

Dole Institute Photo Documentary
Presidential Lecture Series: The 2008 Campaign
“Winning the Nomination”

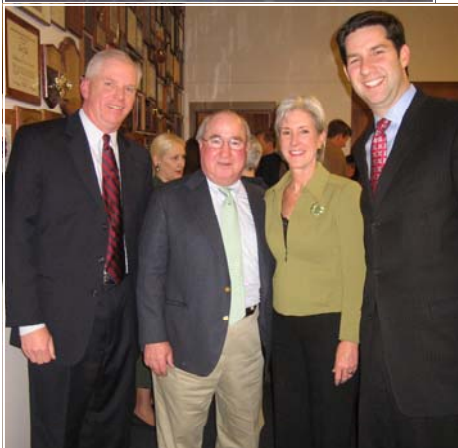
Panelists:
David Yepsen, political columnist, *Des Moines Register*
Tom Rath, Republican strategist
Jonathan Epstein, Democratic strategist
February 28, 2007



EPSTEIN YEPSEN RATH



Political
POW-WOW



A bi-partisan cluster: Kim Wells,
Tom Rath, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius,
Jonathan Epstein



Panelists dine with Governor Sebelius, KU students and other Dole Institute guests.

David Yepsen, noted political columnist for *The Des Moines Register*, was a presidential primaries panelist during the Dole Institute's 2007 Presidential Lecture Series: *The 2008 Campaign*. Following is David Yepsen's column resulting from his visit to the Dole Institute..

THE LONG CAMPAIGN AHEAD

March 1st, 2007

The Des Moines Register

We all know the 2008 presidential campaign has started earlier than most others and that the country could see the nominations locked up by about this time next year.

Then what? The long-campaign could turn into a tedious affair that overblows a lot of trivial things during the next 18 months - boring and turning off a lot of Americans in the process.

That was just one of many points made Wednesday night in Kansas during a 90-minute panel discussion about the 2008 presidential campaign. The event was sponsored by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Tom Rath, a leading New Hampshire Republican; Jonathan Epstein, a long-time Democratic political consultant and I reviewed the 2008 race, prognosticated about where it might be headed and engaged in other forms of punditry with the political junkies from the university community.

You can watch the entire panel discussion here. [www.doleinstitute.org].

One of the points Rath made was how early nominees may cause headaches for those running the country. For example, if the Democratic nominee is a U.S. Senator, does Harry Reid still run the Senate? Or does the nominee effectively tell Reid what to do? And is the Republican nominee asked frequently for his reaction to whatever the Bush administration did that day in Iraq?

Finally, a plug. The Dole Institute is worth a visit for all political types. His friends, the university and the people of Kansas have built a lovely, \$11 million dollar state-of-the art building to house the former senator's papers and memorabilia.

But the place is more than a museum. The staff, which is carefully bi-partisan, spends most of its time offering programs and panels for the students and others interested in politics and public policy. For example, current study groups include one on the "Politics of Disasters" conducted by Scott Morris, the director of FEMA's Florida Long-Term Recovery. Another is called "You Be The Governor: Making Decisions in the Fast Lane - Policy vs. Politics" that is taught by former Missouri Governor Bob Holden.

The link* above also contains excerpts from a recent study group on the effect of blogs on the 2008 campaign. *[www.doleinstituteblog.org]

The Institute is a solid, living tribute to Dole and his service. Mixing academics, students and practitioners from the political community betters everyone. Plus, downtown Lawrence is a great stroll if you love university towns and a shopping district that still features independent bookstores.

The restored 1925 Eldridge Hotel is on the National Register of Historic Places and its bar is a good place to take nourishment.

