

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL Sunday, August 13, 1995

Dole not big dog at Perot's 'Big D' party

By KRISTEN L. HAYS
The Capital-Journal

DALLAS — Bob Dole may be the front-runner for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination, but the 35-year Washington insider didn't quite convince many Ross Perot followers to go his way Saturday.

United We Stand America members from across the country gave the Senate majority leader a warm reception in what has been termed by Time magazine a "panderama," with GOP candidates anxious to court the independent vote. But Dole's efforts to identify with his listeners didn't succeed, they said.

"He fell flat," said Dr. Susan McManus, a political science professor

from the University of South Florida. "He was speaking to a wider audience."

"It's almost as if he's a dinosaur," said Linda Cordero of Mystic, Conn. "He's not today."

Dole told listeners: "I read the other day that you're a fly in the ointment. Well, we need more flies."

"I guess everybody here is frustrated with the political process," he continued, eliciting applause. "But you didn't just complain. You didn't just write letters to the editor. You didn't just write letters to your congressman. You decided to challenge business as usual, and in 1994 you gave me a party majority in the House and Senate."

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Dole not big dog at Perot's party

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The Kansan reiterated his message that government must be reined in "without devastating the things you care about," but noted the name of the game in Washington is the number of votes needed to pass a measure. Recent votes on a balanced budget and congressional term limits failed, but those initiatives and efforts to reform the tax code and return more power to states would come with a Dole presidency, he pledged.

"We're trying to keep our word," he said. "We haven't given up."

Dole ignored audience members who yelled "NAFTA!" including McPherson, Kan., UWSA member Niles Gibson. Their shouts were an effort to force the candidate's vote in opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Perot and many UWSA members heartily opposed NAFTA.

"I'm not perfect," Dole said. "But I've been tested. And I've been tested. And I've been tested. Ask any Democrat — Bob Dole has kept his word."

"He didn't want anymore NAFTA talk," Gibson said.

GDP candidate Pat Buchanan, who spoke before Dole, capitalized on dissatisfaction with NAFTA by reminding UWSA members of his opposition.

"I fought as hard as I could in 1992 and I got beat," he said. "Ross fought as hard as he could and he got beat. But our time's coming."

Saturday's gathering marked the first time that the entire field of candidates appeared before the same audience. In addition to Dole and Buchanan, the other candidates who spoke were former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, California Gov. Pete Wilson, Sens. Phil Gramm of Texas, Richard G. Lugar of Indiana and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Rep. Robert K. Dornan of California, radio talk show host Alan Keyes and

businessman Maurice M. "Morry" Taylor.

Alexander, who opened the 12-hour marathon of speeches Saturday morning, took a veiled shot at Dole by warning that if the Republicans nominate a Washington insider, they virtually guarantee a third-party challenge in 1996.

Claiming the Republican revolution is stuck in Washington, Alexander said, "If the Republican Party decides to nominate an inside-the-Beltway candidate, we run a grave risk that what happened in '92 will happen again in '96, and we will invite a third-party candidacy. President Clinton will be re-elected and the revolution will fail."

Wilson, who was twice elected to the Senate, portrayed himself as a Washington outsider.

"If you're satisfied with the status quo in Washington, I'm not your candidate," he said. He tweaked Dole by criticizing the Senate for holding up welfare reform and by suggesting that Dole's support for returning power to the states was a sudden conversion after more than three decades of helping to maintain the power of the federal government.

Gramm promised two things: a balanced budget during his term in office, two years ahead of the schedule called for in the Republican budget plan approved by Congress earlier this summer, and a flat tax that he said would ease the tax burden on the average American family.

Lugar, speaking mostly about nuclear proliferation, drew applause by promising to end the intrusiveness of the Internal Revenue Service through eliminating the federal income tax and replacing it with a national sales tax.

"Under my plan, what you make is yours," Lugar said. "No withholding, no IRS audits and no paperwork. You alone can decide what to do with your money."

(The Washington Post contributed to this report.)

The Salina Journal Sunday, August 20, 1995

Gramm stuns Dole with straw-poll tie

Kansan insists vote isn't true reflection

By The Associated Press
AMES, Iowa — In a surprisingly strong showing, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm tied Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole in a Iowa's Re-

publican presidential straw poll Saturday night, holding his own against the GOP front-runner in his Midwestern back yard.

Dole and Gramm each got 2,582 votes, according to results the Iowa Republican Party said were tentative because of the closeness. Commentator Pat Buchanan was a distant third with 1,922 votes and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander fourth with 1,156 votes.

The remarkable results capped a carnival-like day at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, as campaigns

brought in busloads of supporters from out of state in an effort to prove their early organizational prowess.

The influence of outsiders led several of the candidates to characterize the event as meaningless — and hardly a judge of Iowa organizations.

But Dole just a few days ago had predicted a victory here, and his aides were clearly despondent as the results were tabulated. Gramm, on the other hand, was exultant, returning to the convention hall to claim the tie as a big victory.

"The people of Iowa want to put the federal government on a budget like everybody else, and that is why they voted for me tonight," Gramm said. "If we can beat Bob Dole in Iowa we can beat him anywhere in America."

In a statement, Dole dismissed the results, saying the event was "a great fund-raiser, but I doubt it reflects the feelings of most Iowa Republicans. Naturally, I would have preferred to finish first alone. But I am confident of our ultimate victory in the February caucuses."



Dole

The Salina Journal Friday, August 18, 1995

Dole, GOP stalk Iowa for big poll

Kansas senator needs victory; all others covet second place

By PETER A. BROWN
Scripps Howard News Service

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Republican presidential candidates have their first major test this weekend: a straw poll that historically has been an accurate barometer in the state that begins the voting next February.

Anything but victory Saturday would be devastating to front-runner Sen. Bob Dole's campaign. But that isn't likely to occur, because Kansas Dole is far ahead. He's a neighbor and has a strong organization left over from 1988, when he won the Iowa caucuses but lost the GOP nomination to George Bush.

"In Iowa, the goal for everybody, both now or in February, is second place," said Charlie Black, who oversees the national campaign of Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas. "It is probably the most important event of this year."

Neutral party officials and even those with competing campaigns give Gramm an edge for No. 2 Saturday. Finishing second would be a boost for Gramm's campaign as he seeks to become Dole's major challenger.

Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander and TV broadcaster Pat Buchanan are fighting Gramm for second place, this weekend and nationally.

"The straw poll is so important that everybody is going to be looking at it," said Buchanan.

Iowa GOP Chairman Brian Kennedy said, "Dole, Gramm, Alexander and Buchanan are all pushing very hard to turn their supporters out."

The other major GOP hopefuls — Sens. Richard Lugar of Indiana and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, California Gov. Pete Wilson and Rep. Bob Dornan of California — are not expected to be competitive Saturday.

The surprise of the voting, however, could be Morry Taylor, a local businessman who has spent \$250,000 on TV ads in the last month and visited every one of the state's 99 counties during that period.

He's likely to outpoll Specter, Lugar, Wilson and Dornan and might even rival Alexander and Buchanan, suggest some neutral GOP sources.

"Dole certainly has the most to protect by winning," said Dave Koehl, executive director of the Iowa GOP. "He is the perceived front runner and is taking this very seriously."

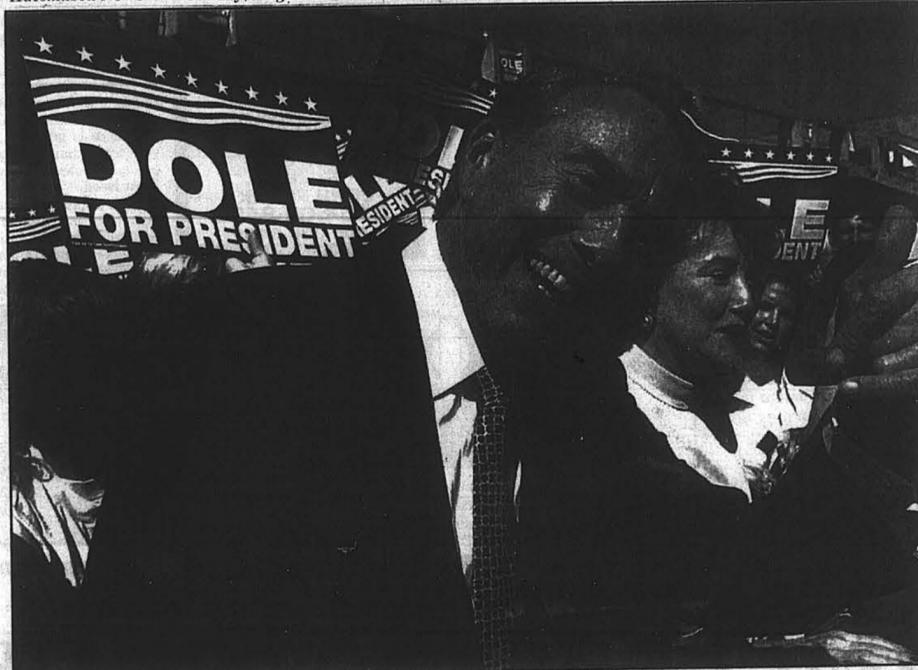


Dole

'It is still an indication of who can organize and get the troops here for a dress rehearsal for what's going to happen next February (at the caucuses).'

- Sen. Bob Dole

Hutchinson News Sunday, August 20, 1995



Associated Press photos

Republican presidential contender Sen. Bob Dole gestures to supporters during a rally on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames on Saturday.

Festive dry run in Iowa

Iowa straw poll seen as test of organizational strength

By Peter A. Brown
Scripps Howard News Service

AMES, Iowa — The Republican presidential field had its first skirmish Saturday — a much-hyped straw poll that, despite a circuslike atmosphere, had a track record of predicting winners in the state that begins the 1996 campaign.

Front-runner and Senate GOP leader Bob Dole was favored to win the balloting when the results were announced late Saturday night in the arena where the Iowa State basketball team normally plays.

But a late surge of ticket-buying left the expected results more uncertain than had been expected. Late Saturday afternoon, even the party pros

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Kansas Dole supporters make trek to Ames

By Clara Belden
The Hutchinson News

AMES, Iowa — Seven buses of Bob Dole supporters from Kansas were among scores of GOP faithful who descended on the Iowa State University campus Saturday for the Iowa Republican Party "Kickoff '96" straw vote caucus.

The Iowa cornfields beckoned an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Republicans from across the nation who came to support their favorite candidates.

Nine declared GOP presidential candidates attended the rally: Sen.

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A Morry Taylor campaign worker finds additional space for another campaign poster.

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Trek

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Dole; Ambassador Alan Keyes, Maryland; Sen. Phil Gramm, Texas; Pat Buchanan, Virginia; Sen. Richard Lugar, Indiana; Morry Taylor, an Illinois busi-

nessman; Sen. Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania; former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander; and Gov. Pete Wilson of California.

Voters, portraying "Iowans for a day," stood in the 70-degree sunshine before filing into the Hilton Coliseum's lobbies to vote for their favorite candidates.

Among them was seventeen-

year-old Kansan Trevor McKeeman, who will enter Chapman High School as a senior this fall. McKeeman said that after turning 18 he'll cast his first presidential vote for Dole.

Another Dole supporter was Polly Bales, 75, of Logan. A longtime pianist for the annual Native Sons and Daughters Kansas Day dinner, Bales said Dole invited her to play the piano in the White House if he becomes president.

Bob Fee of Hutchinson said he can't remember a time when he hasn't known about Dole. Fee rode the bus because of his dedication to the party and the senator, he said.

Curtis Bazemore of Topeka, who heads the Kansas Black GOP Council, said Dole has been a longtime favorite of his. Bazemore traveled to Iowa to show his support for Dole, he said.

Former state Sen. Ross Doyen of Concordia, recent national president of the National Conference of State Legislators, said he intends to help the Dole campaign by organizing state lawmakers from across the

state in an effort to support Kansas' native son.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said the straw vote caucus wasn't a scientific poll, but a test of organization.

"We'll be laughing all the way to the bank," Branstad said as he looked over a campus dotted with tents, red, white and blue decorated stages, and people lined up for picnic lunches.

The caucus was expected to raise \$200,000 for the Iowa Republican Party.

After voting, the crowds filed into the Big 12 basketball arena to hear former Vice President Dan Quayle open a "candidate forum."

"If Bill Clinton is a moderate,

I'm a grand champion speller," Quayle said, regaling the crowd.

An American flag, stretched from an upper chair to the floor of the basketball arena, formed the backdrop for candidate speeches.

The crowd applauded Dole, Gramm and Keyes as they spoke of returning America to family values. Lugar also received applause when he spoke in favor of a national sales tax, regulated by the states, that would replace income tax and the Internal Revenue Service.

The crowd booed Specter as he was introduced. He had earlier threatened not to attend the caucus, and had questioned its importance.