

# Church efforts, poll preceded Dole's attack on movies

New York Times News Service

When it comes to critiquing Hollywood, a politician like Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, may reap headlines, as Dole did in abundance when he attacked the movie and recording industries for creating "nightmares of depravity."



John Paul II

But excessive cinematic sex and violence have been a more enduring concern to officials of the Roman Catholic Church, who aspire to speak with a higher moral authority than do presidential candidates and to do so in a way not tied to election cycles.

Indeed, shortly before Dole delivered his tongue-lashing, Pope John Paul II issued a more nuanced statement titled, "Cinema: Communicator of Culture and Values." And officials within the U.S. Catholic Conference, the social policy arm of the nation's bishops, released a poll suggesting wide public discomfort with what passes for morality on the big screen.

Movies have "the great merit of contributing to the cultural and human growth of the individual," the pope declared, but they can also "oppress freedom" by emphasizing "scenes of violence and sex offensive to human dignity."

the summer that Hollywood released such trigger-happy hits as "Beverly Hills Cop II," "Robocop" and "Predator."

In contrast to the Hollywood reaction afforded Dole — who was largely pook-pooed as pandering to the Republican Party's right wing — the pope on that earlier occasion sparked introspection, with luminaries among his listeners agreeing that many movies were too violent.

This time around, along with the pope's statement, Catholic officials released a poll indicating that many Americans say that they, too, want more uplifting fare on the big screen.

The telephone survey, conducted by Gallup in April for the Catholic Communication Campaign in Washington, asked 1,008 adults nationwide how important it was that they see movies reflecting their own moral and ethical values. Sixty-five percent answered that it was either "very important" or "somewhat im-

portant" to them (respondents over age 50 being emphatic about this). But 60 percent also said that half or less than half of the movies they had seen in the last year reflected those values. Asked what they would like to see, those polled volunteered answers that included less sex and violence and more honesty and trust.

The poll's margin of sampling error was given as plus or minus three percentage points. "They're sick and tired of not seeing movies that reflect the basic human values," said Ramon Rodriguez, director of the Catholic Communication Campaign.

The campaign was established in 1978 by the American bishops, mainly to provide money for certain movies, television documentaries and radio programs. It contributed to the making of "Romero," a 1989 movie starring Raul Julia that chronicled the life and assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador.

The campaign also provided backing for a film on the life of Dorothy Day, the social reformer and founder of the monthly newspaper Catholic Worker. The movie, starring Moira Kelly, has not yet been released.

Several prelates have cited the Gallup survey's results as encouraging. The summer's biggest hit so far is the R-rated "Die Hard With a Vengeance," which involves considerable mayhem as Bruce Willis, playing a tough cop, stalks a mad bomber in New York.

If, as the poll suggests, many people want to see their values reflected on the big screen, how does one account for the explosive box-office popularity of a film as violent as "Die Hard"?

Rodriguez said that having been asked that several times of late, he took a hopeful view: Moviegoers, he said, may not realize just how much blood and profanity await them when they plunk down \$7 or so for a ticket to such a film.

Washington — Sen. Bob Dole would beat President Clinton by a slim margin if a head-to-head presidential election were conducted today, according to a poll released Saturday.

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A6 Monday, June 12, 1995

## Polls shows Dole ahead of Clinton

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole would beat President Clinton by a slim margin if a head-to-head presidential election were conducted today, according to a poll released Saturday. The Newsweek poll of 755 adults shows the Kansas Republican ahead of Clinton 49 percent to 40 percent. It came on the heels of an NBC-Wall Street Journal survey that showed the two in a statistical dead heat.

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## Dole's campaign on hot seat

### Solicited donations surpass legal limit

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole hurriedly sent out a corrective letter to potential contributors after his Republican presidential campaign solicited donations exceeding the legal limit for a fund-raising event.



Federal election law limits individual contributions to presidential candidates to \$1,000 a person. An invitation sent by Dole for a June 19 dinner in Washington

asked for \$1,000 per person for the 5:30 p.m. reception and \$5,000 per person for the 7:30 p.m. dinner. What the solicitation meant to say, according to campaign press secretary Nelson Warfield, was that political action committees could give \$5,000, the legal limit for PACs, or that individuals who had raised \$5,000 from five people could use that for entree to the dinner. "It was an inadvertent mistake," said Warfield, who described the letter as "less than artfully crafted." He supplied a copy of a follow-up letter dated May 31 that he said was sent to those who received the faulty invitation. "The purpose of this note is to clarify the ticket prices," the letter said, describing the dinner tickets as "\$5,000 per PAC or individuals who have raised \$5,000."

"As I am sure you are aware the maximum an individual can contribute to a presidential campaign is \$1,000. A political action committee can contribute \$5,000," said the letter, signed by Royal Roth, the campaign's PAC director. Warfield said the campaign had halted distribution of the invitation once the mistake was realized. He played down the mistake, saying a campaign could make worse errors than "using the word person instead of PAC."

## Poll: Sen. Dole Edges Clinton

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole defeated President Clinton in a poll released Monday that asked Americans who they would support for the presidency. The CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll, which surveyed 1,005 people, showed 50 percent leaned toward Dole and 46 percent backed Clinton. The June 5-6 survey was the first since February that had Dole beating Clinton. In February, 51 percent supported Dole over 44 percent for Clinton. An April poll split the vote at 48 percent for each candidate. A survey a month ago had Clinton edging Dole 49 percent to 47 percent. The latest survey had Clinton easily beating other Republicans, including Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas; California Gov. Pete Wilson; conservative commentator Pat Buchanan; and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Gramm, Wilson and Buchanan have indicated they would run for the White House. Gingrich has said he would not, but that has not stopped speculation on a possible bid by the speaker for the Oval Office. Of those polled, 71 percent said Gingrich should not run for the presidency, while 20 percent said he should.

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL Friday, June 16, 1995 / 5-C

## In politics as usual, Dole's at head of line

When he gave the Republican response to President Clinton's address earlier this week, Sen. Bob Dole actually said, "The American people are fed up with politics as usual." He said it as if he had just thought of it, and as if the American people had just decided they were fed up. It's a good line, but the problem with Dole saying it is that he represents politics as usual. He has been in Washington, serving in the House and Senate for about 35 years, and most of what the American people are fed up with started or gathered steam while he was standing guard. He alone is not responsible for any of the abuses that have caused the majority of people to lose faith in their politicians, but when he mentions the "long-awaited" dialogue between party leaders about assailing the deficit, he should remember he's one of those we've been waiting on. While Dole is not solely responsible for the decades of delay in answering the country's

crises, it is his fault, and his alone, that he must talk these days like a candidate for president. He chose to run, and is running hard, and has to sound like he means it. That's why he made his speech against sex and violence in films and music recently to California supporters at a fund-raising dinner. He said the right things, and said them well. "A line has been crossed," he told his backers in words aimed at national consumption, "not just of taste, but of human decency. It is crossed every time sexual violence is given a catchy tune. When teen suicide is set to an appealing beat. When Hollywood dream factories turn out nightmares of depravity." Dole cited specific films and musical(?) groups and talked about their glorifying "mindless violence and loveless sex." The groups included Geto Boys, 2 Live Crew and Cannibal Corpse. Whatever happened to the Mills Brothers and the Modernaires? Dole went on, "The mainstreaming of deviancy must come to an end, but it will only stop when the leaders of the entertainment industry recognize and shoulder their responsibility. We have reached the point where our popular culture threatens to undermine our character as a nation." These comments, while very much on the

mark, take on significance only when you consider Dole is a presidential candidate. Any candidate needs to be four-square for some things, like ending government waste, and four-square against some other things, like film and musical filth. Dole was merely getting on the record. Hollywood and the recording studios have been turning out garbage for a long time. This is nothing Dole discovered, and nothing the public particularly needs to be warned about. The vulgar products are there, and will remain there until the public stops buying them and paying to see them. Nothing a candidate says goes uncriticized. After the California speech, the other side was asking Dole how come, if he's so strong on family values, and so concerned about the quality of culture in the land, he favors cutting funds for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Public Broadcasting System? I'm on Dole's side. I believe you can oppose film filth and musical manure, and still favor cutting government support for those two operations. The NEA sponsors some garbage along with culture, and the PBS, good as it is, should be able to make it on its own. The American public has been subjected to so many political campaigns it is well aware the candidates have to say what they have to

say. But, on the other hand, the candidates have to be careful when they point with pride and view with alarm. They can safely oppose waste in government as long as they don't get specific and propose to cut my favorite waste or your favorite waste. Cut that other guy's favorite waste, but lay off mine. They can be against raunchy films and tapes, but don't threaten to take them off TV. Television is free, or at least cheap, and it gives viewers exactly what they want to see. There are hundreds of federal film-film programs the candidates won't mention for fear of alienating too many voters. One is the pension plan for federal workers and military personnel which, with annual adjustments, eventually pays the retiree more than he or she made on the job or on active duty. For example, former Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine died last week. When she was in Congress her highest salary was \$42,500 per year. When she died, her pension was more than \$95,000 per year. Do you think any candidate is going to roam the country promising to end this outrage? This would be a relatively small show of courage, but the candidate who does it might as well openly vow to raise taxes, end Social Security, ban all guns and abolish the public school system.



Dick Snider  
This morning

A10 Sunday, June 18, 1995 The Salina Journal

## Dole vows to lift mandates

### He advocates direct grants for big cities

MIAMI — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole promised big-city mayors Saturday that they can expect greater freedom from federal rules if he is elected. Dole, R-Kansas, told the U.S. Conference of Mayors that he wants to review a variety of federal mandates that take up as much as a third of many city budgets. Among those he mentioned were the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Dole, a major supporter of the disabilities law, said "maybe we've gone too far in some areas" in implementing it. He said he'd like to retool it, "not to devastate the program but to make it work better." He also advocated direct block grants for cities, rather than routing aid to them through state governments. "Many of the responsibilities



The Associated Press  
GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole told big-city mayors Saturday he would review a variety of federal mandates if he's elected.

pick up the tab, too." But Dole's overture didn't draw an enthusiastic response from the mayors, the majority of whom are Democrats. Dole acknowledged that Republican leaders are "not always known as the first friend of cities," but said he wanted to change that perception. Mayors, however, worry that the tradeoff for cities would come through welfare reform and resources for fighting crime. Dole pledged that the GOP would stick with its broad block grant plan for welfare and for making a huge block grant out of the \$9 billion allocated under the crime bill for hiring more police officers. "Where is the reasoning? Where is the common sense?" asked Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, a Democrat and next president of the mayor's conference. "They talk about economic empowerment and opportunity but at the same time every program that leads to a pathway for somebody to gain it is going to be cut."