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Dole plans to fight small-banker rules

He says regulations unneeded burdens

By Michael Bates
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA — Sen. Bob Dole told small-town Kansas bankers Friday that he would fight to free them from burdensome and unnecessary regulations.

But he warned about 200 people attending the Community Bankers of Kansas annual meeting here there probably would not be much progress in the effort until after Jan. 1.

"We're not going to do much at all that's going to be constructive between now and November. Let's face it, it's hardball politics," the Republican leader said of Congress.

Dole criticized the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Improvement Act passed by Congress last year.

"There are a lot of new mandates in the bill that just drive up the cost of business with no offsetting benefits to the customer," he said.

He pointed to two stacks of papers on a table next to him, each of them about 4 inches high. He said they were recent edicts from the FDIC and other bank regulators.

"It's not good for the banks. It's not good for the consumers. And it really doesn't serve any useful purpose," he said. "This may be a great thing for the Wall Street banks, the giants in the industry, maybe they need all of these regulations. But I'm not certain community banks need all of these regulations."

Dole has introduced the Community Bank Regulatory Relief Act. But he said he was not sure the timing was right to press for its passage before the November elections.

"We'd like to do it this year. I'm not certain we're going to get it done this year. We thought about maybe offering it as an amendment. But I'm not certain that would be acceptable to some of the committee chairmen who



Sen. Bob Dole

have to deal with this," he said. "I wouldn't want to offer it and have it lose because that might be a bad signal next year."

Turning to the presidential campaign, Dole said the economy should be the No. 1 issue.

He acknowledged anti-incumbent sentiment existed in the country and said other changes had modified politics.

"There are a lot of single-issue people in America," he said.

Dole said their attitude was: "If you're not right on this issue, I don't care. You can be right on 99 other issues, but out you go."

He mentioned abortion as an example of single-issue politics that caught the news media's attention at the start of the GOP national convention.

"It was one part of 150 planks in the Republican platform. And if you listened the early part of the week, you would think that's all we had down there is a big convention on abortion," Dole said.

If George Bush were to ask for presidential campaign advice, Dole said, he would tell him to get out and listen to "real people" such as farmers, housewives, real-estate agents and others.

"Pretty soon, you've got a good idea of what the real world is all about," Dole said.

Dole seeks less regulations for small banks

WICHITA (AP) — Sen. Bob Dole told a gathering of community bankers they may have to wait until next year before lawmakers take any significant action on a regulatory relief package.

Speaking to about 200 people attending the Community Bankers of Kansas annual meeting, Dole said the political environment in Washington would prevent his Community Bank Regulatory Relief Act from being passed before a new Congress is elected.

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Associated Press photo

On the stump

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., greets Betsey Wright, the deputy campaign manager for Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton, after a news conference in Little Rock, Ark., on Saturday. Dole traveled to Arkansas to promote the campaigns

of Senate Republican nominee Mike Huckabee of Texarkana and President George Bush. Wright and Dee Dee Myers, left, a Clinton press secretary, attended the news conference to counter any criticisms of Clinton.

Dole gives pep talk to Kansas Republicans

By REBECCA PEAK
Tribune Staff Writer



Dole

"We're out here to make certain we have a strong party," Sen. Bob Dole told Kansas political candidates and supporters at a Republican Party rally Saturday at Barton County Community College.

In a "don't throw out the baby with the bath water" kind of speech, Dole urged voters to consider all of the issues and not to decide against a candidate for one insignificant issue or comment. Obviously trying to drum up support for Republican candidates from President George Bush down to the smallest county office, Dole asked people to remember that you "don't just change presidents, you change the whole government if Bush loses."

Dole, who has been helping campaign for Republican U.S. Senate candidates in other states (most recently for Charlene Haar, a South Dakota candidate), said it was time to have a Republican majority in Congress, something that it hasn't had in 38 years.

"I still believe Bush will win," said Dole, adding, "If we lose the White House, (but we) win in the Senate, we can run the country from the Senate."

"Give us one chance and if we can't do better in Congress with a majority ... then we'll quit, you won't have to vote us out," challenged Dole.

"The economy is number one," said Dole, adding that addressing the issue is important for current political campaigns. Dole stated that the Democrats, avoiding constructive answers to the situation, are simply blaming Bush for all the current economic problems, adding "now he's being blamed for Hurricane Andrew."

Noting a lack of interest in the farming situation in the Democratic ticket, Dole said that would change as the campaign progressed and the Democrats began broadening their campaign trail seeking votes. "Your hearing gets better close to election time when you're a candidate."

Although Dole feels Bush is missing the boat by not tackling the ethanol problem — a \$21 million industry in South Dakota alone, according to that state's corn-growers' association — he also feels that "we can convince President Bush that it's a win-win situation, that it doesn't affect the ozone, that it does provide clean air, and it is a clean fuel."

Dole said what affects the farmer affects people in "every little town and every big town because of the ripple effect." He also urged candidates not to "forget where you're from" because "as long as you know how to get home, you don't lose touch" with what is going on with their constituents.

O'Dell, Dole spar over health care

By JOHN HANNA
The Associated Press

Democratic challenger Gloria O'Dell and Republican Sen. Bob Dole's campaign continued their punch and counter-punch debate Friday, this time over health-care issues.

O'Dell declared her support for proposals designed to provide universal health care. In a speech to AFL-CIO members, she described Dole as part of the health-care crisis and as a self-serving public official.

"The way Bob Dole has used his job title and seniority has created the problems we face today," O'Dell said. "We cannot afford to re-elect the problem."

Kathy Peterson, spokeswoman for Dole's campaign, criticized O'Dell as vague on the health-care issue and accused the challenger of borrowing her ideas.

"She's looking more and more like a fill-in-the-blank candidate, mouthing the liberal rhetoric designed in Washington for one-size-fits-all Democratic candidates," Peterson said.

O'Dell spoke during a convention of Kansas AFL-CIO members in Olathe, and her Topeka campaign headquarters released a statement and a copy of her remarks. Peterson issued a response from Dole's Topeka campaign offices.

For several months, O'Dell has attacked Dole, the Senate's minority leader and one of Washington's most powerful politicians, in an attempt to paint him as a career politician who is out of touch with ordinary Kansans. Dole's campaign hasn't taken the offensive, preferring instead to respond to O'Dell's criticism.

During her speech to organized labor, O'Dell said her concerns about the high cost of health care made her "angry enough to want Bob Dole's job." She noted that 40 million Americans have no health insurance and that 100 million are under-insured.

Dole says Bush needs to support ethanol to win over farm states

By Dennis Gale
Associated Press Writer

BRANDON, S.D. — President Bush could lose the support of farm-state voters unless he announces his support of new ethanol incentives soon, Sen. Bob Dole said Friday.

"It's politics now. There are five or six states that could be hanging in the balance (in the election) if he doesn't make the right decision," Dole, R-Kan., said during a campaign stop at a farm near Brandon.

"We believe that we can convince President Bush that it's a win-win situation, that it doesn't affect the ozone, that it does provide clean air, and it is a clean fuel."

But the effort is hitting a roadblock in the federal Environmental Protection Agency, he said.

At issue is an effort to persuade federal regulators to allow the use of ethanol-blended fuel in meeting new clean-air requirements. EPA officials have refused because of claims that ethanol increases some pollutants while reducing others when used as a fuel additive.

Dole said the main stumbling block was William Reilly, EPA administrator.

"Some say he's threatened to quit if the president overrules him. I'm not certain that's the case, but I know a lot of people wouldn't shed any tears if that happened," he said.



Associated Press photo

Charlene Haar, A South Dakota Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate, gives a thumbs-up signal to supporters as Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., looks on Friday.

Oil and natural-gas interests have fought the proposals.

The EPA, in writing the Clean Air Act regulations, prohibited the use of 10 percent ethanol, a move ethanol supporters said was a severe blow to the industry.

Ethanol production is a \$21 million industry in South Dakota, according to the state corn-growers' association.

Bush was widely expected to

appear at the Illinois State Fair last Sunday to announce his support for several new ethanol initiatives. But he did not mention ethanol.

One initiative would extend the tax break on gasoline mixed with 10 percent ethanol to blends of 5.7 percent ethanol and 7.7 percent to encourage ethanol use in cities where the higher percentage is banned or unnecessary.