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Dole launches long run for the top

SAL JANA 5-15

RUSSELL — Pledging to "promise only the possible," Bob Dole started a long, fatiguing run Monday which he hopes will end at Washington's 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the address of the White House.

Dole told a cheering crowd of 4,000 hometown admirers in front of city hall he would "promise only the possible, so that when I am successful in my aims I shall not disappoint you."

Dole, 55, the tart-tongued partisan

who ran for vice president in 1976, became the GOP's seventh official candidate for the White House.

"I do not urge that we turn our backs on the future," Dole said. "I urge that we recover some old truths about ourselves as a people and that we be guided by these as we face the future. The truth is that today many Americans have doubts about the future of this nation. We have to eliminate those doubts. I believe we can."

The conservative two-term senator, who served as the chairman of the Re-

publican National Committee during the Nixon administration, was interrupted nine times with applause during his 20-minute speech. Several times he had to pause to regain his composure as he emotionally recalled how his neighbors helped him recover from crippling World War II wounds.

Dole said he had no illusions about the campaign ahead and predicted he would win the first primary in New Hampshire and emerge as the front-runner by the time the national convention is held in Detroit this summer.

Decrying the proliferation of "single-issue" lobbies and calling it "irresponsible" for politicians to try to divide different interest groups for their own advantage, Dole promised "to wage a whole campaign."

He said he would reach out to Democrats, "black and brown and red and yellow and white," new immigrants, women and labor. Dole said his was a concern for "an America which understands what it means when it speaks of rights — civil rights, human rights, individual rights, equal rights."

Others who have announced for the GOP nomination are: Rep. Phil Crane of Illinois, former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota, former RNC official Benjamin Fernandez, former Gov. John Connally of Texas, Sen. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and former CIA director George Bush of Texas.

Those expected to announce include: Rep. John B. Anderson of Illinois, Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee and former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California.



A visit with the senator

The residents of Russell helped Bob Dole through a long period of hospitalization after World War II, so he and his wife, Eliza-

beth, visited the Russell Hospital before his announcement Monday for the GOP presidential

nomination. They are pictured with Olive Zook, 80, Russell, a hospital patient.

Dole Would Shed Image of 'Hatchet Man'

SICK EAGLE 5-15

By DAVE BARTEL
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — "I think you'll see a different Bob Dole from the one who was assigned the bad-guy role in 1976," Elizabeth Dole told reporters here over breakfast last week.

"He's really a nice guy," the U.S. Senator's wife added. She continued to extol her husband's virtues for several more minutes until, seeming somewhat embarrassed, Dole broke in.

Afterward, one of the handful of national political reporters at the breakfast commented: "Methinks the lady doth protest too much."

The incident was one sign of some unwanted baggage Dole is carrying on his latest political journey, which he hopes will end next year in the White House.

The issue — or "non-issue" as some Dole partisans like to call it — is Dole's image as a sarcastic Republican "hatchet man."

DOLE HIMSELF raised and dismissed the issue last week during a meeting with Kansas reporters in Washington.

"We're asked by some in the media about 1976 and whether we have an image problem," the 55-year-old senator said. "We just happened to talk to two pollsters of some national conse-

quence yesterday and they say there is no problem."

The year 1976 often comes up in Dole's meetings with the press. That was the year he ran as former President Ford's vice presidential candidate, labelling Jimmy Carter "a southern-fried McGovern" and suggesting that World War II was the work of Democrats.

In the finger-pointing that followed Ford's defeat, some Republican leaders suggested that Dole's acid wit helped Carter into the White House.

DOLE ARGUES, with some justification, that that was the role he was assigned as part of Ford's "Rose Garden" strategy.

Campaigning on his own for the Republican presidential nomination this year will make things different from 1976, the senator and his attractive, articulate wife, Elizabeth, suggest.

Behind the quips and needling jests, however, Dole has managed in 19 years in Congress to fashion an overall reputation as a tough but fair Republican partisan.

At the same time, Dole's record in Congress, while staunchly conservative, is far from knee-jerk reactionary.

He has supported larger defense budgets, but also has championed federal nutrition programs for the elderly and the poor.

He supported civil rights laws, the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution and the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. But he voted against the Panama Canal treaty and now says he has deep doubts about a SALT II pact.

Some discords in Dole's welcoming song

By LINDA MOWERY

RUSSELL — Russell welcomed its favorite son — Sen. Bob Dole — with bands and banners Monday, but there was a reminder, too, of the rough road of politics.

Members of the American Agriculture Movement parked 25 tractors near the Russell Municipal Building where Dole was to make the announcement of his presidential aspirations, and unfurled large signs questioning his support for Kansas farmers.

"Where was Bob in Washington?" asked one banner. "Where were you when we needed you in Washington?" read another.

The demonstrating farmers came from Ness, Barton and Trego Counties. Melvin Erb, Bison, an AAM spokesman, said: "Dole is too busy running for the presidency to represent Kansas. He's putting national interest above the interests of Kansas."

Russell Mayor Roger Williams, at least a bit unsettled by the demonstration, said the farmers had "called to ask if they could take part. They told us they wanted to be a part of Bob Dole Day. We had

no idea ... But I think everyone has a right to be here."

The farmers left following the announcement speech and caused no difficulty. The speech was warmly received, with several applause interruptions.

The parked tractors were the only slightly jarring note in a day which started early for the new presidential aspirant with visits to two Russell nursing homes, the Russell hospital, a favorite drugstore and an appearance at a mayor's breakfast — all before the historic announcement that Dole is a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, accompanied her husband, and his mother, Bina, and daughter, Robin, also were on hand.

Schools bands from Russell and Dorrance provided spirited music for the gathering crowd, and Russell school children walked to the roped-off announcement site about 9 a.m.

There were welcome flags and U.S. flags flying

and "Welcome Home" banners throughout the downtown area.

Two members of the Young Republicans from Topeka — John Williams and Kevin Musselman — were selling Bob Dole buttons and reported a brisk trade. The money, they said, will go into Kansas Republican funds.

Former Kansas Lt. Gov. David Owen, a longtime Dole supporter, introduced the senator, calling Dole "a product of Russell and the heartland of America."

Dole opened by introducing his wife, mother and daughter.

Dole prefaced his announcement speech by welcoming big-city reporters to Kansas.

"I especially thank the members of the national media who have come so far out of their way to be here," he said. "We are very proud of Russell, but we recognize that it is not a major media center. On the other hand, it is very nearly the center of the United States — so those of you who like to be in the middle of things are pretty well situated."

Dole's Hat Is in the Ring Officially, in Kansas Style

SICK EAGLE 5-15

By AL POLCZINSKI
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — Drawing strength from a cheering hometown send-off, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., plunged headlong Monday into the crowded Republican race for the 1980 presidential nomination.

During an outdoor ceremony near the center of town, Dole pledged "to say what I stand for and speak plainly so that the American people may know which weaknesses of mine they will have to make up for or accommodate, and so they may know which strengths they can count on."

Earlier, at a number of receptions, the two-term U.S. senator acknowledged that he is seen as a long shot for the GOP nomination in Detroit next year.

"I know what the polls say, but it just seems to me the opportunity is there," he told a gathering of friends. "Someone who can articulate a positive philosophy has a chance."

DURING A NEWS conference after

his formal announcement, Dole said he believes he has "a good chance of winning the New Hampshire primary" in February and expects to do well in the January precinct caucuses in Iowa.

Although he said he expects President Carter to be the Democratic

nominee again, Dole's harshest remarks were reserved for the man who poses the most serious threat to Carter's re-election, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

In Russell and at a midday stop

(See DOLE, 4A, Col. 1)

* From Page 1

Des Moines, Dole labeled Kennedy's new proposal for a national health care program "a frightening prospect."

"Senator Kennedy continues to believe that more bureaucracy, not less, is the answer to our problems," Dole said. "His legislation creates yet another new, highly complex federal and state bureaucracy, one that is needless for the industry."

AFTER HIS IOWA visit, Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, went on to Fredericksburg, Va., and Washington, with another trip to Concord, N.H., set for this morning.

Dole is the seventh Republican to announce formally his candidacy for the GOP nomination.

Former Texas governor John Connally; former Texas congressman George Bush; Rep. Phillip Crane, of Illinois; Sen. Lowell Weicker, of Connecticut; former Minnesota governor Harold Stassen, who now is a Philadelphia attorney; and Los Angeles businessman Benjamin Fernandez have cast their hats into the ring.

Ronald Reagan, former California governor, and Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee are planning late summer or early fall announcements.

The Kansas senator promised not to attack his Republican opponents or Carter, but served notice that he "will be diligent in helping to consider the (Carter) record."

Singing Carter's 1976 theme of people's distrust of government, Dole said, "I do not propose just to make people believe in government again, but rather to urge that they believe in themselves again."

The truth is, he said, "that today many Americans have doubts about the future of this nation. We have to eliminate those doubts. I believe we can."

At the same time that Dole is campaigning for the presidential nomination, he must keep in mind that if he is to assure himself a chance to continue in public office, he also must campaign for re-election to the Senate.

During his news conference in Russell, Dole was asked whether he thought the state's first presidential preference primary next April would help or hurt either campaign.

DOLE REPLIED that he intended to be honest with Kansas voters, adding that he is raising money for his re-election campaign should his presidential effort fall short of its mark.

Ford has sent out a fund-raising letter for Dole's Senate campaign, Dole said.

He acknowledged the presence of outstanding Republicans in the presidential race but predicted that he would win the support of a majority of Kansans.

Warm Russell Reception Made Doles 'Feel Good'

SICK EAGLE 5-15

By Fred Mann
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — It was almost like old times. Bob Dole was behind the counter at Dawson's Drug Store on Main Street in Russell, chatting with customers, drawing a soft drink.

"We put a lot of ice in the bottom and not too much Coke," he joked. "Then take the dime and go on to the next customer." He surveyed the crowd. "Who's buying?"

"They laughed. Everybody was 'buying' Bob Dole Monday in Russell. Things were a little different now, though, than they had been when Dole worked in the store during his high school days. For one thing, hordes of national and local reporters trailed Dole into the store Monday, pressing through the narrow aisles, threatening to crush the shelves. For another, those at the counter had reserved their seats weeks in advance to see him.

They knew that Bob Dole, ex-soda jerk, would leave the store this day to announce he was running for president.

"I ASKED ELIZABETH (Dole's wife) if they were tired," said Russ Harvey, a Dawson's regular who had taped his name to the back of a chair to be sure he got in. "She said, 'No, this kind of reception makes us feel good.'"

For Dole, it was a morning planned to make him feel good. He was back home in Russell, nurturing and feeding off of the love of a town that had seen him grow up to try to be president. As he walked down Main Street in the early morning, friends hailed him and he returned their smiles. He called them by their first names and reached to touch them.

At the intersection of 8th and Maple, just around the corner and a block from Dawson's, the crowd began to swell an hour before the announcement. The sun's rays filtered through

a sky mottled by gray and white clouds.

Schools closed a half hour before the speech and 1,500 students swarmed through the streets toward the speaker's stand in front of the city building. Many were simply curious. Some admitted they were just as glad to get out of class as they were to see the man their parents had talked about.

KITTY-CORNER FROM the speaker's stand, about 20 tractors stood on an empty lot. A sign on one asked, "Where was 'Bob' in Washington?"

"We just don't want him to forget we're still around," said Wilbur Sanko, a farmer from Great Bend. "We want him to remember us when he eats."

Sanko said farmers are reserving judgment on Dole. "We'll see what platform he's gonna stand on," he said. "If he's gonna help us, we'll help him."

The crowd continued to swell. Some scrambled to the rooftop of the United Telephone Co. across the street from the city building. A 350-piece band

from several Russell County high schools massed behind the speaker's stand. Yellow "Dole '80" signs stapled to long sticks began to sprout above the crowd. Buttons urging voters to "Plow Carter Under" sold quickly, soon popping up on lapels.

The band played "America the Beautiful."

BY 8:30 a.m., an estimated 4,000 persons had squeezed into the intersection. Five minutes later, Dole, flanked by his wife, his mother, Bina, and his daughter, Robin, stood before his hometown.

He thanked them for coming, acknowledging that some in the crowd could be "creditors I forgot to take care of before I went to Congress."

But he wasted little time before delivering the payoff line. "I shall seek my party's nomination to the office of the President of the United States," he said, and the crowd roared.

Dole said he chose Russell instead of Washington to make the announcement "because the strength I need for the undertaking before me is here."