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Dole hopes campaign will be for the duration

By JEAN CHRISTENSEN
Kansas Correspondent
(See editorial, Pg. 1)

WASHINGTON (HNS) — Alf Landon has sent Sen. Bob Dole \$1,000 for his presidential campaign. The senator appreciates the donation, but he hopes his campaign fares better than that of the former Kansas governor, who carried only two states as the 1936 Republican candidate for president.

Although Landon couldn't beat Franklin Roosevelt, he did receive his party's nomination for President and he has since become its elder statesman. Forty-three years later his daughter is a Kansas senator and getting so much publicity, Dole jokes he has to run for president to get any attention.

Dole, the Republican party's nominee for vice-president in 1976, will announce Monday morning in his hometown of Russell that he is seeking the nomination for president in 1980.

He doesn't have to go to Russell. Re-

publican candidates John Connally and George Bush, both of Texas, made their nominations in Washington at the National Press Club — within easy reach of the press.

But Dole told Kansas reporters Friday, "I have a habit of making my announcements in Kansas."

He grew up there, he was helped by the people of Russell when he returned wounded from World War II and he got his start in politics there.

A plane has been chartered to carry reporters to Kansas, and the senator expects representatives of all three television networks, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Washington Star, Time and Newsweek, among others, to be there.

An announcement of candidacy is "a media event," he expects it to be "well-covered," the senator said, "but there are other reasons you do it at home, as I will suggest in my announcement."

Dole and his wife, former Federal Trade Commissioner Elizabeth Hanford Dole, who met with Kansas reporters Friday before leaving for a weekend of speechmaking at opposite

sides of the country, said they are working in a "partnership effort" as they seek the presidential nomination. Mrs. Dole recently resigned her job, largely to have more time to spend campaigning.

The Doles plan to spend Mother's Day with the senator's mother in Russell before making the announcement at the courthouse Monday. Mayor Roger Williams of Russell has been "hard at work" planning for the event, but the senator doesn't know exactly what's planned. He has scheduled a tour of the hospital, the nursing home and Dawson drugstore, where he worked as a youth.

Dole invited fellow Kansas politicians of both parties to his announcement, including former Rep. Bill Roy, his 1976 opponent, and Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Wichita, who would like the seat when Dole's term expires in 1980.

Would attend, if... Glickman responded that he would attend if Dole would announce he is giving up his seat. Dole said he hasn't

(Continued to Page 2)

gotten the response and suggested it's a case where Glickman called the press but forgot to send the letter. The invitation was sent "in good faith" to members of both parties, he said, because it's not very often someone from Kansas runs for president.

Dole hasn't made a decision about running for re-election to the Senate, but he said it is likely he'll "be prepared to make a statement" about what he wants to do by the end of next March. By that time several state primaries will be over and "whoever is running will know quickly who's going to be in it for the duration," the senator said.

"It seems too far off to make the Senate decision."

However, he added, "It's important to carry out my Senate duties. I don't intend to be an absentee senator. I will take care of the interests of Kansas."

Dole hasn't missed a vote in the Senate this year, but said he might miss his first vote Monday.

He realizes he is risking his Senate seat by running for president, but he noted, "You always run a risk. If I didn't do anything and just announced for Senate, there's a risk."

The senator is fairly confident he will be in the presidential race "for the duration."

Right now he counts himself among the four top Republican candidates, including former California Governor Ronald Reagan, former Treasury Secretary Connally and Senate Minority leader Howard Baker, R-Tenn., in that order. Dole believes he and Baker are tied for third.

After the early surge of speech-making and money-raising, the candidates will have to start serious campaigning in the fall, talking about the issues and presenting their programs in such areas as energy, health care and inflation, Dole said.

Man of the hour?

The senator said he has seen polls in New Hampshire and Missouri that show him running second to Reagan. He doesn't know what will happen to Reagan supporters: if the former governor were not a candidate, but said according to some polls, "a lot of people think if something happened to Reagan, Bob Dole could be the man of the hour."

He said he had talked Thursday to former President Gerald Ford, his 1976 running mate. Ford hasn't taken himself out of contention for the 1980 nomination — but he hasn't put himself in, either.

"I wanted him to know we thought we were going to work at it. It's an excellent opportunity," Dole said. "He wished me all the success in the world."

The senator said he called Ford "as a friend," not to ask for his endorsement. He wouldn't mind getting that, though.

Dole said he has a 10 or 12-member campaign staff and is looking for more. Among those being interviewed are some of the more than 20 recent defectors from the troubled campaign of Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill.

The senator said he assumes his campaign is ready to qualify for federal matching funds. His fund-raisers are working in 37 states. To qualify, a candidate must raise \$5,000 in each of 20 states in donations of \$250 or less.

War chest grows

The senator said the campaign committee has between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in hand with promises of another \$250,000, and a goal of at least \$1 million this year.

Dole commented that press reports often say he has an image problem remaining from the 1976 campaign, but two national pollsters talking to Republicans who will be voting in primaries next year report "there is no problem."

The senator's staffers aren't going to make it to Russell Monday, but in a show of support for the senator's campaign, they threw a surprise champagne and cake party for the senator and Mrs. Dole Friday.

The Journal's Page of Opinion

Bob's chances

Most of the all-knowing political pundits say Sen. Bob Dole is something like a 50 to one shot in the Republican presidential nomination sweepstakes.

But that's similar to what most of the all-knowing political pundits were saying in 1975 about a candidate named Jimmy Carter.

It's true that "our boy, Bob," who will make his presidential nomination candidacy official Monday at his home city of Russell, has a long way to go and faces a number of what appear to be formidable opponents in his race, but don't sell him short.

He has a good record as a senator, is a great campaigner and a witty speaker. He also has a lot of political IOU's in his pocket, due to the hundreds of speeches he has made throughout the nation on behalf of fellow Republican candidates.

He's far from an unknown — he's had plenty of national exposure as a vice-presidential candidate.

And, most importantly, he's not the Bob Dole he used to be. He has grown tremendously since the early days when he was a young ultra-conservative, a hawk, and the darling of the oil and other special issues.

He's his own man now. He has become a moderate and a man of considerable compassion. His efforts to aid the handicapped, the

poor and underfed, the old folks have been outstanding in recent years. It's a mark of his stature and of his integrity that he has worked often in tandem with Democratic Sen. George McGovern — a man at the other end of the political spectrum — to get legislation which would aid the underprivileged.

And are his presidential nomination opponents really all that formidable?

Ronald Reagan? Extremely well-known and a persuasive speaker. But many voters would shy away from a man who would be 70 years old by the time he took the oath of office. And he's too far to the right to be palatable to many moderates.

John Connally? Tainted by his party-jumping, his association with Richard Nixon, and his wheeler-dealer Texas aura.

Sen. Howard Baker? He comes across as a dull speaker, a weakling, and a man who has a hard time making up his mind.

George Bush? His former CIA connection is a kiss of death.

Phil Crane? A little-known reactionary.

Reps. Jack Kemp and John Anderson? Nonentities.

It seems to us that Bob Dole has a chance — maybe a good chance. In any event, it will be a pleasure to welcome home a favorite son Monday.

6A THE WICHITA EAGLE AND BEACON Sunday, May 13, 1979

Bob Dole's Hometown Is Blooming Again As National Showcase

By FRED MANN
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — Keith Ehrlich took off his red, white and blue FINA cap and twirled it in his hands. "I don't like Dole," he announced as he sat on a stool in the gas station. "And I don't like his policies. I won't vote for him. He ain't shown me a damn thing."

There are others here who don't like Sen. Bob Dole, Russell's native son. Maybe a handful. But they have a passion for anonymity, which is why Keith Ehrlich should get some sort of medal. And maybe police protection.

Russell, as signs outside town proclaim and as people in town are fond of pointing out, is Bob Dole Country. The town's love of Dole is blooming again in anticipation of his visit here today and Monday.

AT 9:30 A.M. MONDAY, Dole will stand on a platform in front of the city building at 8th and Maple and blow the lid off one of the year's worst kept secrets — that he intends to run for President of the United States.

The crowd, expected to number about 4,000, will go crazy.

Even some of the people in Russell who don't like Bob Dole like Bob Dole. This contradiction was best explained by a patron at the Green Lantern Lounge: "They may not like him, but they like the honor of Bob Dole being from Russell. Whether we like him or not, we want to vote for him."

One woman finished blasting Dole by saying she intends to vote for him — something she hasn't done since picking him Most Likely To Succeed in his Russell High School senior class. "Better not put my name

(See BOB, 6A, Col. 1)

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The Topeka Sunday Capital-Journal

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Topeka, Kansas, Sunday, May 13, 1979

Dole ready for toughest race of career

By KEN PETERSON
Capital-Journal

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas embarks Monday on what promises to be the toughest contest in his long and controversial political career, that for the Republican presidential nomination.

Dole goes for it all, in an anticlimactic media event, at 9:30 a.m. in Russell when he stands on the city hall steps to announce his candidacy.

Waiting for him are grueling visits to primary states and the formidable likes of Ronald Reagan, John Connally and Howard Baker. Behind him are images created in 1976 when he was the vice presidential candidate who growled about Democrat wars in his debate with Walter Mondale, and a campaign when he was portrayed as wielding every weapon from a red hot pistol to a sharply honed hatchet.

All that is behind him, Dole now says with an optimism that pervades his entire outlook on the presidential quest. The 55-year-old senator says reporters created the gunslinger image and recent public opinion polls show his

name does not conjure up any negative reaction. "There isn't any," Dole says simply, and it's bad impression with voters. Some are telling he must be less sardonic and more open to overcome.

One campaign aide, for instance, summed up speech saying he will not attack critics in his own party to keep him busy.

One also is the hands-off policy of a center the presidential race if Reagan but Reagan has shown no sign of letting things he will do well, although he and he and Connally somewhere in Crane finish, by Dole's calculation New Hampshire.

Dole campaign staff is preparing

him.

Dole leaves a y while others they say is easy

Dole's announce-

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Ford appears out,

this for keeps and he

first, Baker second,

Bush and Rep. Philip

h. The main target is

chairman of the New

Hampshire Republican party for the presidential work in the nation's first

primary state, a move viewed as a distinct bonus for Dole.

Frontrunner Reagan has fallen off in popularity in New Hampshire

because he has not visited there regularly, Dole aides contend. New Hampshire voters love — indeed, require — courting by candidates, and Reagan

has fallen far short, a Dole campaign aide ventures. Dole is relying on Reagan to falter early, giving him the upper hand in the important first

primary.

Dole's committee also is interviewing former staff members from

Crane's deeply troubled campaign where more than 20 workers have re-

signed.

"For the most part, they're (former Crane workers) hardworking, young

people," Dole says. "We're striving for excellence in our organization."

Dole's campaign has qualified for federal matching funds, a financial

boost candidates receive when they gather contributions totaling \$5,000 in 20

states with donations of \$250 or less. He is soliciting money in 37 states and

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)