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SENATOR BOB DOLE was a speaker at the dedication in Russell of the Doran R. Dole fire truck in June 1981.



THE DORAN R. DOLE fire truck is pictured center. Dole was a volunteer fireman for 50 years. The dedication was June 6, 1981.

Dole Update on Haiti

By BOB DOLE
March 31, 1995

WASHINGTON — President Clinton is in Haiti today as part of the transition from American control to United Nations control. All Americans are proud of the performance of the men and women of our armed forces in Haiti. As always, they have served where ordered with skill and courage. And all Americans are pleased that the occupation of Haiti has gone as smoothly as it has.

We all support democracy in Haiti. That does not mean, however, that we should have occupied Haiti in the first place. And the transition to United Nations command serves as a reminder that all concerns about the Haiti operation are not over.

U.N. Control and 'Mission Creep'
First, we would do well to remember that the problems in Somalia did not occur under U.S. command — they occurred after the operation was transferred to United Nations control. We learned the hard way that the agenda of Boutros Boutros Ghali and the United Nations is not the American agenda. It is true the U.N. Commander is an American — General Joseph Kinzer — but the U.N. bureaucrats will be in the loop. The problem of "mission creep" has already been raised — in requests to disarm the Haitian population, for example. In my view, U.N. command of American soldiers should be avoided.

Mounting Costs of Occupation
Second, the costs of Haiti are mounting daily. One and a half billion dollars have already been spent on the occupation and nation-building in Haiti. The tab is only going to go up — up to \$2 billion or more. In a time of severe budget cuts, and in a time when foreign aid is being reduced, we must ask whether we can afford \$2 billion for Haiti.

Problems Remain in Haiti
Third, Haiti still has a long way to go. Elections called for in the Haitian constitution have been postponed. Political assassination appears to be on the rise. Serious reports of involvement by the Aristide government in this week's murder have been made, and they deserve full examination. Little effort to reach out to parliamentary opponents has occurred. There are disturbing indications that President Aristide or his supporters are subverting the democratic process. Despite the ceremony today, we



realize there are real problems in Haiti — and there will continue to be problems, no matter how long the U.S. or the U.N. stays in Haiti.

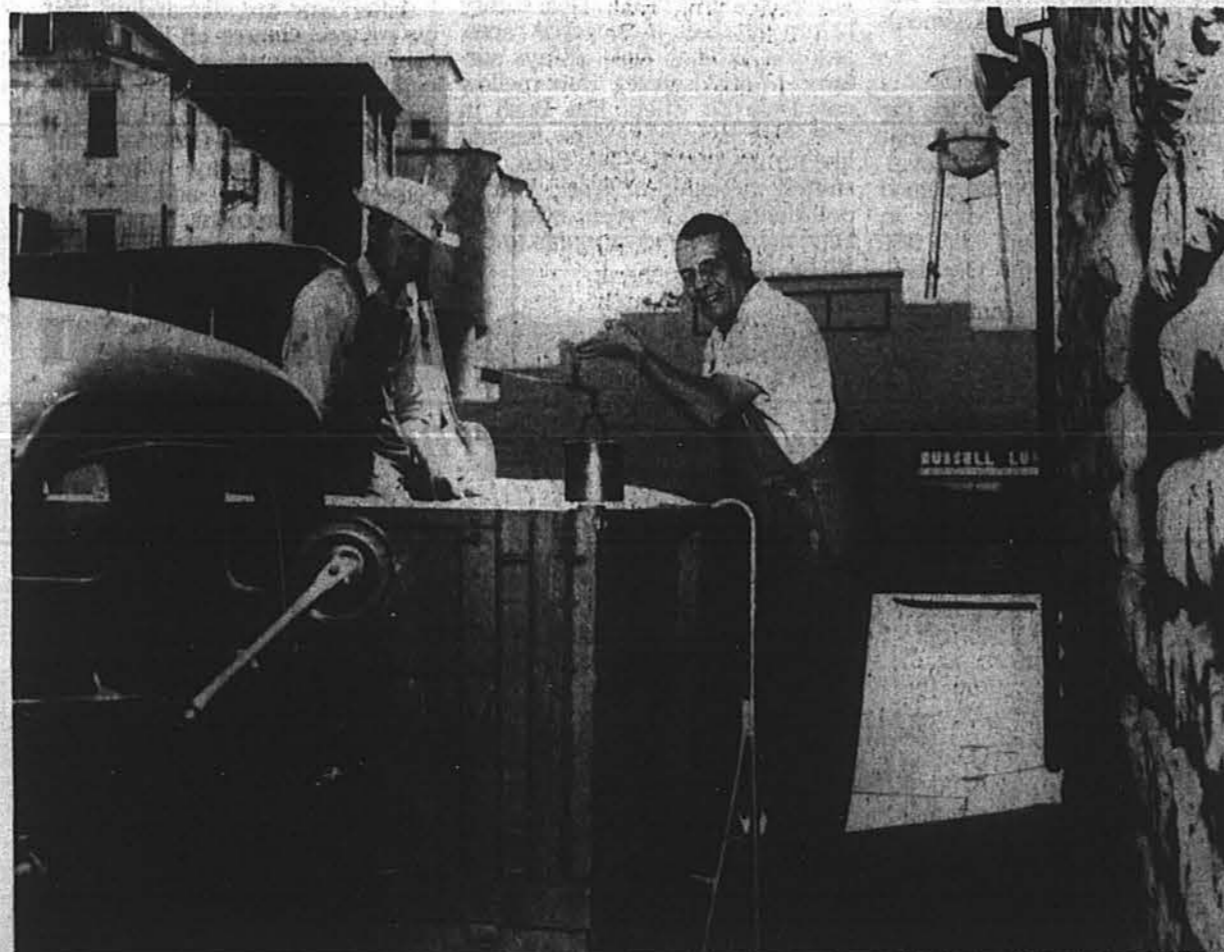
We all support genuine efforts at reconciliation and democracy in Haiti. We hope the long-delayed elections move forward in Haiti — that they are free and fair, that the results are respected by all Haitians, and that President Aristide keeps his promise to step down.

As a recent article by President Clinton's former envoy to Haiti points out, the hard work of restoring democracy in Haiti was not returning President Aristide from exile — it is in building truly democratic institutions in a country that has never known them.


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MEMBERS OF THE Dole family gathered here June 6, 1981, for the dedication of the Doran R. Dole fire truck. Senator Robert J. Dole, representing his family, was a speaker. His two sisters, Gloria Nelson and Norma Jean Steele, are on the right. Doran R. Dole was a volunteer fireman in Russell for 50 years.



FIRST WHEAT OF 1953 — Doran R. Dole was manager of Norris Grain Company in Russell from 1948 until his retirement, about 1969.




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Bob Dole is the No. 1 Republican and the most important man in the federal government, next to the president. He has a lifetime of dedicated service to his country and to his fellow man. Dole is a leader who knows the way, with more experience in government than any other person in the United States today.



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