

Prominent Iowans endorse Dole

Governor, senator to support Kansan

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Iowa's governor and senior senator endorsed Bob Dole for president Wednesday, casting the Kansan as the Republican Party's best hope of recapturing Midwestern states that were critical to Bill Clinton's 1992 victory.

"Bob Dole is the right man at the right time," said GOP Gov. Terry Branstad, who took sides in the Iowa presidential caucuses for the first time in his dozen years as governor. "He is an experienced and battle-tested leader."

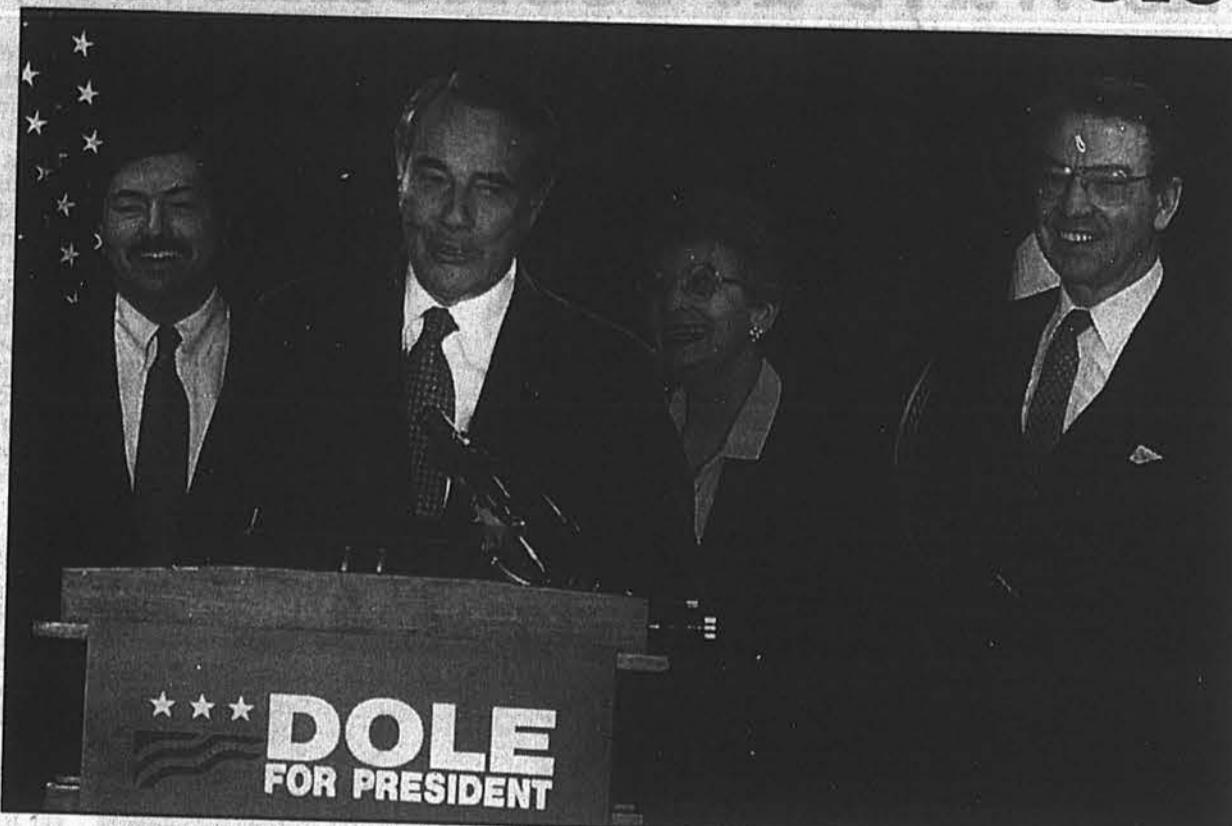
Also endorsing the Senate majority leader was Sen. Charles Grassley, who was with Dole back in 1988 when he won Iowa convincingly but was derailed by George Bush in New Hampshire.

"There's no doubt in my mind that Bob Dole is most qualified to lead our nation," Grassley said.

Their remarks were part of Dole's strategy to cement his role as the GOP front-runner with a slew of endorsements prior to his April 10 formal declaration of candidacy.

But winning the backing of Iowa's top Republicans also presents a bit of a dilemma for Dole, who knows his 1996 Iowa showing will be judged against his 1988 performance; then, he won with 37 percent of the vote, and religious broadcaster Pat Robertson placed second with 25 percent.

"I know there is going to be the expectations game," Dole said.



Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole accepts the endorsement from Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad (left) and Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa (right), Wednesday in Washington.

Grassley and Branstad said Dole's longstanding support of family farmers made him attractive in Iowa, where caucuses next February are the first step in the GOP nominating process.

Looking past the nomination chase, they said Dole's Midwestern roots made him the best GOP contender in Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan — all carried by Democrat Clinton in 1992.

Taking questions from reporters, Dole said he had ruled out announcing that he would serve only one term if elected, an idea he had floated a few months ago. Advisers quickly dismissed the idea back then, and the 71-year-old Dole said Wednesday he was looking forward to serving two terms.

Dole also defended his calls for a review of federal affirmative ac-

tion programs and said it was not inconsistent for him to do so after years of supporting such efforts.

Programs found to be effective should be kept, but those that do not work or foster reverse discrimination should be scrapped, he said.

"I think the fact that I have a perfect, flawless civil rights record gives me a lot of credibility" on the issue, he said.

Hays Daily News, Thursday March 30, 1995



Alice Mills, 94, sits in front of the old Russell High School, where she taught Bob Dole and Arlen Specter.

CHARLIE RIEDEL / Hays Daily News

Teacher a common denominator of two candidates

Alice Mills taught Russell's Dole, Specter

By TONYA FOSTER

Hays Daily News
RUSSELL — Sens. Bob Dole and Arlen Specter have more in common than growing up here and running for president.

They were taught by Alice Mills. Mills, who will be 95 in June, taught English and math for 50 years in Russell and substituted for a couple of years after she retired in 1969.

Mills taught math to Dole in junior high and to Specter in high school.

"Both of them were excellent students," Mills said. "Both of them were well-liked."

Dole, the Senate majority leader, and Specter, R-Pa., were active in school, Mills recalled.

Dole was a football player, Specter a debate champion. "Bob was more of an athlete," Mills said. "I'm sure he



Specter

was a good leader on the football field."

Dole was industrious, independent and impeccably groomed, she reminisced. He was also shy. Specter was entirely different. "He was a fun-loving guy," she recalled.

Mills and Specter still keep in touch. A couple of weeks ago, he called her and asked to make a speech from her porch when he visited Russell. She said she told him it was impossible because the porch was too small. So Specter will speak Saturday at the Russell Elks Club instead.

Mills, who taught several subjects, recalls many good students, some of whom became lawyers, bankers and doctors.

But she does not take all the credit for their success. "We had some excellent teachers. It was a good school system."

She proudly says that she was not the easiest teacher.

"Bob said I was a strict disciplinarian," she said. "I didn't want them to go to the drug store and say they had fun (in class). I wanted them to say we did business. I wouldn't have won a popularity contest."

Specter's announcement schedule

Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter officially launched his bid for the Republican presidential nomination today.

His announcement kicked off a three-day, four-state tour that will culminate in a visit to his boyhood home, Russell.

Following his speech in Washington, he flew to Harrisburg, Pa., for a speech in the state that has elected him to three terms in the U.S. Senate.

On Friday, he will fly to a town hall meeting in Exeter, N.H., the state where the race for the GOP nomination begins.

Saturday he flies to the Midwest, making an appearance at the Botanical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, at 10:30 a.m.

After Iowa, he will return to Kansas, where he spent his childhood in Wichita and Russell.

He will arrive at the Hays Municipal Airport at 1:30 p.m. After taking 10 minutes to field questions from the press, Specter will drive to Russell. Arriving at the Russell Elks Club by 2:15 p.m., Specter will speak at 2:40.

By 3:40, he will board a plane to return to Philadelphia.

■ Specter joins the presidential race as a moderate, pro-choice alternative. Page 2.

Russell has it all ^{USA Today} ^{Thursday} ^{March 30, 1995}

While many aspects of the article on Russell were very flattering and on the mark, there are some misconceptions I'd like to clear up ("Dole, Specter look to roots in Russell," News, Tuesday).

We are not quite as isolated from the real world as it would seem. We have a daily newspaper in Russell, and we also have a biweekly newspaper. We also have an AM and FM radio station and approximately a dozen very nice restaurants.

Despite what the article suggested, we do have clothing stores, discount stores, appliance stores, car dealerships, a skating rink and many more businesses that are doing very well. There are still many oil-related businesses located here.

We also have factories that are doing very well, and a new one being built. There are homes being built and a beautiful lake nearby for relaxation. Anything you need can be found in Russell.

One final note for the record: We do have some communication with the outside world. We even get USA TODAY!

Cassie Karst, Russell, Kan.