunday Register

THE NEWSPAPER IOWA DEPENDS UPON Des Moines, Iowa ■ Sept. 6, 1987 ■ Price \$1.00

Dole asks for farmers' support

By Bill Tubbs

A good salesman never leaves without asking for the order, and Sen. Bob Dole (Rep.-Kansas) did just that last Wednesday after the National Corn Growers' Corn Growers' Expo.

Speaking to a crowd estimated at 5,600 at the Richard Hemphill farm two miles east of Eldridge, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader and Republican presidential candidate told his audience to, "Go to the caucus next February and say you're a friend of Bob Dole because he's a friend of the farmers."

Dole added, "As for the future of family farms, your survival may be at stake in 1988, and I promise you hard work and a knowledge of agriculture."

Dole took major credit for the 1985 farm bill, and although he says it's "not perfect," he adds "it's not a bad bill."

"Forty-seven percent of the benefits of the farm bill in its first year and a half have gone to corn growers," Dole said. "That helped raise personal income in Iowa by more than 10 percent last year. Couple that with the fact that exports will be up 16 percent in volume this year—and up 5 percent in value—and I think you'll agree we're headed in the right direction."

Dole complimented the work of the National Corn Growers Association lobbyists in

Washington, D.C. "They always look us up and try to explain your positions," he said. The compliment was repaid later in the noon program when Harold Cutler, president of the National Corn Growers, presented Dole with an honorary "National Corn Growers' award."

Dole went out of his way to emphasize the common ground he shares with Midwest farmers. "I'm not that different from you," he said, telling of the hard times his parents had in Russell, Kansas. "There's nothing very special about me. My father operated a cream and egg station and later, a grain elevator which he didn't own. We didn't have much besides our sense of humor, but no one around was any better off, so it wasn't so bad."

Dole left pre-medical school for the Army and had his right shoulder and back shattered by machine gun fire in Italy in World War II. He spent 39 months in the hospital before returning to Russell where he earned a law degree under the GI bill. He served three years in the Kansas House of Representatives and eight as Russell County Attorney before running for Congress in 1960. He won his Senate seat in 1968, and was Gerald Ford's Vice-Presidential running mate in 1976.

In his 26 years in Congress, Dole has been a spokesman for farmers as a member of both the House and Senate ag committees. In 1980

he also became chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and became Senate Majority Leader in 1984. When Democrats regained control of the Senate in 1986, Dole remained as Minority Leader.

"I've worked hard to keep agriculture policy responsive to changing economy conditions. I've worked hard for you for 26 years and all I ask is that you give me one hour by going to the caucus and standing up for me," he said.

Dole's comments on issues included: Ethanol: "I firmly believe in ethanol, not only as an alternative to imported fuel but to improve the air quality in our cities."

Deficit: "We need to be more aggressive in our Export Enhancement Program and we need more long term agreements. I believe in the words of Dwight Eisenhower and Hubert Humphrey: 'Sell them anything they can't shoot back at you.'"

Rural development: "A 'Rural Development Fund' would use surplus commodities, already owned by the C.C.C., to guarantee loans to small rural businesses and home and cottage industries."