

# Dole crisscrosses country to stump for Republicans

**He's optimistic GOP will gain in Senate**

By JOHN KING  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In a turbulent election season, Bob Dole may be the most enviable politician in America — campaigning for himself, perhaps for two jobs at once, without the nuisance of being on the ballot. And he's enjoying himself.

Take the other day in South Carolina, where the GOP's nominee for governor, David Beasley, mockingly noted that President Clinton was never around to help state Democrats. Without missing a beat, Dole quipped: "We'd be glad to pay his way."

Or Wednesday in Nashville, when the Senate GOP leader said he was declining Clinton's invitation to accompany him to the Middle East next week.

"I can get invited to go other places," he said, smiling the kid-

in-a-candy-store grin he sports quite often these days. "He invited me to go, but I said I've got invitations to travel in THIS country." Indeed he does.

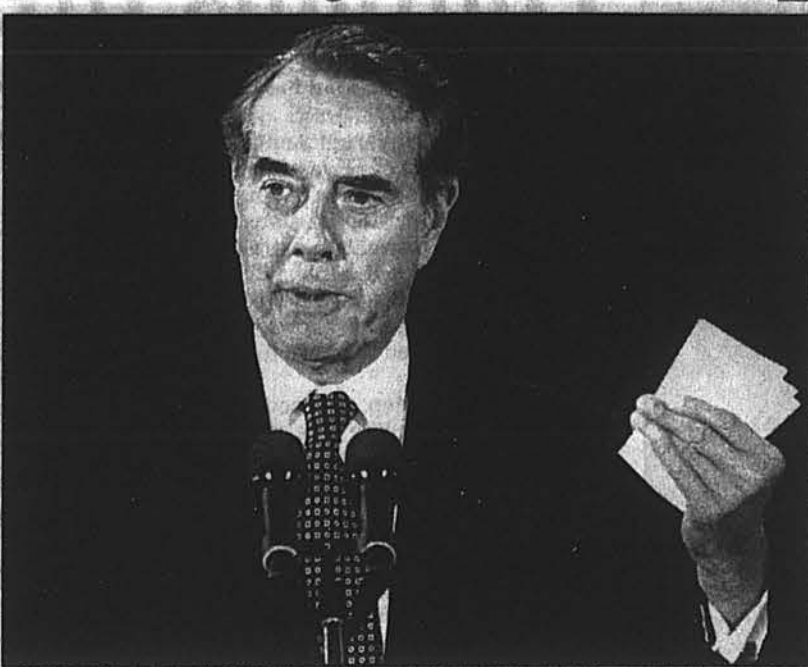
Dole has visited more than 30 states since August, and has, with just a few breaks, several stops a day on his itinerary from now to the Nov. 8 elections.

If things go as he predicts and the GOP wins enough seats to gain control of the Senate, Dole will once again be the majority leader, meaning he'll have worries about a transition and legislative agenda for Senate Republicans. Then there's another tough decision: whether to run for president again.

But Dole treats such prospects as blessings, not burdens, and is campaigning with confidence for GOP candidates — and himself.

To his audiences, Dole offers this simple message:

"If President Clinton said two years ago that it was time for a change after 12 years of Republican presidents then it certainly is time for a change after 40 years of



Bob Dole's touring the country stumping for fellow Republicans.

Congress dominated by liberal Democrats.

And Dole takes time everywhere to debunk Democratic argu-

ments that Republicans are nay-saying obstructionists.

"We are a not a negative, obstructionist party," Dole told a lunch for Tennessee GOP Senate nominee Fred Thompson. "But we were not going to approve a big socialized health care bill, and we are not going to approve spending in a crime bill that's not related to crime, and we are not going to make apologies for that."

Nor does he make apologies for taking steps necessary should he decide to seek the presidency. In addition to earning chits by attracting large crowds to fund-raisers, Dole is showering money from his own political action committee, Campaign America, on GOP candidates.

Campaign America has contributed more than \$260,000 this year to 86 House and Senate GOP candidates. And that doesn't include the tens of thousands more given to state and local Republicans — or the thousands in contributions Dole's PAC is making in the final stretch.

He readily concedes such generosity should bring valuable allies if he decides to run for president. He is adding seasoned campaign hands to Campaign America just in case, and slowly becoming more combative with a potential rival within the GOP caucus, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm.

"Some senators," Dole says, have complained that Gramm is using his post as head of the GOP Senate campaign committee to lay the groundwork for his presidential run.

And Dole says he might object if Gramm takes the committee's fund-raising lists and staff and shifts them to a presidential campaign.

As for himself, he said the "most worrisome" factor in deciding is the "very delicate line you would have to keep" if he is majority leader next year and also a candidate for the GOP nomination.

In an interview, Dole exudes confidence Republicans will gain the seven seats needed for a Senate majority.

Hutchinson News Sunday, October 23, 1994

In 1992, even before the primary elections created the first round of losers, Dole gave at least \$50,000 to Republican candidates for the Kansas House and Senate. Then he sent tens of thousands more to Republican primary survivors.

The senator can afford to be generous. Campaign America took in \$6.5 million in the 18 months between January 1993 and June 1994, according to a Federal Election Commission report. About \$120,000 of that came from Kansas contributors, according to state reports.

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get elected, Senate candidates double that. The disproportionate kindness of a \$1,000 donor, such as Dole, is rarely forgotten. And it was the rare Republican who didn't get the maximum allowable contribution from Dole's multimillion-dollar political action committee, Campaign America.

"Dole's got so much money he can max out to every Republican Senate candidate, whether they're a good candidate or not," said Bob Martin, a Democrat legislative aide who worked on Senate races in 1992 and tracked Dole's spending. "\$80,000 doesn't put much dent in a \$6 million PAC. Dole can raise \$80,000 with three or four phone calls or having breakfast with a half-dozen agriculture industry types."

Dole's generosity is being counted on this year, too. A full accounting of his spending won't be possible until the last disclosure reports are filed well after the November election.

"I don't know if the senator will be as generous as he was in 1992," said Steve Brown, executive director of the Kansas Republican Party. "But he will certainly be generous again this year."

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Campaign America recently took the lead as the largest of the so-called "leadership PACs," the fund-raising engines created by nationally prominent politicians who are essentially free to spend the millions of dollars they take in annually however they see fit.

Campaign America is separate from Dole's senatorial re-election campaign fund, hence not subject to regulations that prohibit spending on non-campaign activities.

For example, money from a leadership PAC could be used to lease a condo on Waikiki Beach or a fleet of new Cadillacs. As long as the expenditure is duly reported to regulators and it doesn't involve giving too much to a specific candidate's campaign war chest, it's OK.

"Just because a PAC is registered to give money to federal candidates

doesn't mean it has to give money to federal candidates. There's nothing in the regulations that specifies how the money can be spent," said Ian Steirton of the FEC. "How they ultimately spend their money is their business. Leadership PAC money can be used for a lot of different things. Looking through the records, you might find that \$5,000 was spent at a florist shop."

Critics of the leadership PACs say that even the things done within regulatory purview are rarely, if ever, audited, because FEC overseers already have too much to do.

Private citizens or groups such as Common Cause or Ralph Nader's Congress Watch also find it difficult to monitor the complete activity of leadership PACs.

A copy of Campaign America's voluminous 1994 reports, for example, costs \$100.75. The thousands of pages of data resulting from the dozens of leadership PAC reports are only partially computerized by FEC and made available on-line. Even the more detailed hard copies of the reports lack clear explanation of how the money is spent or why, critics say.

"It's very labor-intensive and time-consuming," said Bob Schiff, an attorney for Congress Watch. "If you were to monitor every leadership PAC, it would be overwhelming. One of the reasons we oppose them is that there are very few checks on these things. They end up being slush funds for whoever is in charge."

The ostensible purpose of the leadership PACs is to promote the election of federal candidates. It seems obvious that Dole, who is the U.S. Senate minority leader, would want to help other Republicans get elected to Congress.

But according to a Congress Watch analysis of Campaign America spending between 1984 and 1994, only 11 percent of the \$15 million taken in was contributed to federal candidates.

Dole Press Secretary Kim McCreery said questions about Campaign America should be directed to the PAC's personnel. Campaign America director Jo Ann Coe did not return phone calls. Lee Brown, a receptionist for the PAC said, "If you can't get us to answer, you can contact the FEC with your questions. They have a press office."

# Dole pays GOP tab

**Kansas Republicans find it pays to know powerful Senate minority leader**

By Mike Shields  
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — In the minds of many Americans, especially Democrats, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole is the Darth Vader of Capitol Hill — a big, TV-glamorized meanie whose favorite word is "NO."

But for Republican office-seekers in Kansas, Dole is perhaps the next best thing to Santa Claus. As the jolly old soul of campaign finance, the gruff Russell native seems always ready to reach in his gift bag and pull out \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 checks.

In Kansas, it takes an entire association to rival Dole's ability to pump large sums of money quickly and simultaneously into dozens of political races. Only a handful of organizations match his spending clout. They include the teachers' union, K-NEA, and the three associations that represent Kansas trial lawyers, doctors and chiropractors. To win their backing, a candidate generally must adhere to their respective legislative agendas. To get a contribution from Dole, a candidate need little more than be Republican.

In 1992, even before the primary elections created the first round of losers, Dole gave at least \$50,000 to Republican candidates for the Kansas House and Senate. Then he sent tens of thousands more to Republican primary survivors.

Candidates for a Kansas House seat typically spend between \$6,000 and \$18,000 to

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## Favorable biography doesn't answer 'Who is this Bob Dole?'

"Bob Dole: The Republicans' Man for All Seasons" by Jake H. Thompson (Donald I. Fine, \$21.95)

By John Stanga

"Zeus of the Senate." Such is Jake H. Thompson's characterization of Kansas' own Bob Dole in his recent biography of the state's senior senator and presumptive candidate for president of the United States. Coming just pages after Thompson assures his readers that his biography is not "authorized," this portrayal and other laudatory depictions of Dole leave the reader asking whether Thompson's volume is nothing other than a campaign biography designed to give Dole a boost in his quest for the presidency.

So then, is Thompson's biography merely a puff piece that blindly enumerates the virtues of Bob Dole while excluding material that might cast the senator in a negative light? Thompson does discuss negative traits associated with Dole, making it unfair to label his "Bob Dole: The Republicans' Man for All Seasons" as just a promotional effort. Nonetheless, the volume is so favorably disposed toward Dole that it is even plausible to imagine the senator himself extolling the volume as a "candid biography."

Although Thompson depicts Bob Dole's life as a boy growing up in Russell, it is with Dole's injury suffered in Italy during World War II that his story begins in earnest. And Thompson's admiration for the senator's combative qualities is obvious:



There is much in Bob Dole's life to admire.

There is the picture of a courageous Bob Dole, a warrior bucking to come back against long odds from a serious injury, a man so intent on success that it led him to become a state representative, Russell County attorney, a U.S. congressman, and, finally, U.S. senator. And what's next? Perhaps president of the United States.

Beyond question, there is much in Bob Dole's life to admire, perhaps especially his attitude of "never say quit." So maybe one can forgive Thompson, a Washington correspondent for the Kansas City Star, for his partiality toward Dole. But there is yet another problem with Thompson's biography, perhaps even more

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disturbing that the book's pro-Dole bias. The volume never really answers the question, "Who is this Bob Dole?"

While the biography gives accounts of Dole's various political campaigns and of his stands on issues, policies and candidates over the years, it does not evoke compassion, empathy, pathos. Thompson provides no meaningful picture of an inner Bob Dole, says little about any possible internal conflict in Dole over issues or political strategies. Rather than ponder or weigh burdensome matters of politics, Thompson's Bob Dole is a man who speaks in quips that are frequently funny and almost always caustic. Unfortunately, the reader sees little of the real man, private or public, behind the quips.

If one has missed out on what has gone on in national and Kansas politics over the past 25 years, then "Bob Dole: The Republicans' Man for All Seasons" will help fill in some of those gaps. If, on the other hand, one has been fairly faithful in reading Associates Press dispatches about state and national news over the years, there is little to be gained from reading Thompson's volume. Otherwise, the book no doubt will be enjoyable reading to those who are true believers in Bob Dole and his political causes.

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