

Dole hit with \$100,000 campaign fine

Took illegal contributions, services during '88 run for nomination

By Tom Webb
Eagle Washington bureau
WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole's 1988 presidential committee broke campaign laws on a broad scale and last month agreed to pay a \$100,000 fine — one of the largest penalties in the history of presidential politics. Dole's campaign violations were listed in a negotiated settlement released Friday by the Federal Election Commission. It included hundreds of violations, both large and small, many involving illegal contributions that Dole's campaign know-

ingly accepted. "This is the largest civil penalty we've ever had against a presidential campaign," FEC spokesman Scott Moxley said. Dole issued a statement Friday, saying that although he "strongly disputes many of the FEC's claims," his presidential committee agreed to pay the \$100,000 fine "in an effort to bring the matter to a close." Dole also noted that his campaign raised \$17.8 million from 100,000 contributors, so the contributions he was ordered to repay "represent

one-half of 1 percent." As part of the agreement, Dole's committee publicly admitted breaking the law. Its violations include illegally taking contributions from corporations and individuals, illegally using corporate jets and violating state-by-state spending limits. In addition, Dole's separate political action committee, Campaign America, agreed to pay a \$12,000 fine for illegally providing tens of thousands of dollars in special favors. The penalties were agreed upon

late last month, more than five years after Dole, a Kansas Republican, abandoned his campaign for the Republican nomination against then-Vice President George Bush. Dole has since complained about the government's long investigation — he did again Friday — although the scope of the problems offers another explanation about why the case took so long. Said Dole, "We've learned a lot about dealing with federal agencies, and this bureaucratic process is the best example yet of why we don't need public financing of congressional campaigns." The Dole for President Committee admitted:

- It "knowingly accepted" \$239,000 in excessive, illegal campaign contributions from 416 people. That money has since been repaid.
 - It illegally exceeded, by \$588,000, the amount a candidate could spend in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries. Those limits were established by Congress.
 - Dole illegally used private jets belonging to 15 corporations. By law, travel must be paid for in advance, lest it constitute an illegal corporate gift. Dole's flights were later paid.
 - It "knowingly accepted" \$84,000 from corporations. Direct political contributions from corporations are illegal.
 - It "knowingly accepted" \$42,000 in excessive, illegal favors from Campaign America.
 - It was ordered to refund the remaining \$104,000 still outstanding in excessive and prohibited contributions.
- Doug Bailey, a Washington political analyst, noted that despite the historic size of Dole's fine, "it strikes



Among the violations admitted by the 1988 Dole for President Committee:

- Accepting \$239,000 in excessive, illegal campaign contributions from 416 people.
- Exceeding by \$588,000 the amount a candidate could spend in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries.
- Illegal use by Dole of private jets belonging to 15 corporations.
- Accepting \$84,000 in illegal direct political contributions from corporations.
- Accepting \$42,000 in excessive, illegal favors from Dole's political committee, Campaign America.

Page 2—The Russell Daily News, Tuesday, Aug. 10, 1993

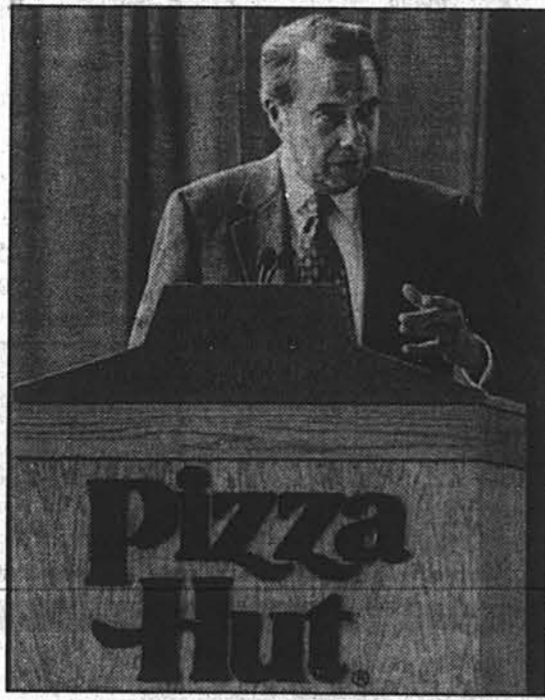
More Reason for Dole To Dump Dream

Last week voters were reminded of another reason why Bob Dole should get out of the way and out of the 1996 presidential race. He owes way too much to corporate special interests. Friday the Federal Election Commission released details of a negotiated settlement on charges of campaign finance violations. The settlement required Dole's 1988 presidential campaign committee to pay a \$100,000 fine — one of the largest ever assessed in a presidential campaign — and to admit wrongdoing. The FEC reported — and the Dole campaign admitted — hundreds of violations of campaign finance law. Among the violations were: Exceeding spending limits by nearly \$600,000; knowingly taking \$239,000 in excessive, illegal contributions from 416 people; taking \$84,000 in illegal contributions from corporations; using private jets belonging to 15 corporations;

and many more. Dole says the violations are petty, involving a minuscule amount of the \$17.8 million total dollars the Dole presidential campaign raised. Regardless of what anyone thinks about the worth of campaign finance laws, candidates — and presidents — are required to obey the law. Dole apparently still doesn't believe the laws should be applied to him. Nor does he yet seem to see the real problem in the FEC's report, the reminder that Dole's campaign pockets are stuffed with dollars direct from the corporate tills of America's special interest lobbies. Lately, Dole's been talking a lot about defending the little guy from the evils of the Clinton tax bill. The FEC report should remind voters and taxpayers of whose side Dole has really been on and who's been paying his bills. — The Hays Daily News

me as minuscule if it's meant to deter others." Bailey noted that during the hard-fought Iowa and New Hampshire primary races, Dole's campaign admits, it broke spending limits by nearly \$600,000. "If you were running for president in 1996, and you knew you could exceed the limits by \$600,000 and down the road have to pay only \$100,000, you might be tempted to do it," he said. Bailey doesn't know whether the excess spending was intentional, but "with those amounts, it suggests there was either a conscious decision or gross incompetence." The agreement was negotiated between Dole's campaign committee and the Federal Election Commission, the bipartisan government agency that monitors whether politicians are obeying the election laws. "Because Dole and most other presidential candidates accept public matching money — money that comes from the \$1 check-off box on your income tax form — they must agree to an audit of their campaign finances." "The audit does two things," the FEC's Moxley said. "First, the audit determines if there needs to be a repayment to the Treasury of money that wasn't used properly, or wasn't used. The second phase of the audit is, were the laws violated in any way?" After the first phase several years ago, Dole's committee was ordered to repay \$245,000. Friday's settlement brought the close of the second phase — an admission that Dole's committee had broken the law and agreed to the penalty. Said Dole, "It's long past time to bring this matter to a close."

THE WICHITA EAGLE Tuesday, August 10, 1993



In a speech at the Pizza Hut offices, Sen. Bob Dole again criticized the budget plan OK'd by Congress last week.

Real Kansans don't care about breach, Dole says

By Bud Norman
The Wichita Eagle
Sen. Bob Dole spent Monday talking to Kansans about the issues he said people care about most — flood relief, taxes and crime — and insisted that no one cares about the record-setting fine levied against his 1988 presidential campaign by the Federal Election Commission. Asked at a news conference in Wichita whether his constituents were questioning him about the fines, Dole responded: "Just The Wichita Eagle, and they're not really constituents. They don't really care about anything we do in Congress. They just wait for these under-the-rock stories." Dole agreed in July to pay a \$100,000 fine, described by a com-

mission official as the largest civil penalty assessed against a presidential campaign. The commission announced the negotiated settlement Friday. The settlement cited hundreds of campaign law violations including, "knowingly accepting" \$239,000 in illegal contributions from 416 people. The money has since been repaid. Without citing any inaccuracies, the Senate's Republican leader criticized a front-page report on the fines. "We've said publicly the last three years that this was going to happen, so it wasn't any big news story to anybody but The Eagle and a few others," Dole said. A representative of at least one

public advocacy group, however, said the campaign law violations are a matter of public concern. "I want to assure you that we care about it," said Jay Hedlund, vice-president of Common Cause, a group that promotes ethics in government. "Our view is that when candidates for president or any other office violate the law and are punished, the American people care. They expect people to comply with campaign laws, and are upset when people don't." Hedlund said that Dole recently led a Republican effort to delete provisions from a new campaign ethics bill that would have bolstered the independence and enforcement powers of the commission. "The FEC needs to go after these violations," Hedlund said. "Unfortunately, Sen. Dole's action on the campaign finance bill make that job harder." In a speech to employees at the Pizza Hut offices in Wichita, Dole criticized the tax increase that President Clinton narrowly pushed through Congress last week. "A lot of people who didn't know they were rich are going to find out they're rich," Dole said. "I think the one thing that upset most of us, and we've had hundreds and thousands of calls, is the fact that it's retroactive. It started last January. "You've already been paying taxes seven or eight months," he said. "And, as I've said, the living and dead are hit by this retroactivity. If someone you know died in February, it's still a retroactive estate tax to January 1. That's the first in history." During his news conference later, Dole also said that a \$1 million grant from the Justice Department to help Wichita fight crime, which recently won approval from the Senate, "should stick" when it comes before the House. Dole said that flood victims in northeast Kansas, where he visited Monday morning, would soon benefit from federal funds as well. "We just wanted to tell them that we were concerned, we were willing to help," Dole said, "and that if they didn't get results to their satisfaction, we'd try to step in where we can."