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Dole Courts New Hampshire Vote, Forms State Committees

By Andrew C. Miller
Of the Washington Bureau

CONCORD, N.H.—Sen. Bob Dole took his day-old presidential campaign to New Hampshire Tuesday, a farm state senator looking for help from New England voters to launch his bid for the Republican nomination.

Only a day after formally announcing his candidacy in his hometown of Russell, Kan., Dole attested to the importance of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary by naming a five-member executive committee and a 25-member steering committee, his campaign's first statewide organization.

"I'm not in New Hampshire to show well," Dole told a roomful of supporters. "I'm in New Hampshire to win."

His announcement of the state committees came as no surprise to camp New Hampshire Republicans, who know a presidential candidate when they see one and have taken note of Dole's frequent visits to the state in recent months.

Dole's appearance in New Hampshire came days after the latest poll indicated he faces an uphill battle to win the primary in February. The Boston Globe poll, the most recent and authoritative sounding of the state's Republicans, found former California Gov. Ronald Reagan far ahead of the pack of GOP candidates, with 44 percent of the support.

Following Reagan were Senate minority leader Howard Baker (14 percent), former Treasury Secretary John Connally (12 percent) and Dole with 6 percent. Behind Dole were former CIA director George Bush (5 percent) and Illinois Rep. Philip Crane and Connecticut Sen. Lowell Weicker, each with 4 percent.

Dole's campaign strategists count New Hampshire as one of the most important of the first five or six state primaries or caucuses that the Kansas Republican will enter.

"I'd hate for us to go up to New Hampshire and work at it as hard as we plan to and not do well," Thomas D. Bell, Dole's campaign manager, said after Dole's three-hour trip to the state. "It would be tough for us to explain."

But Bell said Tuesday's campaign trip to the state helped cure one problem Dole has had in the state—a reluctance by state Republicans to believe that Dole was seriously in the race.

"Until now, many of them did not believe that Dole was a guy who was a serious candidate for president," Bell said.

But Dole's trip to the Granite State didn't necessarily help what Republican party leaders privately see as the overwhelming problem for Dole and several other candidates. That problem is the residual strength of Reagan in the state, forcing many other candidates to hope that the former California governor will falter before the Feb. 28 primary.

Despite all their visits to New Hampshire over the last 17 months, one party leader said, "Dole and Crane just haven't been able to peck away at Reagan." Dole has visited New Hampshire more than 20 times in that period, and Crane has been in the state even more often.

Dole discounted the Boston Globe



Sen. Dole greets a New Hampshire voter

poll, saying his fourth-place finish was consistent with a campaign strategy to begin the summer among the top four Republican candidates. He also said his type of campaigning—a one-on-one, personal style—would start to pay off later this year.

"The person who puts together the best organization—as we have done—will see a sharp difference by November and December," he said.

Dole chose Carroll F. Jones, a Concord lawyer and vice chairman of the

state Republican party, to run his New Hampshire campaign as a volunteer state chairman. Jones, who was active in the upset election last year of Sen. Gordon Humphrey, will quit his state post to run Dole's campaign.

Other state campaign officials include a state senator, a handful of town GOP chairmen and others active in Republican politics. Dole supporters stressed that the lack of big-name New Hampshire Republicans on Dole's committees would work to

Dole's advantage by drawing into his campaign hard-working Republicans at the grassroots level.

Other candidates, notably Bush and Baker, have signed up several top state Republicans in recent weeks.

Jones, who has never before run a statewide campaign, accepted the job a week ago. He said he would soon begin assessing the campaign's needs, naming area chairmen and identifying other campaign tasks.

Dole introduced Jones and released the membership of his two committees at a press conference in Concord. "My sole purpose in coming to New Hampshire is to win the primary next February," he said. "This is realistic."

He also sought to position himself as a tough and experienced, yet compassionate, candidate who has served on all levels of government from the county to the Senate, and has specific answers to America's problems. "I am known to be a very hard worker, and I care for people," he said.

Expanding on his comments Monday that he would "neither attack my opponents in the Republican party nor the incumbent President," Dole drew a distinction between criticism and accountability and said he would continue to ask President Jimmy Carter to account for his policies.

"I think he has a lot to account for," Dole said. "To some that might seem like criticism, but to me that's accountability."

Dole was responding to a question he must answer repeatedly about his hatchet-man image in 1976 as President Gerald Ford's running mate. Dole said he got the assignment, in what he called the Rose Garden strategy, of going out in the briar patch while Ford stayed in the Rose Garden.

He knew at the time that if the strategy worked, they all would be on shrines as geniuses, he said. But after the Republicans lost to Carter, Dole said, the search for scapegoats began.

"I'll set the tone of my own campaign," he promised his supporters. "It will be very positive, but it won't be misquoting."

Dole's only other appearance of the day was a speech before about 200 Concord Rotarians, who heard large parts of the speech Dole gave the day before in Russell. Dole added his doubts about the SALT II treaty, saying he

hadn't made up his mind on the pact.

Dole's aides had scheduled a brief address before the state Senate, but canceled it Tuesday. They said it was canceled because a key Dole supporter, state Sen. Ray Conley, was ill and could not introduce Dole.

Aides said he would speak to the state Senate and House later in the year, although on side to the state Senate president said the common custom in the state Senate was for presidential candidates to be introduced in the Senate chamber, but not give policy addresses.

Bob Dole: A winner at Russell

"I came home simply because the strength I need for the undertaking before me is here."

Sen. Robert Dole

By LINDA MOWERY

RUSSELL — Bob Dole stepped to the microphone and looked out over the crowd gathered before the Russell Municipal Building. "I guess I know most people in this audience on a first-name basis," he said.

The applause was immediate. Robert Joseph Dole, 55, had come home. Home to Russell — the town of 5,800 that has sustained him through his victories and failures. Home to Russell — to announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President of the United States.

"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, and for me that place is here," Dole said.

"I was born and healed in this place by my townsmen and I began my public career here. And whenever I have set out on a new path, I have come back here to begin. 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's story is typical Horatio Alger: The son of poor parents who beat the odds through hard work and determination. Russell had its first oil boom in the 1930s, but Dole's family didn't

(Continued to Page 10)

share in the prosperity. His late father, Doran, operated a creamery and later became manager of the Norris Grain Company.

"Bob mowed yards, had a paper route ... he would do anything to earn 25 or 50 cents," recalled his aunt, Mrs. Gladys Friesen.

When his Russell friends talk about Dole, they often use the same adjectives to describe him — determined, hard-working, intelligent, likable. Many are bitter that his biting remarks during the campaign of 1976, when he was runningmate to Gerald Ford, earned him the title of "hatchet man."

"I don't want to say Bob was the perfect individual," said Harold Elliott, Dole's basketball coach at Russell High School. "He could get ruffled, but he kept under control."

"They said he was a hatchet man. That isn't Bob. Bob is a kind, friendly individual who likes to be with people and who likes to help people."

"Bob was one of the most likable persons I've ever worked with. He had a sense of humor and he used it wisely and well. What humor he used, he used at appropriate times. He would relax the team."

Dole participated in track, football and basketball during his years at Russell High. His junior year, the basketball team won the league championship. As a senior, he was elected team captain.

"Bob was a terrific competitor," said Elliott, who retired in 1974 from school administration. "The better the team, the better he seemed to play."

First job

Dole's first job was at Dawson's Drug Store, founded in 1902 by E.E. Dawson, now a resident of the Russell Kare Center. E.E.'s son, Chet, worked with Bob during those days and has continued to support his friend through his stints as Kansas representative, Russell county attorney, U.S. representative and, finally, U.S. senator.

Dole, with wife Elizabeth at his side, stopped by the drug store Monday before his announcement.

Dole and Chet embraced.

"This is the famous drug store," Elizabeth told reporters. "This is where Bob got his love of ice cream. He still eats about a pint of it a day."

"This is the town watering hole," added Chet's brother, Bud. "Every-

body in town has worked here at one time or another."

"Bob always was a great kid," Chet reminisced. "He was brilliant-minded and was quick to grasp something."

Chet doesn't believe the drug store, a gathering place for local politicians, sparked Dole's interest in public life. That interest, he said, came after Dole's dream of becoming a doctor was shattered in World War II.

Dole was serving in combat in Italy as a second lieutenant and platoon leader when shell fragments riddled his body. During hospitalization, which stretched to 39 months, he dropped from 194 pounds to 122. Doctors gave him little chance to live.

"All he wanted was to be a doctor," Chet Dawson said. "When he came back from the war there was a big change. He was much more quiet. He was wounded so bad."

"He'd come in here. You'd have to get behind him and hold his hips so he could walk. We had a juke box in those days and he would always play that song, 'Laughing On the Outside, Crying On the Inside.'"

"But he overcame it. He worked hard at it, let me tell you. He used to sit by the hour with a rubber ball and open and close his hand."

"Everybody helped him," said Vera Krug, a Russell resident who has been friends with Dole since his county attorney days. "We took donations to send him to a specialist (in Chicago) for an operation."

With the exception of his right arm, which is pinned to his side, Dole overcame the war injury. And that has only served to strengthen the ties between the senator and Russell.

"Of course, he doesn't dwell on his handicap, he never has," Miss Krug said.

Dole first experience with politics came when he was 26 and a law student. He was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives. From there, he continued his climb up the political ladder. This, his Russell supporters say, is what best qualifies him to be president.

Tells it like it is

"He has served at local, state and national levels," Chet Dawson said. "He is the best qualified of the candidates. He tells it like it is and maybe that's what we need. I hope so."

"I think he has got the best chance," said Miss Krug. "He's the best qualified of them all. Reagan has the money, but he's no match for Bob."

"We're real proud of Bob," added Russell Mayor Roger Williams. "The majority of people think he'll go all the way."

And if by some chance he shouldn't "go all the way," Bob Dole can once again return to Russell and the people who love him. To them, Russell's Favorite Son will always be a winner.

Michael Kilian

Bob Dole as a moderate? Sorry, that part's taken

FREDERICKSBURG, Va.—There was something very impressive about Sen. Robert Dole when he stopped here this week for the first campaign trail appearance of his 1980 presidential run.

He didn't bite anyone.

He didn't snarl, hiss, or tear up the tablecloths at the Virginia Republican "Old Dominion Day" fund-raising dinner.

Most especially, he did not decry the giveaway of the Panama Canal, denounce "no-nuke hippies," or threaten to ship Japanese cars and television sets back where they came from.

In fact, Dole might have been "moderate" George Bush or "moderate" Howard Baker.

The problem with public political impressions in this country is that they are not so much formed by the public as delivered to the public—neatly packaged by a small group of Washington-based journalists and broadcast reporters who style themselves "The National Press."

These impressions always have the virtue of being simple and neat. There is never a presidential primary without a winner. No candidate ever goes into the fray without an obvious label pinned on him. There is never a contest without an evil bad guy and a noble good guy.

These impressions tend to serve the prejudices of the packager and they are formed as holy writ, even if formed in the back of press buses and motel saloons. Contrary opinions are treated as ignorance or dangerous heresy.

In 1976, The National Press manically made Dole the villain of the campaign. Ford was the bumbling fool, Carter was the southern populist, Walter Mondale was the liberal choirboy, and Dole was the snarling hatchetman.

As his televised debate with Mondale attests, Dole was not entirely blameless in the formation of that impression; but it was woefully incomplete and grossly unfair.

Nevertheless, it stuck. It still sticks. Dole carries that stigma with him into the 1980 race, along with another one: He has been neatly labelled "conservative." He has been dropped into a box with Ronald Reagan and John Connally, and all but written off.

The National Press look more affectionately upon another box of their own devising—the "moderate" box—into which they have dropped Rep. John Anderson, who has no chance, and Sen. Howard Baker and George Bush, who have an excellent chance. So shall the election proceed.

If there is a fair measure of a candidate's liberalism—which is what "moderate" stands as a euphemism for—it is the annual legislative vote ratings made by the Americans for Democratic Action.

Anderson's ADA rating has ranged from 50 to 60. Baker's ADA rating last year was a "presidential" 25, but in 1976 it was 5 and in 1977 it was 0. Yet there are Anderson and Baker cozily together in the "moderate" box.

Dole's ADA rating last year was 20. His average for the last nine years has been exactly that of Baker's: 11. The right-wing American Security Council has given Baker a solid 100 per cent over the years; Dole's rating from them averages 94. Yet the smooth, well-modulated, quintessentially rational Baker is a "moderate," and Dole goes into the Reagan box.

In his years in Congress, George Bush never got an ADA rating exceeding 7. He averaged 4.6. Yet he comes across as an Eastern establishment, gee-whiz-zy, aging prep school kid, and so becomes a "moderate."

In Fredericksburg, Dole stood in the midst of as illly-white a gathering as you'll find in the South and said the Republican Party needs more black voters. Dole supports the Equal Rights Amendment, broader eligibility for food stamp recipients, a federal catastrophic illness insurance plan, direct election of the President, the District of Columbia "voting rights" amendment, financial aid to New York, and increased Social Security assistance.

Yet there he stands as Snarling Bob the Right Wing Fiend. Sorry, but The National Press has only so many "moderate" labels to go around.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 5-17

SAL JRN 5-16