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It's now official, Bob's a candidate

RUSSELL, Kan. (AP) — Bob Dole toured nursing homes and the hospital in his Kansas hometown today, and then sipped a soda in a downtown drugstore before announcing his candidacy for the 1980 GOP presidential nomination at the city hall a block away.

"I came home simply because the strength I need for the undertaking before me is here," the Kansas senator told a crowd of several thousand after formally launching his bid for the office.

"There ought to be at least one place for every person, where he or she is accepted with unjudging love and strengthened and reassured by it. For me, that place is here. No failure has ever been so hurtful that this place could not ease the pain, and no success has ever been so great that its satisfaction exceeded the satisfaction of being a part of the people of Russell."

Dole delivered his speech three blocks from the home where he grew up, and a block from the Dawson Drug Store where he worked at the soda fountain while in high school.

This morning Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, visited the Ala Fern Nursing home, and 94-year-old home resident Dora Morrison presented the Doles with a pillow the residents had made.

The Doles visited with Republican supporters at a relative's house, patients and employees at the 54-bed Russell City Hospital and residents of another nursing home before they arrived at the drug store where Dole poured himself a soda.

Dole's 76-year-old mother, Bina, was on hand for her son's announcement.

American Agriculture movement supporters sat on about a dozen tractors parked in a vacant lot across from the city hall. A sign on one tractor read: "Mr. Dole! Where were you when we needed your support in Washington?"

"When he went from senator to presidential candidate, he hasn't got time for agriculture any more," said Leonard Staudinger, a Barton County grain farmer who was riding one of the tractors. "He became a candidate instead of a senator."

Most businesses in the western Kansas community of 6,000 delayed opening their doors an hour for Dole's announcement and classes at area schools were dismissed for the morning.

"They're looking at this really as a patriotic thing," said Everett Dumler, manager of Russell's chamber of commerce.

"It's history," added Mayor Roger Williams, who declared the first "Bob Dole Day" Nov. 2, 1976, when Dole, the Republican party's vice presidential candidate returned home to cast his vote.

The community erected a plaque at the Russell County Courthouse site where President Gerald Ford and Dole made their first campaign appearance Aug. 20, 1976, after winning the Republican nomination.

Dole was temporarily overcome by emotion during that visit while he expressed gratitude to the town by recalling

THE KANSAS CITY STAR Monday, May 14, 1979

Dole Joins Field Of GOP Hopefuls

RUSSELL, Kan. (AP)—Sen. Bob Dole, shedding his gut-fighting image of the 1976 campaign, today announced his candidacy for the 1980 GOP presidential nomination and declared "I will neither attack my opponents in the Republican Party nor the incumbent president."

Dole made the announcement at a City Hall news conference in Russell, his hometown.

The Kansas senator, whose hard-hitting style drew criticism when he was the Ford-Dole ticket had lost the election to the Democratic slate of Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

Dole has been to all sections of the country, addressing groups large and small. In 1976 he campaigned for any Republican who hinted he'd like Dole's help.

Despite all the travel, Dole still doesn't rank among the front-runners for nomination in any of the polls.

As the vice presidential candidate in 1976, he earned a reputation as a gut-fighting campaigner.

As he explains it now, that was his role in the campaign and he doesn't regret it.

"In this campaign, we'll be setting the tone," he said in a pre-announcement interview. "I'll be the candidate."

Dole describes himself as a political conservative, but he quickly adds that he has been a strong supporter of civil rights legislation and the food stamp program, as well as aid to the handicapped.

He says the Republican Party must change its image "that we're sort of an anti-people party and don't care about the poor, the handicapped or whatever."

Like most aspirants for the Republican nomination, Dole concedes that Ronald Reagan is the front-runner.

"I think we all must think there's going to be some erosion in the Reagan camp or we wouldn't be doing this," he says when asked if he thinks the former California governor is losing ground.

His remarks followed 10 days of political turmoil that included mass resignations among his staff and persistent speculation he intends to drop out of the race for the nomination.

Crane acknowledged that he called FBI agents to his headquarters after resigning staff members received \$21,500 in expenses and the master list of campaign contributors was reported missing. The expenses later were found to be in order and the list proved not to be missing.

☆ Dole Sets Sights For 1980

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ber 1976, even after it was clear that the Ford-Dole ticket had lost the election to the Democratic slate of Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

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Getting The Message

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., right, talks to a girl wearing a "Bob Dole for President" jersey at a fish fry Monday in his hometown of Russell.

Associated Press
Kan., where he announced his candidacy for president. At left is Dole's daughter, Robin.

The Kansas City Times Monday, May 14, 1979 Dole Will Hit Campaign Trail With Iowa Visit

By Laura Scott
Kansas Correspondent

RUSSELL, Kan.—Sen. Bob Dole will launch his campaign for president here today and will then leave his hometown for Iowa, the first proving ground for presidential aspirants.

Iowa, where party caucuses will begin early in 1980, already has been circled many times by presidential hopefuls. From the January precinct caucuses, Iowa delegates will go to county caucuses, and from there to congressional district and state conventions. Delegates to the 1980 national party conventions will be chosen at the district and state conventions.

The early primary and convention states are important to presidential candidates because they help the candidates assess their support nationwide and then decide whether to stay in the running.

Dole, the Republican Party's 1976 vice presidential candidate, will announce his campaign at 9:30 a.m. in Russell, then fly by private plane to Des Moines for a luncheon of business supporters. After that, he will leave for a GOP fund-raiser in Frederickburg, Va., and a speech the next day in New Hampshire, where the first presidential primary will be held in late February.

While in Iowa, Dole is expected to announce the selection of Tom Wiens of Dillon, Colo., as his Midwestern campaign coordinator and Jack Pester of Des Moines as his Midwestern finance chairman. Wiens, a 27-year-

old banker and ski equipment distributor, has worked for former President Gerald Ford and ran for state treasurer of Colorado last year. Pester is a 44-year-old oil refining executive and a major fund-raiser for the Iowa GOP.

One of his company's refineries is in Derby, Kan. Dole's Iowa trustee chairman will be Ben Schwartz, an industrialist from Marshalltown, Iowa.

Iowa Republicans say Dole, who traveled to the state four times in February and March, is trailing former California Gov. Ronald Reagan—who has had strong support in Iowa since he ran for the GOP nomination in 1976—and George Bush, the former Central Intelligence Agency director from Texas, who has made several visits to the state in recent months. Dole's campaign director, Tom Bell, concedes that Reagan and Bush may be ahead of the Kansas senator in Iowa.

Rep. Philip Crane of Mississippi is well known in Iowa because of the number of visits he has made since last spring. Republicans there say Stephen W. Roberts of Des Moines, the Iowa GOP chairman, said all the major announced and unannounced candidates have been in Iowa in recent months, frantically seeking the state's 37 delegate votes at the national convention. Bush and Crane have been the most active, he said.

President Jimmy Carter made a recent swing through Iowa in preparation for his re-election bid.

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tion for his expected re-election bid.

"We can hardly get them out of the state," Robert said.

Dole's luncheon today in Des Moines is being hosted by Pester and Schwartz. Pester said he has known Dole for several years and believes he has a good chance in winning Iowa's convention delegates because of his political experience. He said Reagan, Bush and former Texas Gov. John Connally all will be strong in Iowa, but Dole "is doing better there than some people realize."

Bell, who heads Response Marketing Group Inc. in Washington, estimates that 40,000 Republicans will turn out for the Iowa caucuses in January, compared with 25,000 in 1976, and he's hoping most of them will be Dole backers. He says farmers, veterans and handicapped persons make up Dole's natural constituency.

Dole has been a spokesman for agriculture during his years in the Senate;

he has limited use of his right arm as a result of a wound he suffered fighting in World War II.

Bell said the Iowa contest is "tailor-made" for Dole's brand of campaigning, which emphasizes face-to-face contact with voters.

Other Dole workers say he will have an edge in the early primaries and conventions because of the contacts he made as a vice presidential candidate in 1976 and as Republican national chairman before that.

In addition, Dole has established himself as a tireless campaigner, sometimes traveling to as many as four states in one weekend. He has been in 43 states during the last year, largely while organizing his Campaign America, under which he appeared at fund-raisers for other candidates while keeping himself in the public view.

Jack Ranson, the former Kansas GOP chairman from Wichita who worked with Dole in his 1974 re-election bid and his 1976 vice presidential race, has signed on as Connally's regional coordinator, but he has kind words for Dole: "Nobody is going to

out-work Bob Dole in New Hampshire and Iowa," Ranson said, while conceding the victory to Dole. He still thinks Connally will do well.

Bell said, "Anyone running against Ronald Reagan has a long way to go" because of the 1976 support Reagan has been able to maintain through a number of visits to the state since 1976. He added, however, that Dole, who is just beginning to form his organization in Iowa, is not lagging far behind anyone but Reagan.

Although Bell and some Iowa Republicans believe Crane is drawing some conservative support from Reagan, the recent shakeup involving top managers in the Crane camp and Crane's \$800,000 debt have led Dole workers to question the future of the Illinois congressman's candidacy.

Dole has county chairmen at work in one of the early testing states, New Hampshire, but not in Iowa. He also has visited New Hampshire more frequently—nearly 20 times, compared with a handful of visits to Iowa.

Dole was born in Russell on July 22, 1923. He served in Italy in World War II, was severely wounded and was hospitalized for more than three years.

After two years in the Kansas Legislature, he served four terms as Russell County attorney, was elected to the House in 1960 and to the Senate in 1968.

His wife, Elizabeth Hanford, recently resigned from her post as a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

Everett Dumler, manager of Russell's chamber of commerce, said residents of Russell are "looking at this really as a patriotic thing."

"It's history," added Mayor Roger Williams, who declared the first "Bob Dole Day" Nov. 2, 1976, when Dole, the Republican party's vice-presidential candidate returned home to cast his vote.

Before her son made his announcement, Mrs. Dole admitted to "mixed feelings" about the campaign ahead.

"I just feel that there's no thanks for what he's going to do," she said. "I just think it's a spot where nobody can please anybody. But anything that's a challenge for Bob Dole is what he wants. I'm sure Bob can handle it."

If Dole wins his way into the White House, "we'll be much more prepared than Plains, Ga.," said Williams, referring to Carter's hometown. "I think the town has its feet planted well enough to take it real well."

Dole's brother, Kenneth, an oil lease broker in Russell, said he would keep a lower profile than Billy Carter.

"I think the public has had enough brother business," he said.

Dole was temporarily overcome by emotion during that visit while he expressed gratitude to the town by recalling the "time I needed help and the people of Russell helped."

Townpeople said the remarks probably stemmed from memories of a local drive that raised \$5,000 to help Dole pay medical expenses for wounds he received in World War II.

Dole had wanted to become a doctor, but the injuries forced him to change those plans. He became an attorney, who residents proudly point out, never lost a political race until 1976.

Dole spent most of Mother's Day with his mother and other family members. The reunion was interrupted by a commencement address he delivered to the Allen County Community College in Iowa.

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