

# Native-Son Dole Can't Assume Solid Kansas Support

WICK ENGLE 4-16

Dole campaigner serious, 3A  
By AL POLCZINSKI  
Staff Writer

As Kansas Sen. Bob Dole flits about the country diligently trying to craft a presidential image, he is not assured of solid support on the home front.  
It now appears Dole will have to compete for Kansas delegate votes with former Govs. Ronald Reagan of California and John Connally of Texas who have active support teams ready to spring into action.  
There will be campaign organizations for other candidates before delegate selection time next spring.

**TWICE BEFORE, KANSANS** have been contenders for the Republican Party's nomination for president. In both cases, they won the nomination and were supported by a unified — or nearly unanimous — Kansas delegation to the national convention.  
In 1936, Gov. Alf Landon had the total backing of an 18-member Kansas delegation to the Cleveland convention. In 1952, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower won the votes of 20 members of the Kansas delegation while two held out for Ohio Sen. Robert Taft.  
Don't look for that kind of unity in 1980. Dole may be a native-son candidate, but the current political winds indicate that the best he can hope for is a share of the 37 Kansas delegates to the GOP national convention in

## Analysis

In Dole's case, it is Dole who is the hunter. There has not been a national groundswell, let alone a state force, pushing Dole forward as the party's best hope of winning the highest office in the land.

It is not unusual, then, that Dole cannot start counting delegate votes with an automatic 37 from his home state. He's just another one of the candidates in the running, and an undeclared candidate at this point.  
Connally is a declared candidate and has a significant group of Kansans who worked for the election of President Ford in 1976 lined up for his campaign.  
Reagan, like Dole, is all but a declared candidate.

**IN KANSAS CITY** last week, Reagan said he was planning his announcement, but, catching his slip, corrected himself to say "my decision" in late summer or early fall.  
Before addressing 700 representatives of the construction industry, Reagan was guest at a private reception where he was encouraged to open his campaign for the White House.

Reception host was Charles Price, chief executive of Price Candies in Kansas City and a member of Reagan's exploratory committee.

(See FOR, A, Col. 1)

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## He's Serious About Putting Dole in the White House

By DAVE BARTEL  
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Chatting over a diet cola on a warm spring day, Tom Bell was interrupted suddenly by an old friend from his days as a U.S. Senate aide.  
"Tom," the friend said, "what brings you back to Washington?"  
"Well, I've moved back here," Bell replied. Then he added, "I'm going to do Bob Dole's presidential campaign."  
"Bob who?" the friend asked with a gleam in his eye.  
Then both laughed.  
Meet Tom Bell, a 30-year-old Tennessean who recently signed on to manage the yet-to-be-announced campaign of Kansas Sen. Bob Dole for the Republican presidential nomination.

All joking aside, Bell is serious about putting Dole in the White House in 1980. But, as his friend's remark suggests, a lot of work remains to be done before a sizeable segment of the general public, and Republicans in particular, agree with that goal.  
Bell started out in Tennessee politics at age 17, working for Howard Baker's first successful Senate race in 1966. In following years, he worked in two presidential campaigns for Richard Nixon and a successful 1970 Senate bid by Bill Brock, now Republican national chairman.  
After spending a few years as Brock's administrative assistant in the Senate, Bell returned to Nashville in 1975 to start an advertising and political consulting firm.  
This year, Bell was mulling over possible jobs with former California Gov. Ronald Reagan and former

Texas Gov. John Connally — considered the top two GOP contenders — when Dole asked him to stop by for a talk.  
"WE LIKED BOB DOLE and the more we talked to him and to other people around the country, the more fluid we decided the situation was and the more attractive the Dole candidacy became," Bell said. "He convinced us he is very serious."  
Bell also became convinced that Dole is what political kingmakers like to call "a viable candidate."  
Bell ticks off a list of Dole's potential advantages, a list similar to one President Ford used in 1976 in deciding to make Dole his vice presidential running mate:  
Dole is considered a moderate conservative who is acceptable to conservative Reagan backers and the GOP's more moderate wing. He has a strong political base in midwestern farm states from his 19 years of service in the House and Senate. And, Dole has ties to many state and local Republican leaders from his 1971-73 term as national party chairman and more recent years spent barnstorming the country for GOP candidates.

**DOLE ALSO IS A FORCEFUL** campaigner with quick wits and never seems to tire of the constant demands of the election trail.  
"There are some other advantages Bob Dole has that right now are kind of subliminal, not absolutely obvious, but they are important," Bell added.  
Those advantages rest in the national constituencies that Dole has been cultivating all of his political life.  
"He is very popular with veterans," Bell said. "He's kind of a hero with them, a living example of one of their people who has done very well and

who has supported them very strongly in the past 19 years."  
Dole, whose right arm and shoulder were shattered by German machine gun fire during World War II, also has a natural constituency among handicapped persons, Bell said.  
**THEN THERE IS THE** unrest among farmers who feel they haven't gotten a fair shake from President Carter.  
Dole also has strong ties to the American Jewish community, a potentially important factor in the Florida primary next spring, Bell added.  
At the same time, Bell cited what he considers very serious image problems for front-runners Reagan and Connally, though he added he would have "no problem" if either man were to win the GOP presidential nomination.  
"I think Ronald Reagan is going to have fits with the age issue and I don't know what you do about it," Bell said. "He is a vigorous, bright, articulate person to be any age, but to be 69 is incredible. But that is a tough hump to get over."

**CONNALLY, MEANWHILE,** may have trouble convincing rank-and-file Republicans to support him and forget his decades of service in the Democratic party, he said.  
Dole conceded that Dole must overcome some political liabilities in coming months.  
The main problem, he said, is the mixed reviews Dole received for his role in the 1976 presidential campaign. Some party officials and news commentators speculate that Dole cost Ford the election with his hard-hitting, slashing campaign attacks on Carter.  
"I don't think Dole cost Ford the election; I think he helped Ford nearly win it," Bell said. "He did what he was told to do, what the game plan called for."  
Bell and Dole both are aware of other questions in Kansas about whether the state will be short-changed by Dole's presidential ambitions.  
"The answer to that is no," Bell said. "The way the primary system works in our party and the way the election process works in Kansas allows Bob Dole to do what he wants to do, which is run for president of the United States, without sacrificing any of his representation of Kansas in the Senate."  
Dole will continue to be an aggressive senator for Kansas, taking care of his constituents' needs and fighting for legislation that is important to the state, Bell said.

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The "casual get-together" of about 65 or 70 leaders of the metropolitan business community, Price said, was "intended to encourage Reagan to announce his candidacy and to assure him there will be adequate finances for his campaign here."

**ONE OF THE** Kansans at the reception was Dwight Sutherland Jr., Fairway, who has a law practice in Kansas City. As a University of Kansas law student, he was one of three Kansas delegates committed to Reagan at the 1976 convention.

Sutherland said considerable groundwork has been done for a Reagan campaign in Kansas.  
Kansas City broker George Miles, who, like Sutherland, was a 1976 Reagan delegate from Johnson County, described the Reagan support team in Kansas as a "very strong viable unit."

When Miles is asked why he isn't supporting Sen. Dole, he answers brusquely. "He doesn't have a prayer."  
"BOB DOLE WOULD make the greatest minority leader in the Senate. I think that's what he should aim for. I'd like to see him replace Sen. Baker."

Miles is equally blunt in talking about recent chairmen of the Republican state committee who are working for Connally.  
"It shows their same lack of ability in the past (to pick a winner)," he said.  
A major concern of the Reagan forces, Miles said, is not whether Reagan can win but whether he can expect to get help from the other candidates' camps after he wins the nomination.

**MILES CONCEDES** THERE will be some loss of support among Kansans who had worked for Reagan in 1976 but he doesn't expect it to exceed 10 percent.  
One digit within that 10 percent is Don Concannon, Hugoton lawyer. Concannon, Reagan's state campaign chairman in 1976, said he won't be getting involved in Reagan's campaign this time.  
Although he still thinks highly of Reagan, Concannon cannot bring

himself to work against Dole, a fellow lawyer from western Kansas.

It isn't Kansas home ties that bother Frank Shelton, another member of Reagan's 1976 campaign team. In fact, he places Dole among the Kansas Republican leaders who "sold Kansans down the creek and stole the state convention for President Ford."

**SHELTON IS** a conservative purist. It also concerns him when Reagan and Rep. Phillip Crane, R-Ill., another declared presidential contender, appear willing to dilute their conservative posture to win support for their causes.  
"If you have to sell your integrity and principles, you're better off losing," Shelton said. "Once you compromise your principles, you're committed."

Another factor that will determine the alignment of Kansas delegates to the Detroit convention is the kind of presidential preference primary the state will have next year — if, in fact, it will have a presidential primary. That decision hasn't been made by the Kansas Legislature, which controls the pursestrings for the planned April election.  
Already there have been reports that Dole, preferring a winner-take-all primary, has been working with legislators to change the primary law that would apportion delegates to the candidates according to the percentage of the total vote each received.

State GOP Chairman Morris Kay has pledged to have "an open convention" for the selection process.  
If the delegate selection process is truly open, it would appear unlikely that Dole can capture more than a share of the state's delegates.

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## Dole admits 2-track campaign

By ROGER MYERS  
Staff Writer

Sen. Bob Dole said here Monday he expects to emerge from New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary as a strong contender for the Republican nomination.  
The senior U.S. senator for Kansas also told reporters at a press conference in his offices in the Federal Building he will not be a candidate for reelection to the Senate if he captures the GOP presidential nomination.  
Dole, however, was vague about whether he would file in Kansas as a candidate for the Senate if the results of early presidential primaries appear to give him a clear chance to win the nomination.  
Deadline for filing as a candidate is June 20 of an election year, and Dole might be tempted not to file for re-election if he is doing well in the primaries of 1980.  
A candidate cannot have his name on the ballot more than one time in Kan-

sas, a provision which would cause him to withdraw as a Senate candidate if he should get the presidential nomination and have his name on the ballot for president.  
The 1976 Republican nominee for vice president said he now is running a "two-track" campaign, with one aimed at capturing the GOP presidential nomination and the other designed to re-elect him to his Kansas Senate seat.  
Dole said he hopes to capture 50 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary in February 1980, although polls indicate he is running fourth behind former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker, R-Tenn., and former Texas governor John Connally, that Reagan is the Republican frontrunner "on paper." Dole said political operatives with experience in national campaigns and fund-raising nationally "believe it will narrow down to me, Baker, maybe George Bush and one other."

"It just seems to me that's a shot."  
"I believe I'm going to have the best organization in New Hampshire, that I will do very well there and that the polls will start to reflect that in about three months."  
Dole said he probably will announce formally as a candidate for the Republican nomination in early May at Russell, but added "for all practical purposes we're a candidate now."  
The senior Kansas senator said, "There is no question about it" that he would withdraw as a candidate for the U.S. Senate from Kansas if he should win the Republican presidential nomination.  
"All this is very speculative. You ask me what I'm going to do when I'm at seven points in the New Hampshire poll, what I'm going to do in January or February when I hope to be 50 percent in New Hampshire; it's tough to answer."  
"I want to be cooperative, but I don't want to hang myself 16 months in ad-

vance of the filing deadline."  
Dole said he will not "jeopardize" the Republican hold on the Senate seat, and promised it will be difficult for a Democrat potential candidate for the seat "to take it away from me."  
He specifically mentioned 4th District Congressman Dan Glickman of Wichita, the only Democrat member of the Kansas congressional delegation, and state Sen. John Simpson of Salina, a Republican who has indicated he will switch parties and run for the Senate seat now occupied by Dole in the 1980 elections.  
Dole told reporters he favors a balanced federal budget, but that it must be flexible in its statutory mandates for Congress to authorize deficit spending to meet national emergencies.  
Dole is the ranking Republican member on the budget-setting Senate Finance Committee.  
He also said he favors a continuation of nuclear power in the nation's mix of electrical generating capacity but add-

ed there must be a redoubled effort to insure the safety of nuclear power plants.  
Dole said he has not joined the "demagogues" who are calling for an end to further nuclear-powered generating stations in the wake of the accident at the Three Mile Island generating plant near Harrisburg, Pa.  
Dole said he does not believe Kansans will resent his dual candidacy for the GOP presidential nomination and the U.S. Senate seat.  
He said those who want him to do well in the Senate also would like to see him succeed in his quest for the Republican presidential nomination.  
"I think people will judge us on what we are doing for Kansas in the Senate," shrugging off questions about whether Kansans might feel he is running for the Senate in addition to the presidential nomination just to be safe.  
He said approximately \$100,000 has been raised thus far for his presidential bid.



SEN. BOB DOLE  
...eyes presidential bid