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# **Editorial Opinion Dole stands firm**

### Senator shows guts

with Bosnia position Dole has been labeled a brilliant but heartless legislative deal-maker, strong on tactics but weak on principle. But on Bosnia, Dole seems to lead with his heart rather than his head.

- Congressional Quarterly

ob Dole, Kansas' most famous export since Toto, is in a position that would turn lesser men into jelly. He is running for president.

That status has been known to turn the toughest of

politicians into squishy, mealymouthed sorts who will go to any length to avoid taking a tough position on anything.

As the pressure of Dole the Road to the White House builds, Dole may yet weaken at the knees.

But, so far, the man has been rock-solid on one principle, a principle that must be principle, because it is not likely to score him many political points. Dole is sickened by the world's response, or lack thereof, to the

rape of Bosnia. He has called for air strikes against the aggressor Serbs, who

have butchered a nation and laid waste to some of Europe's oldest and most beautiful cities.

He wants the United States to end the arms embargo against the Bosnian government so that that nation's besieged Muslims can at least do something to defend themselves. He does this even though he knows that it will probably lead to more violence in the short-run, which will cause United Nations



He knows that the American people are more than a little leery of any more foreign entanglements. He knows that we have seen the carnage and bloodshed of Sarajevo, and that we, as a nation, have not been moved to outrage, or even much concern.

Yet Dole persists.

He has consistently criticized two presidents - one Republican, one Democrat - for their weakness in the face of these war crimes. Fellow Republicans are telling

him, quietly and not-so-quietly, to cool it, lest he come across as too eager to embroil our armed services in another foreign adventure.

There may be some method to his madness. Dole may be so devious that he thinks holding to a politically unpopular position will make him appear strong in a world of weaklings. He may also hope it reminds us that he is the last hero of The Good War who will ever run for president.

Still, by sticking to his position on Bosnia, Dole risks political attack from the right, which will label him an interventionist, and the left, which will call him a warmonger. This is a complicated, dangerous issue. Whether Dole is right, and

what history will think of his ideas, is a question impossible to answer in this space. But, on at least on this one issue,

Dole seems not to be concerned about what makes political sense, what will play in the polls, what will leave the networks with a good sound bite

At least on this one issue, Bob Dole is standing up for what he thinks is right.

All of our presidents, and wouldbe presidents, should be so bold.



#### By NITA LELYVELD The Associated Press

larly when the affirmative-action label is used to describe quotas, set-asides and other preferences.

They point to values both men learned

### in their small town By KEVIN ANDERSON

## Hays Daily News RUSSELL

RUSSELL – Driving along Interstate 70 towards Russell, large signs welcome motorists to "Bob Dole Country."

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Although Specter left Russell for college before moving to Pennsylvania, local residents still refer to him by his first name.

At 10 a.m. every day, a group of about 10 retired and semi-retired men meet at Meridy's restaurant on Fossil Street near I-70 for

what group member Max Horn describes as a "kaffee klatsch."

Members of the group weigh in on topics from sports to weather to politics and especially taxes — as they drink

coffee around a large round table. Foremost on the group's mind today

is the NCAA basketball tournament, but many members are familiar with Specter and readily give their two cents worth on his chances, his politics and his motives for running.

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**Russell proud of its 2 candidates** with Morton Specter, the Pennsylvania country is ready for a Jewish presi senator's older brother who ran a pipe salvage business in Russell for a number of years, until his death over a year ago. As for Russell's formula for producing presidential candidates, Horn points to the school system.

And others around the table, such as Everett Dumler, agree, remembering Specter as one of the best debaters in Russell.

Horn believes that the town on a whole had an effect on Specter, helping to instill in him what are referred But the Senate majority leader is to in Russell as small-town values -



Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, left, as a senior at Russell High School in 1941, and Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, as a Russell High senior in 1947.

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"If you don't work out here, people don't think much of you," Horn said. Dottie Dumler, who lives on a farm west of Russell, takes a break from

reading her paper at Daylight Donuts. She believes that Specter was instilled with the area's conservative values while in Russell. Although she thinks that Specter

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dent, referring to Specter's religious background. "It's not that I am prejudiced, but I think that it took the country a long ing presidential candidates. Horn time to elect a Catholic president, and

I am not sure that they are ready for a Jewish president," she said. She said that although that type of thinking is wrong, it will have some bearing on Specter's chances.

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But fellow kaffee klatscher Fritz Waymaster said he is not sure if Specter's interest is winning

As the only Republican candidate to take a prochoice stance, Specter's motivation may lie in changing the GOP's plat-form and trying to move the party in a more moderate direction, Waymaster said. But if name recognition is a gauge for national political success, Dole might have an edge on Specter. When Norman Helton,

paster of the First Southern Baptist Church of Russell, heard of Specter's intention to run for the Republican presidential nomination, he asked his

wife, "He's not from Russell is he?" Helton is a newcomer to Russell moving here eight and a half months ago from southern Illinois.

But whether Specter registers with the nation or not, the fact that two presidential hopefuls come from Russell is sure to put Kansas - if not Russell - on the map, Helton said. It's not every town in America where the residents refer to two U.S. senators by their first names.

ASHINGTON — Ordering hearings and giving speeches, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole is leading his party's push to reconsider affirmative action

Civil rights groups say they are troubled by the fighting words from a soon-to-be presidential candidate who has always been an ally.

Dole earlier this week suggested that after nearly 30 years of affirmative action laws, "the race-counting game has gone too far." But he said Friday his comments don't mean his position is shifting.

"I'm proud of my civil rights record and I have never shied away from it," he said, recit- But they remain concerned. ing a list of laws he has supported over the years.

"However my past record on civil rights does troubling," said/Wade Henderson, head of the not, and should not, disqualify me from raisir legitimate questions about the continui effectiveness of affirmative action - parti-

As the 1996 presidential race begins to take shape, affirmative action is a key theme. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, has said that as president he would issue an executive order eliminating federal hiring and contract practices based solely on race or gender. And President Clinton is reviewing affirmative action programs

"Presidential politics will probably play an increasing role in the positioning of certain people when it comes to this issue," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said Friday.

Civil-rights groups are hesitant to criticize Dole, a man who has helped them in the past.

"Senator Dole's apparent change of heart on the need for affirmative action programs is

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## **Dole on affirmative action**

### **Continued from page 1-A**

NAACP's Washington bureau and the organization's chief national lobbyist.

Glass Ceiling Commission would not now turn mined," Neas said. a blind eye to the evidence that suggests affirmative action is still necessary."

Henderson was referring to the commission formed in 1991 to assess the progress of women and minorities in the workplace.

This week, issuing its first report, that ly slow."

Ralph Neas, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, said trations - from the 1982 extension of the tively as to weed out ones that are not. Voting Rights Act to the Civil Rights Act of

1991. "We have many times applauded these contributions," he said.

He especially noted that Dole opposed an attempt in the Reagan administration to gut the Nixon administration executive order that is central to affirmative action.

Under that order, if an employer receiving federal funds determines he has too few women and minorities, he must set goals and timetables and make a good-faith effort to meet them.

Dole opposed the move that would have made setting those goals and timetables voluntary, Neas said.

Neas said he was surprised, therefore, that leader criticized the goals and timetables lan-

Dole said he expected hearings on affirmative action to "demonstrate that there are other, more equitable ways to expand opportunity, without resorting to policies that grant preferences to individuals simply because they happen to be members of certain

"What we hope is that Senator Dole will work with the civil rights community and with Republicans and Democrats and make sure that one of the great bipartisan achievements "Surely the senator who gave the nation the of the past 30 years is not undone or under-

In his remarks on affirmative action, Dole repeatedly has spoken of quotas, saying they should not exist. But Neas said federal law prohibits them and Dole knows it.

Clinton, meanwhile, met Friday with Democratic senators at the White House to group said, "Progress has been disappointing- discuss his review and ways to confront \$ Dole's assault.

The president ordered the review after Dole began speaking out. However, adminis-Dole had "played a constructive role" in tration officials have said it is designed as many of the two dozen civil-rights laws much to find ways of protecting the preferpassed during the Reagan and Bush adminis- ence programs that are still working effec-

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., told reporters after the meeting that he doesn't think there's much time for Democrats to figure out a solution because Republicans see a "real political opportunity to score points.'

On the other hand, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said, "We ought not to be rushed."

Nancy Zirkin, director of government relations for the American Association of University Women, a leading advocate for women's equity, contended the push to change the law may backfire.

"I think that everyone's looking in both parties at what happened in 1994 - the strength of the white male vote and 'how white males spoke,' " she said. "What they're not looking at is the fact that in that election, in his speech Wednesday, the Republican women didn't turn out in the same percentages as they did in 1992. In an issue like affirmative action, it could very well wake up women to understand that issues in their lives are stake."

