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DOLE REMEMBERS OSCAR STAUFFER AS "KANSAS GIANT"

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole today made the following statement on the death today of noted Kansas Publisher and Journalist Oscar Stauffer:

The death today of Oscar Stauffer removes a giant in the tradition of William Allen White, and a Kansan whose influence spanned half a dozen state lines. As a champion of journalism's old school, who pursued truth with bulldog tenacity, Oscar never feared to step on the status quo - or the toes of the powerful. He shed light in a profession that all too often is content merely to generate heat. He never once forgot his responsibility to be responsible - or his obligation to cover every side of a story.

Oscar adhered to the noble idea that a newspaper exists to tell its readers who did what, when, where, and why. Integrity was his watchword, a better-informed readership his goal. He upheld the one, and achieved the other while living out a full life embodying the classic American idea that a man could go as far and as fast as his brains and muscles and ingenuity would take him.

In Oscar's case, they took him very far indeed: to ownership of 20 newspapers, 9 radio stations, 2 television stations, and the Kansas City Royals Baseball Network. Oscar's achievements are not to be measured by the size of his portfolio, but by the quality of reporting and interpretation it supported. No Stauffer paper ever doctored the news, juggled the headlines, invested stories, or made the mistake of underestimating the readers' intelligence.

"A good newspaper", Arthur Miller wrote, "is a nation talking to itself." Stauffer newspapers were and are like that: a friend whose talk is always informed, always informative.

From my own standpoint, as a friend of twenty years' standing, I can attest to Oscar's belief that journalists and public officials could be adversaries without being enemies. I appreciated that in 1960. I appreciate it even more in 1982.

The presses may be stopped this evening, in Topeka and Pittsburg and Arkansas City. But the legacy goes on. The rules he shaped and the traditions he established over 65 years of informing the public will outlive Oscar Stauffer. They will stand as his greatest monument.