

June 2014

Dear KU community:

The Dole Institute of Politics, dedicated in 2003, is home to the personal papers of Kansas native and WWII veteran Bob Dole, who represented Kansas in the U.S. Congress from 1961-1996. His years as Senate Republican leader, the height of his influence as a lawmaker, coincide with protagonist Evelyn Bucknow's fictional world in Laura Moriarty's *The Center of Everything*, KU's 2014 Common Book.

The Robert J. Dole Archives & Special Collections at the Dole Institute of Politics invites students and instructors at all levels and across disciplines to visit our collections for a completely unique and enriching academic experience that complements the Common Book's political, social, and cultural context.

Relevant themes represented in the Archives include the Reagan presidency, the Cold War, international affairs (such as Iran Contra), the war on drugs, welfare, disability issues, HIV & AIDS, and birth control and abortion. Our materials represent multiple perspectives from both the state and national levels.

**We hope you will take the opportunity to participate in the KU Common Book experience by visiting the Dole Archives for research and/or instruction this fall! Please see the attached topic guide for more information.**

Contact us at [dolearchives@ku.edu](mailto:dolearchives@ku.edu) or 864-4900 to arrange an appointment or learn more.

Happy reading,

Audrey Coleman  
Senior Archivist  
Dole Institute of Politics

# The KU Common Book & the Dole Institute of Politics

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## Reagan Presidency

Ronald Reagan was elected President in 1980 and won reelection in 1984, serving from January 20, 1981, to January 20, 1989. During his administration he implemented extensive new political and economic initiatives. During his first term he announced a War on Drugs, ordered the invasion of Grenada, took a hard line against labor unions, and survived an assassination attempt. His second term is marked by events surrounding the end of the Cold War, like the Iran-Contra Affair, Soviet disarmament, and the INF treaty. Throughout both terms, Reagan advocated for reducing tax rates, deregulation of the economy, and reducing government spending; these policies are dubbed “Reaganomics.”

Throughout this topic guide, readers will encounter what kinds of information the Dole Archives has pertaining to many events, places, pieces of legislation, treaties and programs that were important during the Reagan Presidency. Speaking to Reagan specifically, we have correspondence between Dole and Reagan, scrapbooks, press releases and newsclippings, campaign files, oral histories, photographs and objects.

## The Cold War & Soviet Union

The Cold War grew out of post-WWII tensions between the United States and Soviet Union. Dates are disputed, but it lasted from the late 1940s to early 1990s in various phases. There was never any large scale fighting directly between the two countries, although there were regional wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan that the two sides supported. Instead, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. focused on heavily arming themselves in preparation for a nuclear WWII.

The early 1980s saw another period of elevated tensions; however the middle of the decade saw liberalizing reforms by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, like *perestroika* (“reorganization”) and *glasnost* (“openness”). Communist regimes of Central and Eastern Europe were (mostly) peacefully overthrown, and the U.S.S.R. was formally dissolved in December 1991.

Collection material in the Dole Archives shows foreign policy, agriculture, defense, and trade perspectives on the Cold War and Soviet Union. We have legislative and leadership files, speeches, constituent letters, trip files, and press-related material that covers topics like Soviet dissenters, *perestroika*, the Helsinki Accords, human rights, grain embargos, and various trips that U.S. and Soviet delegations took.

### **B-2 Bomber**

Also known as the Stealth Bomber, the B-2 has low observable stealth technology and can deploy conventional and nuclear weapons. Development started during the Carter administration and continued throughout the Reagan administration. The stealth program costs were astronomical and with the winding down of the Cold War made the project controversial in Congress.

[Legislative information about both the B-1 and B-2 bombers is available in the Dole Archives.](#)

### **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)**

The INF Treaty is an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union that eliminated conventional and nuclear ground-based ballistic and cruise missiles with intermediate ranges. It was signed by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on December 8, 1987, and ratified by the US Senate on May 27, 1988.

[The Dole Archives contains legislative foreign policy documents, memos, proceedings files, speeches, testimony, correspondence, and photos about the INF Treaty.](#)

### **Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM)**

Signed in 1972, this treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union limited the use of anti-ballistic missile systems in defending areas against missile-delivered nuclear weapons. The ABM Treaty was called into question by President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative in 1983, but SDI went ahead. ABM Treaty was in force for 30 years, when the U.S. unilaterally withdrew in June 2002.

[The Dole Archives has meeting information regarding this treaty from the 1980s, as well as constituent correspondence from the late 1960s and early 70s pertaining to the treaty's signing.](#)

### **Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)**

This initiative was suggested by President Ronald Reagan on March 23, 1983, and proposed using ground- and space-based systems to protect the United States from attack by strategic nuclear ballistic missiles. SDI was criticized as being unrealistic and unscientific, but stuck around to be renamed the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization by President Bill Clinton in 1993, and then later renamed the Missile Defense Agency in 2002 by President George W. Bush.

[The Dole Archives contains legislative information, like background information and reports, about this program from the mid-to-late 1980s through early 1990s.](#)

### **START I & START II**

The first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty became the largest and most complex arms control treaty in history, and its final implementation in late 2001 resulted in the removal of about 80 percent of all strategic nuclear weapons then in existence. It was a treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union, signed on July 31, 1991. START I expired on December 5, 2009, and its replacement, New START, was signed by President Obama and Russian President Medvedev on April 8, 2010.

The second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty banned the use of multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs) on intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). It was signed by President George H. W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin on January 3, 1993.

[The Dole Archives contains material on both START I and II. We have legislative files which discuss the treaties generally as well as from the funding and modernization viewpoints. In the Republican Leadership Collection we have briefing books and files from START summits. Some digitized material is available at: \[http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\\\_soviet/\]\(http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\_soviet/\).](#)

### **Solidarity in Poland**

Solidarity was the first non-communist party controlled by the Polish trade union federation in a Warsaw Pact country. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush sent Senator Dole to Poland as a

diplomatic representative of the U.S. to meet with Lech Walesa, who founded Solidarity, and to solidify relations between Poland and the United States.

The Dole Archives has leadership and legislative files as well as press-related material about relations between the U.S. and Poland in the 1980s. Some digitized material is available at: [http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\\_poland/](http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics_poland/).

## **International Affairs**

International affairs during the 1980s were generally related to the Cold War and its end.

### **The Iran-Contra Affair**

The Iran-Contra Affair was a political scandal in the United States which became national news in November 1986. Senior Reagan administration officials secretly facilitated the sale of weapons to Iran, the subject of an arms embargo. Some U.S. officials hoped that the arms sales would secure the release of some American hostages in Lebanon and allow U.S. intelligence agencies to fund the Nicaraguan Contras, anti-communist rebels. Investigations by Congress and the Tower Commission followed, but no evidence was found that President Reagan knew the extent of the plans. Fourteen administration officials were indicted with lesser charges, resulting in eleven convictions. All indicted or convicted were pardoned in the final days of George H.W. Bush's presidency.

The Dole Archives has foreign policy and subject files, briefing material, speeches, press releases and photographs relating to the Iran-Contra Affair.

### **The Contra War in Nicaragua**

The Contra War was part of the larger Nicaragua Revolution, one of the proxy wars fought during the Cold War. It was fought between the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the Contras from 1981 until 1990. The war ended with the signing of the Tela Accord in 1989.

The Dole Archives has a variety of material regarding Nicaragua's Contra War, like legislative files, foreign policy documents, subject files, speeches, and press releases. We have records pertaining to the first democratic elections 1990, meeting files on providing aid to the Contras, subject files on the Sandinistas, and files that link democracy struggles in Nicaragua and South Africa.

### **The United States Invasion of Panama**

The U.S. invaded Panama in December 1989 in order to protect the lives of U.S. citizens living in Panama, defend human rights in Panama, combat drug trafficking, and protect the Torrijos-Carter Treaties (which transferred control of the Panama Canal over to Panama on January 1, 2000). As a result of the invasion, Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was deposed, President-elect Guillermo Endara sworn into office and the Panamanian Defense Forces dissolved.

The Dole Archives has a variety of material on the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, as well as some foreign policy files and constituent correspondence about the invasion of Panama. We also have some speech and press-related material on Manuel Noriega.

## War on Drugs

War on drugs is an American term popularized by President Richard Nixon in 1971, but is most commonly associated with President Reagan's administration in the 1980s. It refers to the campaign of drug prohibition, military aid and intervention, and policies that aim to reduce the production, distribution, and consumption of illegal drugs (as defined by participating countries and the United Nations).

[The Dole Archives contains legislative files, constituent correspondence, press-related materials and leadership files regarding drug abuse in general, alcoholism, illegal drugs, impact on airlines and customs, immigration, legalization, drug testing, crime, and on various pieces of drug legislation that were sponsored and passed.](#)

### **Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986**

Shortly after Ronald Reagan became President he announced his commitment to the War on Drugs, and for the first five years in office he slowly strengthened drug policy. In 1986, Reagan was able to pass the Anti-Drug Abuse Act through Congress, which appropriated an additional \$1.7 billion dollars to the War and established 29 new mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

[The Dole Archives has legislative files in the Republican Leadership Collection and press-related material regarding this piece of legislation.](#)

### **Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988**

Passed in November 1988 and signed by President George H.W. Bush, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 is another major law of the War on Drugs. It created the policy goal of a drug-free America and established the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

[The Dole Archives has legislative files in the Republican Leadership Collection pertaining to this Act. Subject areas within the records for the bill discuss funding, housing, Native Americans, workplaces, and the homeless. We also files on a bipartisan task force and committees which negotiated the legislation, as well as Republican and Democrat versions of the bill.](#)

### **Star Patrol**

In the late 1980s Senator Dole and his Kansas City office provided assistance and support in the development of *Star Patrol*, a group of characters selected by General Motors Corporation to provide educational awareness and understanding of their Employee Assistance Program, specifically in the areas of drug abuse, prevention, and treatment.

[The Dole Archives hold background and program information as well as workbooks and materials from the \*Star Patrol\*.](#)

## Welfare

Largely provided by the United States government, the term "welfare" is used to refer to a variety of social programs designed to help the needs of the U.S. population and provide a minimal level of

support and well-being with things like food, shelter, education, healthcare and money. They began with Theodore Roosevelt's *New Nationalism* and expanded through Lyndon B. Johnson's *Great Society*.

Most of the information in the Dole Archives deals with food and nutrition aspects of welfare. However, other themes represented in our papers include the impact on children, work requirements, and welfare reform in the late 1980s. We hold legislative files; personal, campaign, and constituent correspondence; leadership files; and press-related materials pertaining to welfare.

#### **Women, Infants, Children (WIC)**

This nutrition program provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, new mothers, and children under age 5.

The Dole Archives has legislative files pertaining to program generally during the 1980s as well as the 1984 reauthorization of WIC.

#### **Food Stamps**

The Food Stamp Act of 1964 made the food stamps program a permanent piece of legislation. The Food Stamps Program continues to provide financial assistance for purchasing food for low-income American families today.

The Dole Archives has legislative files pertaining to the program nationally as well as in Kansas. Types of files include research, background material, hearings, and testimony. Files also include information about food stamps fraud, the reauthorization of the Act in 1985, and the role of food stamps in the Puerto Rico Referendum (voted on in 1991). Although from the 1970s, some digitized material is available at [http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\\_foodstamps/](http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics_foodstamps/).

#### **Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)**

AFDC was a federal assistance program in effect from 1935 to 1996 that provided financial assistance to children whose families had low or no income. In 1996 it was replaced by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Most of what the Dole Archives about AFDC dates to the 1970s, but we do have legislative files from the mid-to-late 1980s, like reports on and studies of the program.

#### **The President's Task Force on Food Assistance (Executive Order 12439)**

This Executive Order was issued by President Ronald Reagan on September 8, 1983. It established an advisory committee to examine programs intended to render food assistance to the needy and to make recommendations on how such programs may be improved. It was disbanded on September 30, 1985, by another Executive Order.

The Dole Archives has a few files on this subject, including 1984 reports on the task force and various statements Senator Dole made either by press release or at a formal speaking event.

#### **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**

Established by the National School Lunch Act in 1946, this program provides nutritious, low-cost or free school lunches to qualified students through subsidies to schools.

The Dole Archives contains legislative files, correspondence, and pre-related material on school lunch programs from the 1960s-1990s. Some digitized material is available at [http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\\_school\\_lunches/](http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics_school_lunches/).

## **Disability Issues**

According to the White House, currently around 50 million people in America are living with disabilities. As a wounded WWII veteran who never fully regained use of his right arm, Senator Dole was an advocate for the disabled throughout his career and a major supporter of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed in 1990.

There are many aspects of this topic represented in the Dole Archives, including children, crime, education, employment, taxes, and technology. During the 1980s and through our collections, disabilities are most commonly framed around the Americans with Disabilities Act and the fight for Social Security which occurred in 1983. In the Dole collections we have legislative and leadership files, speeches, and press-related material relevant to disabilities; we also have several “bridge collections” that would be useful, like the Dole Foundation Records and Alec Vachon Papers.

### **Children & Education**

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act was signed into law by President Gerald Ford in 1975 and required all public schools to provide equal access to education and one free meal a day for children with physical and mental disabilities. It also empowered parents to become more involved in their children’s education.

The Dole Archives has files pertaining to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act dating from the early-to-mid 1980s as it was renewed, as well as legislative files on other special meal programs. We have information on the National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Head Start programs. We also have subject files on learning and developmental disabilities and using technology to accommodate disabilities.

### **Employment**

Senator Dole started the Dole Foundation for Employment of Persons with Disabilities, which operated from 1984 until 1998, in order to facilitate employment training programs for people with disabilities. The Dole Archives houses the records of the Dole Foundation.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**

ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. It was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990.

Because the bill became law in 1990, this means that a large portion of the legislative process that resulted in ADA occurred in the late 1980s. The Dole Archives contains files like research, memos, hearings and testimony transcripts, correspondence, budgets, and early bill drafts that document the act’s path from bill to law. Some digitized material is available at: [http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\\_ada/](http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics_ada/).

### **Social Security & Amendment of 1983**

In the United States, the term “Social Security” is used to encompass several social welfare and social insurance programs, which largely benefit the elderly, survivors, and the disabled. It was originally signed into law in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and has been expanded throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Social Security is funded through various payroll taxes, and with some exceptions, all salaried income, up to a specific amount determined by law is taxed. In 1983 Social Security was amended to extend its solvency for a couple of generations, which it accomplished by changing types of coverage, financing, and benefit structure.

Senator Dole was a member of the National Commission of Social Security Record under President Reagan and helped bring about the bipartisan compromise which “saved” Social Security. A large portion of the Dole Archives’ records about Social Security reform in 1983 are in the context of disability. Some digitized material is available at: [http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics\\_socialsecurity/](http://dolearchives.ku.edu/hdtopics_socialsecurity/).

## **HIV & AIDS**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease of the human immune system. The term HIV/AIDS represents the entire range of the disease, which is caused by the HIV virus to the late-stage symptoms of AIDS. HIV is primarily transmitted by unprotected sexual intercourse, contaminated blood transfusion, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. This disease has had great societal and economic impacts since its identification – it has been a source of discrimination, religious controversies, and medical and political attention. AIDS was first seen in the U.S. in 1980 and the decade saw the identification of the disease, panic about transmission, an epidemic among the gay community, the undertaking of AIDS research, education and advocacy, and the beginning of destigmatization.

The Dole Archives has a large amount of collection material on a wide variety of topics relating to AIDS. We have files on confidentiality, awareness, education, insurance, immigration, prevention and control, and military. We have leadership files like background information, fact sheets, bill drafts, government reports, and memos. We have constituent correspondence and legislative files relating disabilities and AIDS; there was an AIDS amendment to the Americans with Disabilities Act, of which we have some documentation.

## **Birth Control & Abortion**

The Dole Archives has limited material from the 1980s on birth control and abortion (most files date to the 1970s); however, we do have some legislative files, newsclippings, constituent correspondence, and position papers. Specialized subjects include Planned Parenthood, zero population growth, family planning, and Title X.