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2—Topeka Capital-Journal, Saturday, January 26, 1980

Dole undecided whether to quit presidential race

By ROGER MYERS
Statehouse Writer
Sen. Bob Dole refused to say late Friday whether he will use the Republican festivities of Kansas Day to announce if he plans to continue his quest for the GOP presidential nomination.

Dole told reporters who clustered around him at a reception in his honor at a downtown Topeka motel that he has not decided whether he will remain in the race, or withdraw from the presidential sweepstakes.

"I have all the advice I need," a harried Dole told newsmen. "All I need now is money, and I won't get much of that here," he said scanning the circle of newsmen around him.

There have been persistent reports since Dole finished last in the Iowa Republican caucus elections Monday that he would drop out of the presidential race, and that he would choose the annual GOP activities of Kansas Day to make the announcement.

Former Kansans on the campaign staff of another presidential hopeful with a reception room at the motel said they understand Dole will announce Saturday night during an appearance at the Kansas Day banquet that he is packing it in.

They described the report as "street talk" both in Washington and at Kansas Day gatherings.

Dole said Friday night, "If I have any announcement, I assume there'll be some people around to hear it."

The senior Kansas U.S. senator and 1976 Republican vice presidential candidate noted he is scheduled to make speeches at the Kansas Day Republican Veterans Day Luncheon at noon, and also speak to a reunion of interns from his staff.

One key Kansas Republican with whom he had not consulted late Friday was McDill "Huck" Boyd of Phillipsburg, a long time friend and former Republican national committeeman from Kansas.

Boyd said he was scheduled to talk with Dole late Friday, after the Kansas Day reception had quieted.

"I never tell Bob what to do," Boyd said. "I just give him the information I have to report. I will tell him, though, no matter what his decision (on the re-election chances in Kansas from back-to-back defeats in the presidential primaries).

During remarks at a 1st Congressional District meeting earlier Saturday, Dole said, "You have to go through the process when you go to New Hampshire. How do you come out? How does that reflect in your own state?"

Dole said during that meeting, "I believe the Republican race is wide open. I believe my judgment at the outset was right. I believe Gov. Reagan has (Continued on page 2, col. 1)

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presidential race) that he better make it this weekend and he better make it here.

"This has to be done this weekend," Boyd asserted.

The senator arrived in Topeka about 8:15 p.m. Friday, but did not appear at the reception for him until 9 p.m.

The affair was sponsored by the state's junior U.S. senator, Nancy Landon Kassebaum, who introduced him as a "great senator." She said she appreciates the advice and counsel he has given her.

Kassebaum said Dole has not sought her advice on whether she believes he should discontinue his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, and she has not offered it.

Dole was surrounded by well-wishers at the reception as he and his wife, Elizabeth, worked their way through the premiere reception of an evening crowded with rival presidential candidate hospitality rooms.

Nancy Reagan, the wife of former California Governor Ronald Reagan and the presumed frontrunner for the nomination, shook hands with a steady procession of Kansas Republicans.

Demure and nearly regal in a purple velvet dress, Mrs. Reagan drew one of the largest crowds of the Kansas Day scene Friday night.

The Reagan for President room in the lower lounge area of the motel was crammed throughout most of the more than 80 minutes she was there.

Rival presidential campaign workers claimed Mrs. Reagan makes few such appearances in behalf of her husband, and that she was rushed onto the campaign trail quickly after Reagan's surprising runner-up finish to Texas George Bush in the Iowa caucuses Monday.

Across the hall from the Reagan campaign committee reception room was the Connally hospitality room, and it also boasted a hefty crowd throughout much of the evening.

Mrs. Patricia Storey, campaign manager for Republican former Governor Robert Bennett, is on the Connally national campaign staff and was at the Texas reception greeting old acquaintances.

The drawing card for the Connally backers was former Alaska Governor Walter Hickel, a native of Clarfin, Kan.

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Topeka, Kansas, Sunday, January 27, 1980

Dole still undecided on GOP race

By ROGER MYERS
Statehouse Writer
Sen. Bob Dole told an overflow Kansas Day crowd Saturday night he has not yet decided whether he will abandon or continue his quest for the Republican presidential nomination.

His indecisive announcement to the Kansas Day banquet deflated speculation which had been building more than a day that he would say publicly Saturday whether he plans to continue in the race for the GOP nomination, or drop out.

re-election chances in Kansas from back-to-back defeats in the presidential primaries.

During remarks at a 1st Congressional District meeting earlier Saturday, Dole said, "You have to go through the process when you go to New Hampshire. How do you come out? How does that reflect in your own state?"

Dole said during that meeting, "I believe the Republican race is wide open. I believe my judgment at the outset was right. I believe Gov. Reagan has (Continued on page 2, col. 2)

A crowd estimated at more than 700 persons, many of them drawn to the climax event of the annual Kansas Day Republican festivities by the prospect of a Dole announcement on his presidential campaign plans, was hushed as he read through a prepared statement.

"In the next few days, I will make a final decision as to my course of action. The people of Kansas will be the first to know what I decide," Dole said.

The senior U.S. senator from Kansas reportedly had decided to postpone any decision on whether to quit the presidential race for about 30 days.

Dole reportedly plans to work hard in the next week to 10 days on the windfall profits tax on oil companies which is entering its final stages of negotiation between members of a House-Senate conference committee, and on an embargo legislation which Dole told sources will be debated by Congress in February.

The sources, long-time friends from whom Dole solicited advice, said Kansas senator hopes for a reprieve from his last place finish in the Iowa Republican caucus elections during that time.

But they also said Dole does not intend to campaign for the GOP nomination.

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is the first major contest in the nation to elect actual delegates to the Republican National Convention.

They said he hopes to be able to offset a potential second straight poor public showing by reminding voters in Kansas that he was inhibited from campaigning both in Iowa and New Hampshire by his responsibilities in the Senate.

Dole himself noted the risks to his

That primary, scheduled for Feb. 26,

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slipped. I've said publicly someone had to be prepared to catch it if he did. Now, he may not. He's got a lot of staying power and we're just getting into it.

"You've only had one inning," he told reporters who questioned him about his plans at the 1st District meeting.

Other sources in the GOP congressional delegation confirmed that Dole's scenario is to hold off with a final decision until he can see how his rivals shake out in the campaigning for delegates in New Hampshire.

Dole clearly did not want to abandon the presidential race.

"I frankly think I'm the best qualified candidate the Republicans have running for president," he told the 1st District meeting. "But I don't have any money. I can't sell that."

He told the Kansas Day banquet audience, "I have no intent of withdrawing

from the great national debates of the 80s. I don't believe that Kansans would want a senator who was timid in confronting the problems of energy, inflation, agriculture, health care and America's place in the modern world.

"I have not devoted myself to three decades of public life to go into private retreat at the first sign of adversity."

Two of his key advisers, Dave Owen of Stanley and McDill "Huck" Boyd of Phillipsburg, have either advised him to drop out of the race and concentrate on running for re-election to the Senate, or reported to him that most influential Republicans in the state believe he should give up his bid for the GOP presidential nomination. Owen is his Senate campaign manager and Boyd is a Republican national committeeman from Kansas and one of his staunchest supporters.

Dole apparently anguished until almost the last minute before deciding to

reach no decision.

His prepared statement was drafted late Saturday afternoon and distributed to reporters about 8 p.m., only minutes before his scheduled walk-on appearance during the Kansas Day banquet program.

At least one Republican in the state's congressional delegation complained Dole has left matters unsettled for an undetermined period and is jeopardizing the GOP hold in the U.S. Senate seat.

Dole was the star attraction at a Kansas Day celebration that drew an above average number of Republicans to Topeka for the weekend. The presence of Mrs. Nancy Reagan, wife of the California former governor, and activities of supporters backing former Texas Gov. Connally and former CIA chief Bush, also helped bolster attendance at the annual Republican affair.

The Kansas Day speaker was Wisconsin Gov. Lee S. Dreyfus.

tion to the Soviets.

"You can't afford to stop talking to someone just because you don't agree with their policies," he said.

Dole said he does not believe the grain embargo, nor other economic sanctions, will convince the Russians to back out of Afghanistan.

The Kansas senator said he still believes Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy will be the Democratic nominee for president, despite Carter's dramatic improvement in public opinion polls during recent weeks.

"He'll be the nominee after all this crisis promotion ends," Dole told District Republicans.

He said throughout the speeches that the GOP must work hard to shed country club, insensitive image with voters.

6—Topeka Capital-Journal, Sunday, January 27, 1980

Dole accuses Carter of promoting crises

By ROGER MYERS
Statehouse Writer
U.S. Sen. Bob Dole charged Saturday that President Jimmy Carter is using "crisis promotion" to boost his chances for renomination and re-election in 1980.

Dole made the assertion repeatedly during a series of short talks to congressional district meetings of Kansas GOP officials in Topeka for Kansas Day.

"I find an attitude of crisis promotion in the White House," Dole told 3rd District Republicans. "First there was Iran, and he goes up 20 percent in the polls.

"The president has wrapped himself in the flag," Dole said in remarks to 2nd District Republicans.

"I'll support my president," he said. "But when the crises abate, we'll still have inflation and high prices, low prices for farmers and high interest rates.

Now, President Carter is not all to blame. But he hasn't done much to turn it around."

Dole said repeatedly during his appearances before the congressional district meetings that Republicans have their best opportunity in years to make inroads on Democratic majorities at the national, state and local levels.

"Jimmy Carter has given us an opportunity that may not come along in another 100 years," Dole said.

The state's senior U.S. senator also said throughout his appearances before

the congressional district groups that he does not favor re-establishment of registration for the draft.

"I don't think that is any answer," he said of Carter's call for re-establishment of draft registration. "It won't work unless you're prepared."

The 1976 Republican vice presidential candidate said he was criticized during that race for urging military preparedness, but said the crisis in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan prove he was right.

Asked at the 4th District meeting how he would handle the Russian incursion into Afghanistan, Dole said he would immediately establish an American presence in the area.

"A little air base wouldn't be a bad idea," he said, just to remind them we're around."

Dole said he is prepared to offer Pakistan \$500 million of military aid to bolster that country's defense against possible invasion by the Russians in neighboring Afghanistan.

He said the United States has vacillated and changed direction frequently in its treatment of Pakistan, and that the sizable amount of aid might be necessary to convince Pakistan that America does not consider that country "just the next party."

At the same time, Dole said, America must keep open its lines of communication to the Soviets.