

### Dole: GOP Congress will get government off farmers' backs

**The Associated Press**  
ST. LOUIS — Farmers can expect tax relief and fewer environmental regulations now that Republicans have taken control of Congress, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Monday. But in a speech to about 4,000 farmers at the national convention of the American Farm Bureau, he also implied that some subsidy and acreage reduction programs could be endangered. Dole said many regulations handed down from the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies are hurting farmers. "You've seen an onslaught of environmental regulations, without any regard to property rights," Dole said. "We're going to end See DOLE, Page 2

### Would third try be the charm for Dole?

**By Tom Webb**  
Eagle Washington bureau  
WASHINGTON — This week or next, Sen. Bob Dole says he'll announce whether he's planning to run for president in 1996. But his campaign reports indicate the race is already under way.



**Dole**  
The Senate majority leader will soon announce whether he'll make another run for president.

state auditor and state treasurer, even for county commissioner.

The contributions are only the latest explicit signal that Dole will run for the White House a third time. On Tuesday, Don Imus, a nationally broadcast radio interviewer, asked the Kansas Republican whether he'd decided.

"We'll be meeting later this week, early next week, on whether or not we should move ahead with what we call an exploratory committee, which is the next logical step," Dole said. "And I assume we'll probably do that."

Dole has twice before run for president. In 1980 he placed poorly in a crowded Republican field and quickly dropped out. In

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1988, he and then-Vice President George Bush ran a spirited race. Dole won the Iowa caucuses, but a loss in New Hampshire effectively ended his campaign.

This time around, Dole isn't waiting to create loyalists in both crucial states, campaigning in Iowa and New Hampshire this fall, helping

candidates raise money, and giving checks even to lower-level officeholders.

Dole's PAC has been especially generous with Republican groups in those two states. The Eisenhower Club in Des Moines got \$15,000. The New Hampshire Republican State Committee got \$5,000. Even the Amos Tucker Society in Nashua, N.H., got a check.

If he runs, Dole will face intense competition for the Republican

nomination, certainly from conservative Sen. Phil Gramm, from Texas, and others as well. Sen. Arlen Specter, from Pennsylvania, who was born in Wichita and later lived in Dole's hometown of Russell, already is in the race.

And Dole certainly would face questions about his age (he'd be 73 in 1996) and whether he could run a campaign while serving as Senate majority leader. But 1996 may yet

be Dole's year.

A recent Newsweek poll shows that he'd defeat President Clinton easily — 48 percent to 38 percent — and he's the only current Republican hopeful who'd do so, except for Gen. Colin Powell, who may not even be a Republican.

And Dole is the No. 1 choice of Republican voters, considerably ahead of second-place Dan Quayle, the former vice president.

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"Government has gotten too big," said Shane Frost, a beef cattle rancher from Randlett, Utah. "They're squeezing their way in everywhere. Hopefully, the Repub-

licans can take some of the regulations off."

Carol Kenyon, a dairy and grain farmer from South Elgin, Ill., agreed.

"Some changes need to be made, especially in regulatory agencies. They can be very destructive to a lot of us. Their power has just gotten way out of hand," she said.

Dole said Congress will push for a reduction in the capital gains tax and some other taxes affecting farmers and ranchers.

"I know the cry from the media will be, 'Well, they want to help the rich.' We don't want to help the rich, we want to unlock opportunities ... particularly when it comes to the agricultural community," he said.

He warned that farmers, like other Americans, will face some cuts as Congress seeks to reduce the budget deficit.

## Dole hat almost in the ring

### Senator begins process for White House run

**By Tom Webb**

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole began his third campaign for president Thursday, announcing formation of a campaign committee that can raise money and receive taxpayer funds.

For now, Dole describes it as an exploratory committee, and adds, "I haven't yet officially thrown my hat in the ring." He said he would formally announce a decision on his candidacy in late March or early April.

But election officials note that it's a full-fledged campaign committee; legally, there's nothing "exploratory" about it.

"Some people file their committees as 'exploratory' committees, but they're treated like any other campaign committee would be," said Ian Stirton, spokesman for the Federal Election Commission.

"There isn't any term in our law for an exploratory committee."

This will be Dole's third try for the White House. In 1980 he ran poorly in a crowded Republican field; in 1988 he and then-Vice President George Bush ran a competitive and spirited race for the Republican nomination, ultimately won by Bush.

With his campaign committee now established, Dole, 71, can begin the enormous task of raising the millions needed to run for president. He'll also get a huge hand from the taxpayers through federal matching funds. The government matches the first \$250 of any individual campaign contribution, funded by taxpayers who check the little box on their federal income tax form. In 1988, taxpayers gave more than \$7 million to the Dole campaign.

"The system puts a premium on starting early on

**To run a serious campaign, Dole probably will need a minimum of \$20 million, said political analyst David Mason.**

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## Dole says Congress will help farmers

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want to help the rich. We want to unlock opportunities ... particularly when it comes to the agricultural community," he said.

The new Republican-led Congress convenes at an important time for agriculture. It will be responsible for developing the 1995 farm bill, which will be effective through 1999.

A primary goal of the new bill will be to make it easier for farmers to export products, Dole said, and the focus should be on the Asian Pacific Rim and Latin America.

He warned that farmers, like other Americans, will face cuts as Congress seeks to reduce the budget deficit.

"Farm programs are going to be facing careful scrutiny," he said. "All we want is to make sure that everything else from A to Z, with the exception of Social Security, is also on the table."



Dole

## Dole inches closer to run for White House in 1996

**By The Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole stepped forward Thursday, announcing formation of an exploratory committee to raise money and receive taxpayer funds. Dole said he would formally announce a decision on his candidacy in late March or early April.

"I believe we must rein in the government at home and reassert American leadership abroad," the Kansas Republican said in announcing formation of the Dole for President Exploratory Committee.

"I haven't yet officially thrown my hat in the ring, but you could say this is the first step."

Dole promised a final decision in late March or early April, and several of his political advisers said all signs pointed to a Dole

Before their official announcements, presidential hopefuls often form exploratory committees to get a head start on fund-raising — and to signal potential supporters of their intentions.

By the time Dole makes things official, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander are likely to be formal candidates.

In a traditional year, the formal candidate announcements would not come until this fall.

But a new, front-loaded primary calendar and Clinton's political weaknesses have combined to propel the 1996 campaign to an extraordinarily early start.



File photo

**Bob Dole will decide by April whether to run.**

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fund-raising tasks, because you can't just go to a few fat cats and get million-dollar contributions," said David Mason, a political analyst with the Heritage Foundation. To run a serious campaign, Mason estimated, Dole will need "probably \$20 million as a minimum figure."

As in previous presidential years, the first delegates will be chosen at the Iowa caucuses (scheduled for Feb. 12, 1996) and the New Hampshire primary (Feb. 20). But unlike previous years, the campaign then shifts immediately to major states such as New York and California — putting a premium on name-recognition, big money and a national organization.

On those fronts, Dole matches up extremely well. He's among the best-known Republican candidates, currently has the highest favorable ratings and has proven ability to raise massive amounts of campaign

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money.

Dole said the exploratory committee will "give our donors and volunteers a vehicle for getting involved early."

He may need all of those advantages, though, because 1996 looks to

be especially expensive and competitive, with a contest from Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, and probably former Vice President Dan Quayle and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, along with commentator Pat Buchanan. Sen. Arlen Specter of

Pennsylvania, who was born in Wichita and raised in Russell, is also interested.

"Phil Gramm is actually the one who has been most active in upping the ante, because he's able to raise a lot of money," said Mason. "There may be some bluffing going on. If one loudly declares it's going to take \$50 million to run for president, then you scare away some others."

Heading the Dole for President Exploratory Committee is Jo-Anne Coe, a longtime Dole aide who had been heading Dole's political action

committee, Campaign America. The deputy is Mark Miller, also from Campaign America. The committee treasurer is Robert Lighthizer, now a partner in a Washington law firm and formerly chief counsel for the Senate Finance Committee.

For Dole to receive federal matching funds, he'll need to abide by state-by-state spending limits and other campaign finance laws. In 1988, his campaign broke those laws, resulting in a record \$100,000 fine. Dole's Campaign America PAC was also fined \$12,000.