

265. 1987 The Time May Be Right —

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Dole was growing up — were hard on him. In the midst of the Great Depression, wheat was 25 cents a bushel, and there wasn't much of it in those dry years, and oil was 25 cents a barrel. Today wheat sells at about \$2.50 a bushel, well below production costs.

Oil is averaging about \$18 a barrel now, still marginal in the face of production costs. In the past three years, it has gone from a high of \$38 a barrel to a low of about \$10.

Together, oil and agriculture have combined to create a recession in the Midwest not far in severity from the "Dirty Thirties" when drought, the 1929 stock market crash, and nationwide depression brought hard times everywhere.

Economic hard times are not new to Bob Dole. He and his family learned to be survivors in those days, as did his classmates and neighbors.

Dole excels in sports. Dole has known what it is to come from behind to claim victory. In high school, he was a runner, and a good one, and he was tall and quick and a leader on the basketball team. He was an end on the football squad, using his height and speed to advantage. At KU, Dole was a "walk-on" for Phog Allen's basketball team and a member of football and track squads and he nearly broke the indoor record for the quarter-mile.

In 1943, when he was 20, Dole stood 6 feet, 2 inches and weighed 192 pounds. He worked for Kaw Pipe Line Company one summer for conditioning.

Those hard times of Dole's formative years seemed to fade in importance, however, when compared to the sudden, stunning and tragic day April 14, 1945, when, during Operation Craftsman, a spring offense with the 10th Mountain Division, he was seriously wounded by mortar and machine gun fire as he carried a wounded soldier over his shoulder to safety. Dole was hit and fell. His companion was killed on the Northern Italy battlefield.

For 39 months, in a succession of hospitals, he fought back, overcoming tremendous physical ailments in spite of gloomy prognoses.

Dole's ordeal included hours at the 16th Evacuation Hospital where the consensus was that he would die. He "was paralyzed in all four extremities," according to a report. Transferred two days later to the 70th General Hospital in Casablanca, he wrote his parents, optimistic about slight improvements. On June 12, 1945, Dole entered Winter General Hospital at Topeka, Kan.

He visited home once on a stretcher. He weighed 120 pounds excluding his cast. Injuries included a fractured right clavicle, scapula, and penetration to the fourth cervical vertebra. It was this vertebra which tilted out of position, shocking the spinal cord.

Dole's Condition Worsens

At Winter General, Dole's condition worsened. His mother was told he only had hours to live. His temperature reached 108.7 degrees. A loss of bladder function resulted in kidney infection and kidney stones and a kidney was removed July 11, 1945. By September, he had regained use of his bladder and bowels, as well as function in both lower extremities, and there was some improvement in the upper left extremity.

That fall, he could stand alone. Bina Dole — to be near him — had an apartment near the hospital at Topeka.

In November, 1945, he was transferred to Percy Jones General Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich. Although away from family and home, his progress brought reason to hope again. In December, Dole, who had been in

bed most of the time, awoke to extreme pain in the left side of his chest, a blood clot in his left lung. He spent weeks packed in ice to protect him from side effects of dicumardil, an anti-clotting agent, the only medical tool available at the time. By January and February, his reacquired skills were slipping away.

By Feb. 14, 1946, the medication was not working, and penicillin was not hitting all the cocci which threatened his life.

Streptomycin is tried. An experiment drug, streptomycin, with no guarantee it would work, was tried, and proved successful.

On March 8, Dole was permitted to sit up in a chair for a few moments.

As time went on and Dole's therapy continued, he spent hours working with other patients, bolstering morale and keeping them, and himself, busy.

It was at Percy Jones General Hospital that he met Phyllis Holden, an occupational therapist. The two met accidentally at a social function. Contrary to often-repeated stories, Miss Holden was neither a nurse nor assigned as Dole's therapist.

Through another patient, Bill Elliott, injured by a mortar blowback on Okinawa, Dole learned of Dr. Kelikian, an Armenian immigrant, who was liberated by Americans and had become a famed neurosurgeon. The surgeon's brother was killed in Italy and Kelikian agreed to operate on Dole for nothing.

"I Do What I Can"

"I do what I can for the country," the doctor said, "both out of gratitude and out of respect. Dole epitomized America to me. He had the faith to endure."

Before the operation, Dole returned to Russell and kept up his backyard therapy and street-side workouts.

The first operation on his shoulder in Chicago was on June 3, 1947. Another was on Aug. 4, and the last was on Nov. 5. Part of the scapula was removed and muscles in Dole's neck were attached to his arm. The arm had been fused at the elbow and the paralysis of the nerves in his neck relieved.

After the operations, Dole had 40 percent use of his right arm, with hopes of the usage increasing to as high as 70 percent.

Dole's Voice Breaks
On Aug. 20, 1947, speaking from a low platform on the Russell, Kan., Courthouse lawn and in the company of President Gerald R. Ford, Dole's voice broke and he wiped a tear from his eye when he felt the impact of friends; friends who in 1947 placed \$1,800 in cigar boxes on counters around town to pay for Dole's hospitalization.

Members of the Washington Press Corps, among the crowd, were aghast. They had never seen such open emotion by the man who had been named a vice-presidential candidate only 24 hours earlier.

"You can come from small towns in America and you do not need wealth to succeed . . . If I have done anything, it was because of what you did for me."



BOB DOLE, 1960 — At the time he made his first race for Congress in 1960, this is how the youthful Bob Dole looked. He had just completed four terms as Russell County attorney. Earlier he had served one term in the Kansas House of Representatives. Dole has completed 37 years of government service. He has been in Washington, D.C., 27 years. He was a congressman four terms and is now in his fourth term as a United States senator.

(Staff Photo)

Dole said. It was President Ford who came to his feet to lead the thundering applause supporting Dole as he wiped the tear away.

"Flesh-and-Blood People"
Jack Limpert, editor of The Washington Magazine, after working on the Dole story several years ago, said:

"One politician who never appeared on my good-guys list was Sen. Robert Dole, who I never knew much about other than that he was a tough, successful politician. There are a fair number of such politicians in town, and some would sell their grandmothers for the right price."

"But after editing the article 'Faith to Endure,' I'd put Dole pretty near the top of my list of people to have around in time of real trouble."

"It's easy to think of all Washington politicians as compromisers, opportunists, or worse. The Dole article is a good reminder that politicians are flesh-and-blood people."

Dole married Phyllis Holden in Concord, N.H., on June 19, 1948, and the couple moved to Russell in the summer of 1948.

By the fall of 1948, Dole had regained sufficient strength to re-

turn to college. Partly because of the climate, and because of the school's academic standing, the Doles moved to Tucson, where he attended The University of Arizona for the 1948-49 school year. Unable to write, Dole received permission to use a tape recorder, the bulky, old-style reel-to-reel, to record lectures.

The tapes were transcribed by Phyllis at home later. Phyllis sat in class with Bob, writing test answers as he dictated them to her.

The Doles became parents of their daughter, Robin, on Oct. 18, 1954. Now employed by a national real estate firm in Washington, D.C., Miss Dole is planning to join her father in his campaign in the coming weeks.

After returning to Russell, Dole entered Washburn University in Topeka, where he completed his B.A. and law degrees in three years. He was graduated magna cum laude with a LL.B. degree.

He received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Washburn in 1969.

Dole Enters Politics
It was while Dole was a student at Washburn that he entered the political arena. Filing against Elmo Mahoney, Dorrance, Dole was elected representative of the 81st Kansas District to represent Russell County in the Kansas Legislature.

The election was won easily by Dole, 2,576 to 1,803 votes. It was the first of 13 elections to be won by Dole. His only loss at the polls was in 1976 when he was the vice-presidential candidate on the Republican ticket with President Gerald R. Ford.

Upon completion of college, Dole and Phyllis returned to Russell County and he became associated with Eric E. Smith in the practice of law.

Dole served only one term in the Legislature.

Dole Files for Attorney
Filing for county attorney, a move expected from young attorneys setting up practice, Dole challenged George W. Holland and won 4,207 to 2,065.

Dole was not opposed in 1954, when he received 3,554 votes. In 1956, he defeated another Holland, Clifford Jr., 3,175 to 2,319. In the 1958 election Dole defeated Robert L. Earnest, 2,807 to 2,185.

During his terms as county attorney, Dole combined private practices with the county's official business. In the years, the county had few major criminal cases, a source of disappointment to reporters looking for a district attorney background.

Salary Not Startling
The salary was not startling. "In fact," Dole said, "Leroy Foote, courthouse custodian, drew about \$20 a month more than I did."

As county attorney, Dole advised county commissioners. In those years, he had to sign vouchers providing welfare payments for his grandfathers which, Dole stated later, was one of the things which bothered him. He said he hated to have his grandfather on relief, but there was no

alternative. Through the years, some credit the humblest chore as another of the circumstances which helped teach compassion.

Dole's first venture into Congress came in late 1959 when he found veteran politician Wint Smith, of Manhattan ready to step down. Dole entered the race, defeating William A. Davis of Goodland in the general election to be elected to the Sixth District seat.

When Dole gave up his private practice to move to Washington, D.C., he turned his caseload over to Earnest, his Democrat opponent in 1958 and close personal friend.

Redistricting before the 1962 election put Dole face-to-face with popular Democrat, J. Floyd Bessinger, Rolla, who held the Fifth District congressional seat at the time. The fifth and sixth districts were combined to form the 56-county Big First District, the largest in the land area in the United States. Dole won the hard-fought battle.

Dole's Senate Races
In later elections, he defeated Bill Burke in 1964, and Mrs. Bernice Henkle in 1966.

His first race for the Senate was in 1968 upon the retirement of Frank Carlson of Concordia former governor and long-time state Republican leader. The general election found Dole defeating William I. Robinson.

Dole's hardest battle was against Bill Roy, Topeka physician, in 1974. The contest expanded into bitter feuding between factions supporting Right to Life and those favoring Family Planning. Dole supported in principle the Right to Life, while Roy, a doctor, was charged with being pro-abortion. Generally, both candidates avoided confrontation on the issues, but nevertheless, were carried along by the vocal fighting factions.

Running as the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1976 didn't affect Dole's Senate seat, as his next contest was not until 1980, when he defeated John Simpson handily. Dole's most recent Senate win, in 1986, was over Guy McDonald.

Dole's Divorce in 1972
It was in 1972 that he and his wife, Phyllis, were divorced, a

domestic conflict between political career and family life.

The Doles remain friends today. In fact, the former Mrs. Dole, now Mrs. Ben Macey, Topeka, is busy making campaign pins and other items for the Dole campaign. She has created early American and primitive crafts for many years and annually attends several arts and crafts shows.

Dole Marries Elizabeth Hanford
Senator Dole and Elizabeth Hanford were married in Washington, D.C., in December, 1978. An attorney and former federal trade commissioner, Mrs. Dole recently resigned as secretary of transportation of the Ronald Reagan cabinet. Today she is an active member of the Dole team and deeply involved in the current political campaign.

A native of Salisbury, N.C., Mrs. Dole was born July 29, 1936. She earned an undergraduate degree with distinction in political science from Duke University, where she was president of the Student Government Association, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and participated in the Oxford University summer study program. She holds an LL.B. degree from the Harvard Law School and a M.A. degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In 1972, she received the Arthur S. Fleming Award for outstanding government service. The same year, she was a member of the nominating committee for the American Stock Exchange.

She has served as member of major boards of Duke and Harvard law school associations.

Formerly a member of the White House staff in the Reagan regime, she was named Secretary of Transportation.

Senate Minority Leader

Senator Dole is currently U.S. Senate Minority Leader. He has served, as mentioned previously, as Senate majority leader and chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

He was the Republican candidate for U.S. vice-president in 1976, Republican national committee chairman, January, 1971-73; advisor, U.S. delegation to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome, Italy, 1970; member of congressional delegation to survey the food crisis in India at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966; congressional delegate to study Arab refugee problems in the Middle East in 1967; and has been a long-time member of the agriculture and finance committees in Congress.

Dole is a past president of the Washburn Alumni Association and Kansas County Attorney's Association; past lieutenant-governor of Kiwanis; chairman of the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation, 1969 campaign; chairman of Russell County Red Cross; member of the Russell County, Kansas and American Bar Associations, 4-H Association, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks No. 1715, Masonic orders including a 33rd degree Mason and Isis Temple of the Shrine; American Legion William Roe Post No. 6240, Disabled American Veterans, Advisory Committee for National Affairs, Masonic Service of the United States, sponsors' board of American Medical Center, Denver, National Society for Autistic Children's Board, Advisory Committee on Scouting for the Handicapped, trustee William Allen White Foundation of Kansas University, and Kansas Easter Seal Society.

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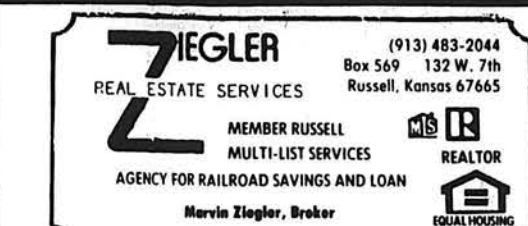
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