

Dole, McCain rallied support for mission

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link," said Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Nebr., who lost part of a leg in Vietnam and won the Medal of Honor.

"It's the father-son link. It's coming in and saying, 'We're the ones who were on the side of defending an unpopular war because it is right, and we'll defend an unpopular military effort now because we believe it's right,' and it's hard to beat that."

Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine, said: "Both men called on their historical backgrounds and travails to say, 'We can't do this to the troops. So how do we best ensure that if they're going, we define the mission?'"

When McCain, who supports Dole's rival, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, for the Republican presidential nomination, flew to Dole's side on the Bosnia issue, "it had a dramatic impact," said Cohen. "It took politics out of it and showed this was a principled decision," he added. "Without McCain, this could have gone in the other direction."

The bipartisan back-patting in the Senate was in stark contrast to the more searing partisan atmosphere in the House.

The same night that the Senate passed the Dole-McCain resolution, which supports the troops and requires the administration to arm the Bosnian Muslims so they have parity with the Serbs, the House spurned a Democratic resolution offering nothing more than support for the troops. The vote was along party lines.

But Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., who proposed the measure, said some House members were feeling so chagrined that they had not even supported the troops that the Republicans intended to bring the measure to the floor again, this time with Republican sponsors, and hoped to pass it before more Americans landed in Bosnia.

Not everyone sees Dole's actions as outside the realm of politics. One Democratic consultant with ties to the White House said that by helping the president achieve his goal, "Dole set up

a ticking time bomb that could go off any time — if something happens to the troops, people will blame Bill Clinton." But others see the outcome as positive for both Dole and Clinton.

"There was this nagging feeling that we had a president and a Senate majority leader seeking to be president who were too tactical, always positioning themselves," said Thomas Mann, an expert on Congress at the Brookings Institution.

"Now, seeing them act like leaders, it provides an opportunity for people to take a fresh look. We can see the possibilities of constructive public rhetoric."

No one seemed more surprised at Dole's speech than McCain, who moved to a seat closer to him in the chamber so he could watch his face.

Mann said that Dole, who ran 19 points behind Clinton in the latest CNN/Time magazine poll, had appeared "diminished" on the campaign trail, but that by appearing

statesmanlike on the Bosnia issue and giving an emotional speech Wednesday night, he reminded viewers of his better qualities "his emotion and his genuine skill at making the legislative process work."

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL

Friday, December 15, 1995

Dole, McCain rallied support

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — When Bob Dole argued on the Senate floor 25 years ago against cutting off funding for the Vietnam War, he was wearing a bracelet bearing the name of a U.S. prisoner of war.

On Wednesday night, when Dole, now the majority leader, was arguing on the Senate floor for the need to deploy U.S. troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he announced that the name on his POW bracelet was, by marvelous coincidence, that of John McCain, for the last few weeks his closest senatorial ally on the Bosnian peacekeeping mission.

Dole did not know McCain 25 years ago. And McCain, a Navy fighter pilot held captive from 1967 to 1973, said he learned about the bracelet for the first time Wednesday night.

Dole, for whom memories of war run deep and close to the nerves, was linked to John McCain during an unpopular war 25 years ago, and linked to him again Wednesday in another unpopular cause.

But many admirers in the divided Senate saw their union as a powerful alliance that carried an unusual degree of moral authority and allowed them to push through support for an unpopular cause.

Dole was once a dirt-poor Army grunt whose right arm was crippled by wounds he suffered in Italy in World War II; McCain is a graduate of Annapolis and the son and grandson of Navy admirals.

Between them they built a coalition of fewer than half the Republicans and almost all the Democrats, and put the Senate

B2 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1995
JOURNAL

Dole bails out on American kids

Remember gangsta rap? Seems Dole and other politicians have forgotten

Whatever happened to gangsta rap? It was only six months ago that Bob Dole and William Bennett grabbed headlines by decrying Time Warner for distributing songs with violent and misogynist lyrics. Now these politicians have moved on to new battles in the culture wars — reaping fresh ink by speaking out against show-biz nightmares of depravity like "Money Train" and Ricki Lake.

They don't talk about gangsta rap much anymore, and no wonder. If the goal of their last battle was to protect children from such music, it was a total bust.

Which is why we shouldn't let the gangsta-rap crusade pass so quickly into the footnotes of our waning year. If we care about the effects of nasty pop culture on children, it's important to know who is really on their side — and to unmask those who just pretend to care about our children for their own selfish and cynical political ends.

The gangsta-rap brouhaha could not be a better case in point. While the Bennett-Dole campaign did finally drive Time Warner to divest itself of its financial interest in Interscope, the company that distributed the of-

fending music under the label Death Row Records, Interscope is now bigger than ever; it's being sought by four other show-biz megacompanies, according to The Los Angeles Times.

Meanwhile, the prime Death Row rap release of the fall, a new album by Tha Dogg Pound, hit the Billboard chart at number one a month ago and for a while outsold its nearest competitor by nearly 2-1.

As a record executive said to me this week, "There has not been any interruption of the availability of any of this music to kids." But now that there's no more political profit to be milked out of assailing gangsta rap, the cause is forgotten as Sen. Dole and company chase newer sound bites. And even so, the targets of these cultural warriors remain nakedly partisan. Have you heard any Rupert Murdoch's airing of a fight today on Fox with that peerless children's role model Mike Tyson?

But the hypocrisy doesn't end there. The campaign against Time Warner was doomed from the start to fail at any objective except gaining Bennett and Dole publicity. As long as there's free speech and a free market in this country, trashy pop culture will flourish no matter how many politicians make speeches vilifying it.

Thanks to the deregulatory telecommunications bill now pushing through Congress — with Dole's blessing — Time Warner, Murdoch and the rest will soon be airing more junk than ever.

The only hope for even beginning to counter their fare is to fight to ensure the availability

of a constructive alternative — a benign pop culture — to children left home alone with the mass media.

This is what the Public Broadcasting Service, for one, tries to do, but both Dole and Bennett have worked to maim PBS.

In a twist out of Moliere, Bennett even advertised his hypocrisy last week by making a deal with PBS for a TV series based on his "Book of Virtues" — undoubtedly because no commercial network would touch so nutritious and therefore unprofitable a project.

He rationalizes his ideological inconsistency by saying that only private money will finance his series — a laughably disingenuous defense, given that his program would never air unless government funding supported the public stations that will broadcast it.

As for Dole, he is so proud of his efforts to protect the young that he now sends out a fund-raising letter inviting voters to mail pictures of their children to him so he can forward them to media executives who produce violent pop culture.

But in the Senate, Dole does everything he can to promote the financial interests of corporate campaign contributors that produce the nightmares he purports to deplore — and nothing to support even the modest effort of Reed Hundt, the Federal Communications Commission chairman, to force broadcasters to run a pitiful three hours of educational children's television a week.

When politicians publicly purport to defend our kids and then sell them out, they should be recognized not as heroes but as double agents in the culture wars.

FRANK RICH
The New York Times

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL Monday, December 18, 1995

Dole thinks Powell would 'answer the call'

Republican presidential front-runner hints in interview that the popular former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff would accept a request to run as his vice president.

By JIM ABRAMS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Gen. Colin Powell would "answer the call to duty" and accept a request to join the Republican ticket as the vice presidential nominee, Sen. Bob Dole predicted Sunday.

Dole, R-Kan., the front-runner for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, acknowledged that Powell, the popular former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would boost his chances to win the election.

Asked about Powell's stated decision not to seek national office in 1996, Dole told NBC's "Meet the Press": "I think with his concern about America, his service to America, and his concern about the future, bringing people together, blacks, whites, Hispanics... my view is that he would answer the call to duty again."

Powell topped all announced and potential Republican candidates in the polls before his decision last month not to seek the nomination.

Powell spokesman Bill Smullen said Dole and the retired general hadn't discussed the vice presidency. "They haven't talked about that, nor has he been asked by the senator."

"But the general made it very clear when he made his announcement on Nov. 8 that he was not seeking an elective office in 1996 and that would include the vice presidency," said Smullen, adding that Powell hadn't changed his mind.

Dole, the Senate Republican leader, said his



Gen. Colin Powell



Sen. Bob Dole

main campaign issue will be the balanced budget if Republicans and the White House fail to reach agreement on a seven-year plan to bring the federal budget into balance.

He said character issues, which plagued President Clinton during his 1992 run for the White House, would be on the table again, as would the ongoing Whitewater investigation.

"It's still bubbling out there," Dole said, referring to the latest dispute over whether Clinton should turn over notes his aides and lawyers took regarding the Whitewater inquiry.

"I think it's a question of credibility," Dole said. "There's almost the feeling out there that

they may be hiding something. What are they hiding? The American people have a right to know."

He said abortion "should not be a dominant issue in the Republican nomination or the campaign for president."

"I'm not trying to divide the party. I want to multiply Republicans," said Dole, who says he wants to make most abortions illegal but doesn't support a constitutional amendment banning abortions.

Dole said he would be hurt if independent Ross Perot launches another bid for the White House, saying Perot takes away votes from Republicans.

Asked what would be his first act as president, Dole said he would present a budget consistent with the goal of balancing the budget in seven years and support a constitutional amendment on the balanced budget.

A2 MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1995 THE SALINA JOURNAL

▼ POLITICS

Dole predicts Powell would accept VP slot

By The Associated Press

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POWELL DOLE

service to America, and his concern about the future, bringing people together, blacks, whites, Hispanics... my view is that he would answer the call to duty again."

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Hutchinson News Wednesday, December 20, 1995 Page 5

Dole defends his anti-abortion record

The Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole on Tuesday defended his anti-abortion record and aides accused rivals of trying to "distort the issue."

Dole "always has been and always will be" opposed to abortion except in limited cases and would back constitutional provisions to restrict the procedure, Iowa campaign manager Darrell Kearney said.

Kearney issued a statement after Dole was pounded by social conservatives for comments he made during the weekend that

were seen as moderating his position on abortion.

"Sen. Dole's position is clear and consistent," Kearney said.

Appearing on a weekend television program, Dole said he has backed a constitutional amendment banning abortion but "would not do so again" because there should be exceptions carved out where abortions are allowed.

That drew attacks from religious conservatives and rival GOP presidential candidates, who charged Dole with abandoning the anti-abortion cause.

4A THE WICHITA EAGLE Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Dole touches a nerve with abortion remark

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole's statement on Sunday that he would no longer support an unconditional ban on abortion prompted a wave of anger Monday from the Republican right and escalated an ideological war in the party.

It also gave Dole's Republican rivals an opportunity to accuse him of sacrificing principle for political expedience.

"What issue hasn't Dole shifted on?" asked Malcolm Forbes, one competitor for the Republican presidential nomination.

On Sunday, Dole, the leading candidate for the nomination, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that while he at one time supported a constitutional amendment to ban abortion, "I would not do it again." He called himself "pro-life" but said he would make exceptions to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest.

Since 1980, the national Republican Party platform has opposed abortion

without exceptions and promoted an amendment to ban the procedure.

Dole's comments "sent a clear signal to moral conservatives that Dole is no good for those who care about the moral agenda," said Republican candidate Alan Keyes.

Several campaigns said political workers in Iowa and New Hampshire were furious. In a fax to the campaign of Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, Rebecca Lindstedt, an official of Iowans for Life, wrote, "Bob Dole will find himself regretting the pro-abortion rhetoric he spouted forth yesterday."

Dole's campaign press spokesman did not return phone calls Monday, but the campaign released a copy of a letter that Dole sent to Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition. In it, Dole reiterated his support for overturning Roe v. Wade and said he still supported a constitutional amendment to ban abortion, but with exceptions. "I supported the same set of exceptions in 1992," he wrote to Reed.

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Dole's statement rejecting abortion ban sets off GOP fireworks

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
N.Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole's statement on Sunday that he would no longer support an unconditional ban on abortion prompted a wave of anger Monday from the Republican right and escalated an already fierce ideological war in the party.

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The Republican Party is already embroiled in an abortion battle that is expected to be played out in public on the floor of its nominating convention next summer.

Since 1980, the national Republican Party platform has opposed abortion without exceptions and promoted a constitutional amendment to ban the procedure.

But for the coming campaign, the first since 1980 in which Republicans do not control the

White House and therefore have no single candidate who can dictate the platform, the political right has been arguing to keep the ban while others want to moderate its language to try to broaden support for the party.

Dole's comments set back proponents of the ban and provided an easy opening for his rivals to pinch a raw nerve in the Dole campaign: that Dole lacks principles.

"It sent a clear signal to moral conservatives that Dole is no good for those who care about the moral agenda," said Alan Keyes, a radio talk show host and the Republican candidate opposed to abortion.

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fax to the campaign of Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, Rebecca Lindstedt, an official of Iowans for Life, wrote, "Bob Dole will find himself regretting the pro-abortion rhetoric he spouted forth yesterday."

Ralph Reed, the executive director of the Christian Coalition, who said of abortion that "there is no issue more transcendent," said his organization would be distributing 22 million voter guides in the presidential primaries reflecting Dole's position.

Dole's campaign press spokesman did not return phone calls Monday, but the campaign released a copy of a letter that Dole sent to Reed. He seemed to take exception to a news release in which Reed said he was "profoundly

disappointed" in Dole's remarks "that he no longer supports constitutional protection of the unborn."

Dole's letter reiterated his support for overturning Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion, and said he still supported a constitutional amendment to ban abortion, but with exceptions for rape, incest and to protect the life of the mother.

The timing of Dole's remarks on such an explosive topic puzzled several Republicans. Some speculated that he was beginning his long-expected march to the ideological center, since he appeared to have the nomination locked up. Some said he was just responding to a question.