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'He's a Great American'

—Adolph Reisig Says of Bob Dole

By ALLAN D. EVANS

"He would be a tremendous president, one of the best — if not the best — president this country has ever had," Adolph A. Reisig, Hays, said Wednesday night in an appraisal of Bob Dole. Reisig and Dole grew up together in Russell and attended the same classes. In fact, they played on the same football team — and won the Union Pacific League championship in 1940, during their senior year at Russell High School.

"And I think his chances of getting the Republican nomination are getting better all the time," Reisig observed.

"I talk with a lot of people, and I've had contacts with people in a lot of states — California, Florida, and a lot of other places — and most everyone likes Bob, and they give me the impression that they're going to support him, and going to vote for him."

"I believe in Bob. I've known him for a long time, and known his family. They're all good people. And they do what's right. And Bob would do what's right."

"He would be the president of all the people. He would have the welfare of the people at heart. He wouldn't be pushed around. He would call the shots as he saw them."

"He would see the best advice he could get, and from all groups, and he would listen to them, getting their views and their input before he made his decisions."

"After all, he's experienced. He's designed his life for the top office in the nation — the presidency. And he wants to be president. He has confidence. He's not afraid to tackle the responsibilities which would be required of him."

"And most of all, Dole is a great American. Even as a kid, he always led a good clean life — a Christian life. In sports, he exemplified the life of a Christian athlete."



ADOLPH A. REISIG

"Even as a student, I always thought someday Bob would do important things, because he was always very respectful, he was a good student, a good athlete, and he was always an enthusiastic person. He definitely was a leader. And a great competitor. And it was an inspiration to be around him."

"Everyone liked Bob. He was an optimist, and when things were tough, he remained optimistic."

Reisig said Dole is the right man for the presidency because of the successes he has enjoyed in all the offices, from state representative to county attorney,

from congressman to a senator, to chairman of the Republican Party, to chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, to Majority Leader in the Senate, and as the Senate's Minority Leader.

"And he gained a lot from the 1976 campaign as the vice-presidential running mate with President Gerald R. Ford."

"Bob knows every office. He knows the ropes. He knows who to ask to help him. He knows the programs and the needs of the country."

"He knows the political ins and outs of Washington, and he knows the steps to pull."

"He's a great American," Reisig said.

Reisig was born in Russell and lived all his life here, until he moved to Hays in the 1950s, to attend college, and to start a new career, after being in the oil field excavating business here for several years.

He attended classes here with Dole, chemistry from Elvin Brickley, journalism from Mae Beveridge, geometry from Herman Search, English from Mabel Lacey, and American Government from Rev. Steve Williams, who also was pastor of the Congregational Church.

In sports in the Union Pacific League when Dole and Reisig were in high school, Russell played Ellis, Hays High, the Hays Cadets, Lincoln and Ellsworth. In non-league play they also went against Holington and Great Bend.

Dole, Reisig said, won the game with Ellis — at Ellis — during their senior year. They were playing on a very muddy field and Dole caught the winning pass. "I didn't catch it," Dole said, or something like that, "it just landed in my hands."

Reisig's wife, Gene, also thinks highly of Bob Dole and the entire Dole family. She knew them all her life. Two years behind her husband and Bob Dole in school, she graduated with the RHS class of 1943. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graf.

Reisig's father came to the United States from Russia, where he had clerked in a clothing store, at the age of 12. He immediately went to work for Louis Banker in Banker's Store, and remained there as manager of the ladies department until he retired.

Adolph Reisig today is executive director of the Fort Hays State Endowment Association at Fort Hays State University.



RUSSELL, KAN., is the only city in the United States that can boast of having two United States Senators. They are Robert J. Dole, on the left, and Arlen Specter, on the right. Elizabeth Dole and Joan Specter are next to their husbands. Both men are graduates of Russell High School, Dole in 1941 and Specter in 1947. Specter was a member of the state championship debate team of 1947 coached by H. Francis Short. Other team members were J. Eugene Balloun, Steve Mills and Allan Kent Shearer. Dole started his political career in 1950 as State Representative from Russell County. In 1952 he was elected to the first of four terms as County Attorney, then in 1960 he was elected to the first of four terms in the United States Congress. In 1968, when Frank Carlson of Concordia retired, Dole won his seat in the

U.S. Senate. He was re-elected to the Senate in 1974, 1980 and 1986. Dole served as the Republican Party's National Chairman during the Nixon Administration. He also has been chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee and the Senate's Majority Leader. He presently serves as Minority Leader. Specter was elected to the first of two four-year terms as District Attorney of Philadelphia, Pa., in 1965. He served until 1973. In '67 he ran for Mayor of Philadelphia, losing the campaign by only 11,000 votes out of a total of 700,000 votes cast in the election. He was elected United States Senator from Pennsylvania in November, 1980, and was re-elected in 1986. The senators and their wives were honored at a reception at the Russell Elks Lodge on Dec. 27, 1980. (Staff Photo)

Elizabeth Dole Courts Voters As Senator's Southern Strategy

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON POST SERVICE
ATLANTA, Ga. — High above the Chattahoochee River in a handsome house built to remind people of the old South, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, speaking in a broad Southern accent, talked about feminism in a way that might have appealed to a cotton planter's wife.

She was explaining to a rapt audience of 400 women why she gave up a Cabinet post in order to campaign full-time for her husband, Republican Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, who is running for president.

"I think what we women have been fighting for is the right to make our own choices to determine what we think is best for us," she said. "Mine was such a choice. It was something I wanted very much to do, and which I am committed to do because I believe so strongly in Bob Dole."

For now, Elizabeth, "Liddy" Dole is Bob Dole's Southern strategy. Challenged elsewhere, her decision to put her husband's career first has enhanced her reputation here as a woman worth listening to.

"I like her a lot," said Mary Jean Yates, after listening to Dole in Atlanta. "It's her beauty, her poise, her ability to move well in a man's world. She has shown her ability to make it, but still chose to support her husband."

A native of North Carolina, Dole enjoys capitalizing on her affinity with the region.

"It sure is nice to be with people where I don't need an interpreter," she draws to audiences that reward her with laughter and occasional rebel yells.

With her husband spending most of his time in Iowa and New Hampshire, Elizabeth Dole is striving to reach voters in the 14 Southern states that will take part in the March 8 Super Tuesday primary. Nearly 30 percent of the delegates to the Republican National Convention will be chosen in the South on that day.

The Doles are casting a wide net as they try to build a coalition of moderate to conservative voters, including women, disenchanted Democrats, and even some blacks. Elizabeth Dole hopes to appeal to people both in and out of the Republican mainstream by extolling her husband's sensitivity to human hardship and by emphasizing his leadership skills.

But first, she reminds people of her own credentials. She starts her speeches by cataloging her accomplishments as secretary of transportation — deregulating the airline industry, selling Conrail to private investors, requiring random drug testing of government employees

responsible for transportation safety, and presiding over "three of the safest years in airline travel."

But when she does get around to Bob Dole, her approach is quite personal. She becomes the proud wife as she reveals poignant details of Dole's nearly fatal injury

in World War II and his three-year ordeal in hospitals to recuperate and resume a normal life without the use of one arm.

"He went through such terrible adversity that I feel that there is no question of his sensitivity to the problems and suffering of

other people," she concludes.

Equally effusive about her husband's 27-year record in Congress, Dole says, "I am truly in awe of his problem-solving abilities."

The hope is that people will take those words to heart because

they are coming from a woman of substance.

After she spoke at a GOP fundraiser in Savannah, the audience was abuzz with superlatives.

"She is a brilliant woman . . . I had no idea . . . She's got my vote . . . I think they are running the wrong Dole . . ."



DOLLS FOR DOLE helped Bob Dole campaign in his first race for Congress in 1960. The group is attending Kansas Day in the Hospitality Room of the Jayhawk Hotel in Topeka. The group toured with Dole as he campaigned in the Sixth District to wrest the nomination from Keith Sebelius of Norton. From

left, they are: Barney Roberts, Lois Glenn, Cella Boxberger, Marge Kercher, Bob Kercher in the elephant, Leo Meyers, Dolores Voss, Betty Boxberger, Dorothy Voss and Bonnie Langdon. Meyers' sign reads: Nothing to Fear with Dole. (Staff Photo)



DOLE HAD BEEN a congressman only two years when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doran R. Dole, visited him in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 10, 1963.

Dole Became a Republican In '49 Race for Legislature

By ALLAN D. EVANS

John C. Woelk, Russell attorney, is one of those primarily responsible for talking Robert J. "Bob" Dole into following the political path.

"Dole had returned to Kansas from college at Tucson, Ariz., and was attending Washburn University at Topeka," Woelk said.

"The Republicans wanted someone to oppose the state representative, Elmo Mahoney of Dorrance, and Dole was approached."

"He didn't need much coaching. He couldn't be a doctor, as he had originally planned, so he had turned to the study of law. He was turning on both his A.B. and L.B. degrees at Washburn, and the state capitol was close by."

"Bob's parents had always been registered Democrats, but Bob had to be a Republican to make the race. 'I'm not sure that

he had ever registered with either party, but anyway, he became a Republican, and his parents changed their politics to support him."

"And Dole defeated Mahoney to win the seat in the Legislature."

Woelk also played a role in Dole's decision to run for Russell County attorney in 1951.

"He had completed his degrees and had returned to Russell," Woelk said. He was practicing law with Eric E. Smith.

"I was county attorney, but I did not plan to run for re-election, and I advised Dole and Dean Ostrum, both young lawyers wanting to get a start, that they would not have to run against me."

"Both men filed for office, and Dole won the Republican nomination, then went on to defeat George W. Holland in the general election to win the office."

"Dole thought that I had worked for Ostrum in the primary, but that had not been the case."

"You didn't have to talk very hard to get Bob to run for office," Woelk said. "He was always eager to run."

Woelk once sought the seat to which Dole was elected when he first went to Congress. Woelk had opposed Wint Smith, the incumbent congressman, for the nomination for congressman in 1966. But he lost the race.

Woelk for many years was the Republican Party chairman in Russell County. He now is the senior member of the law firm of Woelk, Ehrlich & Cole, located upstairs over Banker's at 8th and Main streets.

Would Dole make a good president, Woelk was asked. "He out to. He's had lots of experience," he responded.

Good Luck
Bob Dole

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