

Dole remains optimistic despite trailing in polls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trying to calm GOP jitters, Bob Dole portrayed himself Wednesday as a lifetime survivor against long odds — and for proof displayed an ominous 1945 letter to his father from the Army.

The letter regretfully informed Doran Dole that the recovery of his second-lieutenant son from World War II wounds "is somewhat questionable."

Dole, who spent years in hospitals recuperating, produced the recently discovered letter to underscore that he's overcome daunting odds before.

"I want to say to those faint-hearted people in the audience — there are probably not very many — don't worry about this election, we're going to win. We're going to win. We're going to make it happen," Dole said.

The former Senate majority leader and running mate Jack Kemp spoke at a sparsely attended joint meeting of House and Senate Republicans, many of whom are sharing November ballots with them.

"Don't let anyone dissuade you in this effort" despite disappointing polls, Dole told his audience. He trails President Clinton by about 15 points in major national polls.

Later, at a campaign stop in Hartford, Conn., Dole again exhorted supporters, "Don't pay any attention to the polls."

He also told a business audience

there that his election-year call for big tax cuts might seem at odds with his long Senate record. "None of us are perfect and we've all got voting records ... but it's time we moved on this complicated, outdated tax code of ours," he said.

The Capitol Hill session — in the auditorium-sized House Ways and Means Committee hearing room — was arranged as a pep

"Don't pay any attention to the polls."

Bob Dole
Republican presidential candidate

rally to help quiet fears that Dole's struggling campaign could endanger GOP control of the House and Senate.

In some districts, Republicans have been distancing themselves from the national ticket and seeking to share some of the credit with President Clinton for the growing economy.

During his 35-year congressional career, Dole seldom talked about the war wounds that robbed him of any use of his right arm and hand. But he has been referring to his experiences as he campaigns.

He read aloud from a Dec. 27, 1945, letter to his father from a sec-

ond lieutenant at the Percy Jones General Hospital in Battle Creek, Mich., where Dole was taken after being shot in Italy. He said he came upon the letter two weeks ago while looking through archives.

"We regret to inform you that your son, Robert J. Dole, who was admitted to this hospital on 10 October 1945, is seriously ill with pulmonary infarction. At the present time it would appear that his recovery is somewhat questionable."

Dole told a suddenly hushed audience the letter "indicates that I've, you know, I've been in a tough spot before ..."

"I understand you have your ups and downs in this business, you have your ups and downs in this life. But the bottom line is, if you're optimistic, if you have the right message, if you believe in the American people. ... We're going to do it again, we're going to win on Nov. 5, 1996."

In remarks that, at times, appeared aimed at buoying his own spirits as much as those of fellow Republicans, Dole said: "Each of us has been in close races, tough races. ... The polls go up and down, and people get discouraged. But the candidate can never get discouraged. The candidate has to be optimistic."

"We are behind right now," he conceded. But, he added, "We're out there working every day." Dole also campaigned Wednesday in Connecticut and Delaware.

Democrats continue Gingrich assault

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-led House ethics committee probe of Newt Gingrich appears destined to outlast his first two-year term as speaker, and Democrats are trying to exact a political price for the inaction.

After persistently accusing committee Republicans of stalling the 20-month investigation, Democrats are intensifying attacks on individual lawmakers, calling on one GOP member to resign from the panel and condemning others in their districts.

Democrats are linking their assaults to the GOP refusal to make public an outside counsel's report submitted last month.

James M. Cole's document was described by committee members as a summary of evidence on whether Gingrich complied with tax laws when raising money for his unconventionally financed college course.

To increase the pressure, Democrats are likely to force a vote on the House floor to make Cole's report public — and are considering other tactics,

such as linking formal adjournment to action on the ethics case.

"It's the same duck, delay and stall tactics going on for two years," said House Minority Whip David Bonior of Michigan, who is leading the Democratic effort.

The minority Democrats shouldn't expect any GOP support, said Rep. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, who was freshman Republican class president last year.

"The committee should proceed in the normal course of events and not be governed by the date of the election or the date of final adjournment," Wicker said. "We're fully expecting ... partisan salvos in the next three weeks."

The ethics committee of five Republicans and five Democrats has often sputtered in partisan deadlock in the Gingrich case, although past committees have broken through such divisiveness to decide difficult cases.

Democratic Speaker Jim Wright resigned in 1989 after the committee charged him with rules violations.

Gingrich, who filed the complaint against Wright, demanded that the outside counsel's report in that case be made public, and the committee complied.



Gingrich

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Davis
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register, Wiatt said.
Wednesday's discovery also
brought more charges for Davis.
Davis crossed state lines,
Federal Bureau of
investigation obtained a warrant
for unlawful flight from prosecu-
tor against Davis, Wiatt said.
Bryan-College Station police
officials investigated several leads
to where Davis may have fled,
but none pointed to Arkansas.
"The only thing we can
assume is that he just ended up
Little Rock," he said.
Sometimes what happens is
that a suspect just gets in their
car and just goes some place."
LRPD has taken the car into cus-
tody and is searching it for possible
clues as to Davis' whereabouts.
Davis, 23, was indicted in
March 1996 on two charges of
aggravated sexual assault for two
rapes on the A&M campus. If con-
victed, Davis could face five to 99
years or life in prison.
Davis disappeared from his
apartment home in Houston Aug. 21,
five days before his trial on
availability charges of rape. The disappear-
ing, at a time he violated the 10 p.m. curfew
on campus, by 272nd District Judge
on telephone Delaney, who is presiding
over the case.
The fugitive had been released
on a \$150,000 bond, which was
paid by a Bryan bail bondsman
and his parents, Linda and Don
Davis Sr.

DUNKING

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"We are just so worried about
making sure the students under-
stand the Dixie Chicken is not the
operator of the ruling," he said.
This state law and we have got to
change it, or close down."

TABC Sgt. Laban Toscano said
the Dixie Chicken has taken the
action in order to comply with
state law.

"They (the Dixie Chicken) have
to protect their assets," he said.
All they are doing is complying
with what the state has told them
they have to comply with. What
we are doing is ensuring that the
compliance is met."

Aggie tradition, Ganter said,
will survive the policy change.

"The spirit of it isn't taken
away," he said.

The Dixie Chicken, Toscano
said, has not received a citation
for last week's incident, but the
TABC is contemplating action.

The said no citation was given
because the agents did not wit-
ness the sale of the alcohol.

Penalties range from written
citations to license cancellation.
He said TABC considers the
severity of violations when decid-
ing on ramifications.

"We have a standardized
penalty chart," he said. "That is
something that we have to abide
by. If we have enough evidence
for a case, then we are going to
make a case."

"This [violation] is going to
fall more in the category of a
warning."

Though Ganter is complying
with state law, the question
remains whether students will
comply with his proposed solution.

Gabrielle LeSage, a senior bio-
medical science major who
receives her ring today, said she
does not like the change but plans
to comply.

"I am not a big beer drinker, so
it wasn't that crashed," she said. "I
didn't particularly want to drink
that much beer anyway. But I still
think it's lousy."

"The 32-ounce glass to me is
a big deal. It just cuts the goal
in half."

LeSage said she expects that
students will try to get away with
drinking their rings in 60-ounce
pitchers.

"I know people are going to
try to be macho," she said.
Tracy Moody, a senior architec-
ture major and a bartender at the
Dixie Chicken, said students think
the change will ruin the tradition.
Moody said it actually brings it
back to its roots.

"Ring dunking didn't start in
Bryan until 1987," he said.
Initially, they did it in 24-ounce
pitchers. If you look at it in that way,
we are going back to ol' army."

Ganter said students should
work to make the change in tradi-
tion work to protect the future of
the famous Aggie hangout.
"They (TABC) have the power to
take down the Dixie Chicken fore-
ver, and I don't want to see that hap-
pen," he said.