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BOB DOLE

FOR PRESIDENT

EDITORIAL PAGE

Bob Dole Is the Most Qualified Candidate For the Presidency

"I can lead. I know the way," Bob Dole told the 12,000 people who attended his announcement as a Republican candidate for the 1996 Republican nomination for president April 10 in the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka.

Dole does know the way . . . and he knows it well. He has had more experience in government than any candidate seeking the presidential nomination on either ticket. He's a conservative, but not a far right winger.

Raised on the High Plains of Central-Western Kansas in a tight-knit family where he learned strong family values and was aided by regular church attendance, Boy Scouts and 4-H training, and participation in high school sports, Dole learned the difference between right and wrong and where to go home at night. While engaging in sports, his friends tell us that he would never think of breaking training rules.

Dole, as the majority leader of the United States Senate, is the No. 1 Republican and the second most important individual in the federal government. He has 44 years of government experience. He has been a state representative, a county attorney for eight years, a congressman for eight years, and now a United States senator for 27 years. In addition, he served several years as chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, has been minority leader of the Senate and now is serving his second time around as majority leader.

Dole also is a former national chairman of the Republican Party.

All through his life, Dole has been an exemplary citizen. He was wounded twice during Army service in Northern Italy and decorated twice. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with Oakleaf Cluster for heroism on the battlefield. He spent 39 months in various hospitals abroad and in The States.

A pre-medical student for two years at The University of Kansas before he enlisted in the Army, Dole, after rebuilding his body, attended The University of Arizona at Tucson for a year, then earned both his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees at Washburn University in Topeka in 1952. He completed both degrees at the same time, graduating magna cum laude.

This is Dole's third try for his party's nomination for the presidency. He also was the party's nominee for the vice presidency in 1976.

When he begins his presidency, Dole will most likely be the last commander-in-chief who saw military service in World War II, and only the second president produced by the state of Kansas, the other being his idol, Dwight David Eisenhower of Abilene. Alfred Mossman Landon of Independence is the only other Kansan who won the nomination of his party for the presidency. Charles Curtis of Topeka is the only other native of our state who sought the nomination of his party, but he was defeated by Herbert Clark Hoover at the party convention at Topeka in 1928.

Eisenhower was the first WWII president. Others were John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

During his service with the legendary Tenth Mountain Division in Italy, Dole was labeled "the best combat leader in his platoon."

Dole is experienced. There are only eight to 10 people who have been members of the Senate longer than he has.

People of Russell and Russell County know Bob Dole well. They knew his family. They knew of the talent of his mother and her dedication to the family. They knew his father as a volunteer fireman for 50 years and as a manager of a creamery and grain elevator where he was proud that he missed only one day's work in 40 years for illness. He was affectionately known as "Doley." The Doles have always been recognized as outstanding citizens who were willing to help a neighbor in need.

Dole was a leader in sports in high school and in college. Captain of the Russell High School basketball team in his senior year, he lettered in basketball, football and track three years. In track he ran the 440 and the 880.

At KU, he played football, basketball, and ran indoor track.

In high school, Dole was president of the Hi-Y (a men's religious organization), and a member of the National Honors Society.

For years, while he was county attorney, he taught a Sunday School Class at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Dole has always had the sensitivity to be able to empathize with people. He also cares for people. This was demonstrated years ago when he served as service officer of both The American Legion and The Veterans of Foreign Wars and was the county chairman of the American Red Cross.

During the years when he was Russell County attorney, he and his deceased brother Kenneth, at Christmastime each year, saw to it that every needy kid in town had Christmas presents under their trees, even though it strained their budgets.

Under Senator Dole's leadership, the Congress has made many contributions to the American society, including housing, transportation, assistive technology, and help to families of people with disabilities. Because he wanted to help the disabled, he established The Dole Foundation.

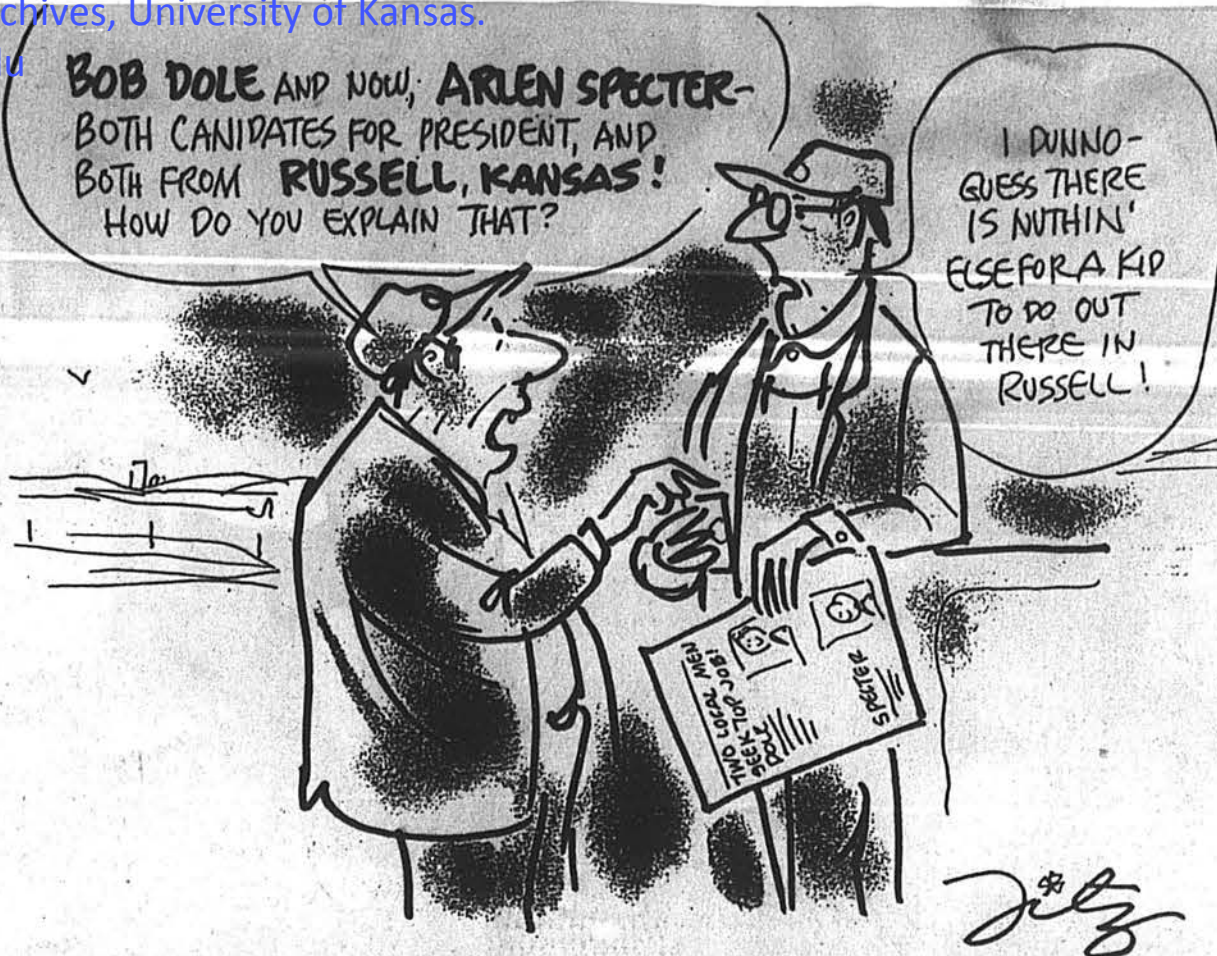
The only elections Senator Dole ever lost were the ones for the vice presidency and his two earlier tries for the presidency. The run with President Gerald R. Ford was an uphill battle because the people did not like Ford's pardoning of President Richard Milhous Nixon for his participation in the Watergate scandals, and Dole was the underdog in his tries for the presidential nomination in 1980 and 1988.

Now he is the front-runner, and rightfully so. He would make an outstanding president, and he has the unqualified endorsement of this newspaper.

To give you an example of what local people — people who know him best — think of his ability, his character and his integrity, we would estimate that if he secures the Republican nomination, he will receive 85 to 90 percent of the total vote of his home county in the 1996 general election. — A.D.E.

BOB DOLE AND NOW, ARLEN SPECTER—
BOTH CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT, AND
BOTH FROM RUSSELL, KANSAS!
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

I DUNNO—
GUESS THERE
IS NUTHIN'
ELSE FOR A KID
TO DO OUT
THERE IN
RUSSELL!



Central-Western Kansas: Two Sons and a Campaign

By GERALD F. SEIB

The Topeka Capital-Journal
As luck or the fates would have it, there now are two Republican presidential candidates — Bob Dole and Arlen Specter — who grew up in Russell, Kan., a small town that sits far out on the flat and unforgiving plains of Western Kansas.

As luck or the fates would have it, I happen to have been born and raised in Hays, Kan., a small town that also sits far out on the flat and unforgiving plains of Western Kansas, just 25 miles down the highway west Russell.

So the unfolding 1996 presidential campaign inevitably raises a personal question: Does growing up in the same western Kansas neighborhood as these two would-be presidents offer any insight into their inner workings?

Probably, a little. It's easy to get carried away with pop-psychology analyses of the men and women who lead the country, or aspire to, so it's dangerous to travel too far down this path. Yet it's also true that there's no real separating the person from the roots. Understanding Ronald Reagan, for instance, requires understanding his Norman Rockwell view of his small-town Illinois youth. To analyze Bill Clinton, it's helpful to consider the unique circumstances of his Arkansas youth.

So consider the western Kansas of Russell and Hays. From a distance, the two towns rise like small bumps on the vast, breathtakingly simple expanse of prairie grasslands. Because the land is so flat, and so few trees obstruct the view, natives grow up expecting to see every sunrise from its exquisite beginning, every sunset until its brilliant end.

But the plains are taxing as well as brilliant. The summer heat is searing, the winter cold biting. And it is dry. The area gets, on average, only 23 inches of rain annually. The one physical constant is the wind, which can make either the heat or the cold cutting.

The real beauty lies in the soil, which turns out to be ideal for growing winter wheat. At its core, western Kansas is populated by people whose forefathers arrived carrying little or nothing, except some vague notion that they could survive by turning the flat grasslands into wheat farms. My own grandfather arrived as an immigrant youth who spent his first summer on the homestead living under an overturned wagon. Trees were so scarce that settlers made fence posts not out of wood, but out of post rock, a soft and cream-colored limestone.

Yet the settlers did survive, on moxy and common sense, and built farms that today yield on average more than 30 bushels of wheat an acre every summer. It's a simple statistic, but it's the envy of much of the world.

Understanding this environment is illuminating, because it helps shape its sons and daughters. Because western Kansas is not a land of great bounty, it tends to produce a kind of personal and political austerity. Because it is a land without much inherited wealth, it tends to produce suspicion of those who have it.

Because it is a land where the forefathers' route to success tended to be hard work rather than brilliance, there tends to be a suspicion of those with grandiose answers. There are some rural locales

where people take great stock in silver-tongued oratory. Western Kansas isn't one of those places. Given a choice between saying too much or saying too little, western Kansans tend to err on the side of saying too little.

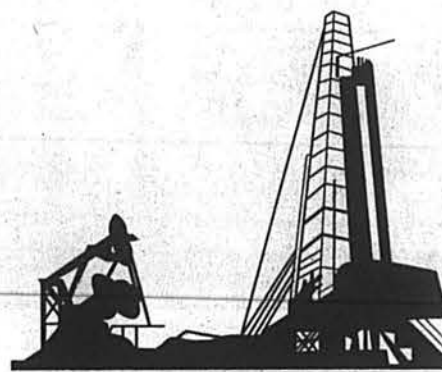
And because western Kansas lies so far from centers of power and wealth, its citizens tend to be neopopulists who view the powerful with an uneasy mix of envy and suspicion. Consider the appeal of Ross Perot in 1992. In Russell County, he carried 35 percent of the vote, outpolling Bill Clinton, and virtually matching George Bush. In my home county of Ellis next door, Perot got 31 percent of the vote.

Both Senator Dole and Senator Specter are decidedly the products of this environment: Senator Dole is the son of a cream-and-egg dealer, and Senator Specter the son of a junk dealer. Senator Dole has remained more the loyal son, representing the area in Congress for three decades, while Senator Specter moved on to Pennsylvania.

In each man, though, it is easy to see the traces of western Kansas. In Senator Specter, they are found in the mix of fiscal conservatism and mind-your-own-business social libertarianism that he preaches. In Senator Dole, they can be found in his stoic distaste for highflying rhetoric, in his mistrust of those who too freely spend someone else's money, and in the disdain he displays for those who have coasted too easily to the top.

Both men may have made their peace with the GOP's country-club wing, but they will never be of it. "Places shape people," Senator Dole himself declared in a 1988 autobiography, "Kansas more distinctively than most."

Welcome Home Bob



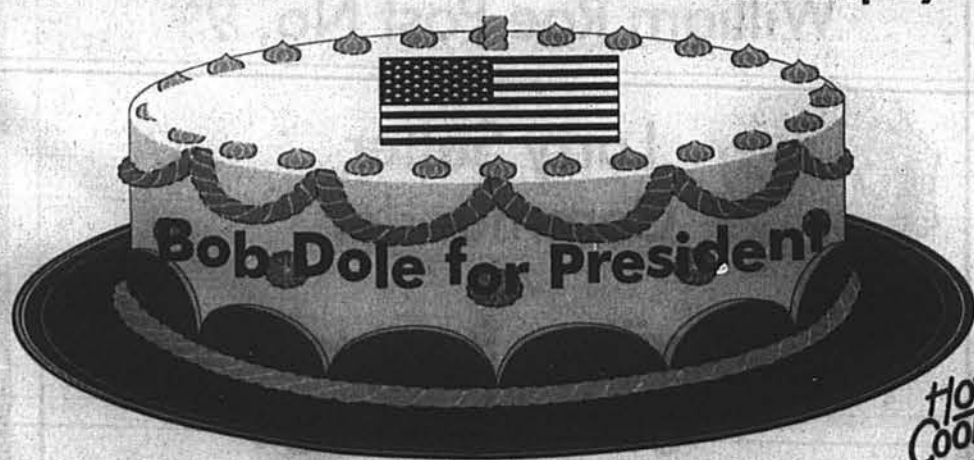
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