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DON REINHARDT, Russell, plowed the words Ford and Dole into his land in 1976 before the visit here of President Gerald R. Ford and vice-presidential nominee Robert J. Dole to announce their campaign for president and vice-president. Reinhardt and his son Steve have just plowed the letters Dole 88 in wheat stubble, in preparation for the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dole here the weekend of Nov. 8-9. The letters of the word Dole are each 650 feet tall and cover a width of 450 feet. The stem of each letter measures 42 feet in breadth. The numerals of the 88

are 21 feet wide and 325 feet high. To create the letters and the numerals, Reinhardt drove his tractor and Steve operated the measuring wheel. The four letters of the word Dole required nine acres of ground and the two numerals about four and a half acres. The campaign sign can only be seen well from an airplane. To find it, from Russell go past the Russell airport on Old Highway 40 for one-half mile then left to the Homer Road and northeast on the Homer Road for three miles. The sign is in the field on the north side of the road. (Staff Photo)

Dole Makes Area Campaign Stop

By JAMES CAMPBELL
The Becker County Record
Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Sept. 7, 1987
Calling himself as "electable candidate" with support from both Republicans and Democrats, Robert Dole, Republican U.S. senator from Kansas, brought his unofficial campaign to be the next president of the United States to Fergus Falls last Thursday.

If the reception he got there is any indication of his future, Dole is well on his way to occupying the White House.

Dole spoke to a receptive crowd of about 120 people at the Fergus Falls Holiday Inn Thursday morning. While he spoke on a number of issues, the thrust of his remarks seemed to center on introducing himself and the overall philosophy he would bring to the presidency.

Dole spoke of how his background was important in forming his views. He is from a small Kansas town and served in the Army in World War II. He was injured and spent 39 months in hospitals.

Upon his release he went to college and then became active in politics. He said his early experiences in politics gave him experience with "real people."

"I think I understand real people. I believe there are some

people who have real problems," he said.

Dole said he feels he can help many people who are now falling through the cracks. But he noted that government can't be called on to take care of everything.

"We can't guarantee success, and we can't guarantee to eliminate failure," he said. "But there are some areas where people have no other place to turn."

Dole said there are many good candidates in the running for the presidency, but he pointed out that with 27 years in the House of Representatives and the Senate, he is among the most experienced.

"I think experience is very important, and I have 27 years of it. Not just being there, but making things happen or stopping them from happening."

Dole also characterized himself as a strong leader who is not afraid to make an unpopular decision.

"Sometimes the decision may be one the people want to see, but leaders can't always go in the direction the crowd is going."

He noted that leadership is something that is needed if a president is to craft foreign policy agreements or various types of domestic policy.

Speaking more directly on

issues, Dole said he is proud of the 1985 farm bill, but he noted "It's not perfect."

He said he would like to see action taken to reduce the large surpluses of farm commodities the government is now storing, either using them for foreign aid, or using them with export enhancement programs.

He also said the federal deficit needs to be reduced. He pointed out that 14 percent of the federal budget now goes to pay interest on that \$2.4 trillion debt.

He said the way to reduce it is to get some spending restraint and simply reduce the numbers of programs and the amounts of money being spent.

"We've got to restrain the appetite in this country for spending."

He said he backed up that attitude with action. While he was in the Senate, he and other senators put together and passed a budget resolution that would have saved \$135 million over three years by eliminating some federal programs and eliminating cost of living adjustments in federal benefits for one year.

"We did it because we had a concern for the future."

In response to a question on government policy on catastrophic and long-term health care, Dole said the present system effectively is a tax on the elderly. The way to eliminate the problem is to get private insurers involved.

"We're going to have to do something to bring in the insurance companies because the government isn't going to be able to assume all the responsibility. And for people who can't afford it, there may have to be a government subsidy on policies."

In response to a question on the War Policy Act, Dole expounded on his view of the proper relationship between the president and Congress.

"If the president can't trust the four leaders of Congress, then

we're in bad shape," he said.

"You'd see a Dole president consulting a lot more with congressional leaders. If I'm going to undertake a covert action, I want somebody to know it."

Answering another question, Dole said that while removal of all subsidies for agriculture may be a good idea, it is not workable, because other countries would need to do the same.

"If every other country would take out their subsidies, not just direct subsidies, but export subsidies and tariff barriers and everything else, then we're in good shape, we can win," he said.

"But that's not going to happen very soon."

Dole said that in his travels and talking with people, he has come to believe that regardless of their party affiliation, most Americans want the same things — a better future, better opportunities, and better education.

The need for better education is especially evident in light of the illiteracy rates and the number of people who drop out of school.

"We've got a lot of work to do. The federal government can't do it all, but we've got to provide the leadership."

He said he feels that, in this election, people want somebody who is familiar with the ins and outs of Washington and knows how to get things done there. He claims he is such a candidate.

He noted he has strong support from both parties, especially in rural areas, and with that base of support, he is an especially electable candidate.

Speaking to reporters after he spoke, Dole said he plans to formally announce his candidacy some time in October.

He said he thinks he could do well in Minnesota, with its rural, small town background and a victory here could really help his candidacy.

"If I win in Minnesota, it's going to be a big, big media event — word's going to get out."

Dean Banker Says:

'Dole Appreciates People'

By IRENE H. JEPSEN

Anecdotes befit the always smiling Dean Banker and the following anecdote he told at this interview has a point to make:

"Bob Dole had voted for legislation where primarily the banks and financial institutions would be required to take Social Security numbers whereby all dividends and interest monies paid individuals would be so recorded.

"Now that's a way of life, but then some of the banks lobbied against it. That is would be a horrendous problem, that it would not work, that it was just one more thing to keep track of.

"The bankers didn't care much that Bob Dole voted for this tracking method. I was present at a meeting when Bob said, 'I'm not sure I should be standing up here, because all the bankers are mad at me.'"

Dean couldn't let that pass, and said, "I'm not mad at you, Bob." Dole went to Great Bend from Russell, and of course, he used it in his own inimitable way to state, 'All the bankers are mad at me except one, and his name is Dean.'

"My point is that a lot of times Dole has had to vote on legislation that was not going to make him terribly popular in his home state, but he continued to have the courage of his convictions.

"From a philosophical standpoint, I admire anybody who will take a stand, knowing full well he's going to get a lot of heat by someone walking up and saying, 'Hey, you dummy, why'd you vote for that? That's not what we wanted at all.'"

"And Dole would be assured enough to answer, 'Because it is in the best interest of everyone concerned.'"

Dean Banker knew who Bob Dole was in high school when Dole was a senior and Banker a sophomore.

"Seniors didn't talk to sophomores, you know. I knew who he was because he played sports and was an upper classman. But I didn't know him. Not then."

"My real association with Bob Dole began when he decided to run for county attorney. Our dads were longtime associates, both having served in World War I and belonging to The American Legion and the same church."

Back then, Banker was a warm-up announcer for a barbershop quartet and also introduced each member. "As a result of this limited experience, Bob asked me to introduce him when he made his first announce-



DEAN C. BANKER

ment, to run for Russell County attorney."

Banker doesn't remember just what he said when he introduced Bob Dole that day, but he does remember that it was "short and sweet."

In 1952, running for county attorney was an important step for a young lawyer. Campaigning was hard. Banker feels that's where Dole got his basic training in the political arena.

"When others offered Bob advice, sensible advice, he would heed it. It was suggested to him that it would be a nice gesture to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Shaffer to announce his candidacy for county attorney in Bunker Hill. The Shaffers were the Republican committee chairmen, and that was their hometown. That's what Bob did. He didn't announce on the Courthouse steps in Russell, he did it in the Bunker Hill High School auditorium, which was almost in the Shaffer's backyard."

"Bob would instinctively trust the knowledgeable throughout the various stages of his career. When a man has that kind of sensitivity, you begin to recognize it, to applaud it, and to support it."

"As county attorney, Bob must

have compassion. And a man who has both compassion and the strength to say 'yes' or 'no' at the times they're needed can be a good president. He has a sense of humor, which I think a man has to have in order to survive, certainly as president.

"He's human. He likes accolades. But, he is more concerned with issues than with popularity."

"The ability to compromise is another of his strong points. He wasn't a Senate leader because they thought he was a nice fellow. He has the outstanding ability to lead. He can say, 'What do you need?' to two opposing forces, listen, and then state factually, 'Here's what I can do.'"

"Without that ability, the democratic process will grind to a halt. There must be give and take, equalization. One side may not be giving that much, and one side may not be getting that much, but what's important is that a decision is arrived at. And Bob Dole is a decision-maker and a decision-doer."

"He has an unfathomable memory. One of my favorite stories concerns my late mother-in-law, Ollie Knoche. She lived in Stafford, Kan., but Bob met her at a reception in Russell. Two years later he flew into Stafford and about 40 women who looked like Ollie and were in her same age bracket were at the airport. Bob stepped off the plane, walked towards the group and then reached right through the group to her and said, 'Hello, Mrs. Knoche, it's nice to see you again.' Remember, this man meets thousands and thousands of people, and this was two years after he had met her in Russell. True story."

"He always remembers the importance of the individual. Whenever requests are made for assistance in personal government problems, Bob remembers the request and sees it through. There are thousands of stories like this about Bob Dole."

"Simply put, Bob Dole appreciates people."



AS COUNTY ATTORNEY — This picture of Robert J. Dole was taken in 1959 while he was serving his fourth term as county attorney of Russell County. The next year, in 1960, he made his first race for the United States Congress, and was elected. (Staff Photo)

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