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Editorials/Comments

The Wichita Eagle and Beacon Sunday, February 24, 1980

Bob Dole: Keeping the Faith

By GEORGE NEAVOLL
Editor of the Editorial Pages

The New Hampshire primary will be over in a few days, and so may be the presidential aspirations of Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan.

At least, that's what the experts say, and I suppose they're right.

But before that happens, I want to say something: I don't care if Bob Dole gets 10 votes in New Hampshire. I'll be darned proud of him, and I'm proud of him right now.

Those of you who don't know me well should realize this isn't Mr. Republican speaking. (I prefer to think of myself as independent.)

I well may not vote for Mr. Dole even if he runs for re-election to the Senate. Had he entered the Kansas presidential primary, we well might not have endorsed him.

But as I have watched Mr. Dole in the past few weeks, and seen the way he has battled with wit and even-handedness against odds that would have left the house, I have come to some conclusions about this man that merit only respect and admiration in my book.

FIRST AND FOREMOST is that Bob Dole is true grit.

The harder the challenge has been, and the less likely he has had anything to gain, the more he has seemed to relish it.

It hasn't been easy, attending to his duties in the Senate, and spending every other minute he could on the long, hard campaign trail. He has spoken bravely, but I don't think he had any real hope of doing much better in Iowa than he did; and I doubt very seriously that he has any great illusions about how well he's going to do in New Hampshire.



Dole: An Image of Kansas

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checked by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

While Mr. Dole has been darning "mighty things" in campaign appearances all across the country, he has been projecting an image of Kansas and Kansas that we all can applaud, whether we're Republican, Democrat, independent or indifferent.

I watched the man from Russell hold his own against the other Republican candidates in the presidential "debates" in Des Moines and in Manchester, and while I may not have agreed with just everything he said, I was glad to see him there, seeking the highest office in the land, a Kansan born and bred.

His good humor and keen intelligence have been evident everywhere he's gone, and for my money, he's been a splendid representative of this state.

ALL THIS SOUNDS as though I'm a great Dole partisan, and again I must caution you, I'm not, particularly.

It's just that I admire the gutsiness of someone who has done what Mr. Dole has done, and who will not accept defeat though all the forces of superiority and organization and political strength are aligned against him.

And when he comes back to Kansas, he needn't feel people think any less of him for having waged a campaign that was "checked by failure," and perhaps doomed from the start. At least, I won't.

I'm vastly pleased to have had him carrying the banner of my beloved state in the contest for the greatest political prize of all, and can only say, as what may be the end approaches, they must raise 'em tough in Russell County.

Whether New Hampshire proves to be the finish or not, the Senator from Kansas can say with the Apostle Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

ST. JOURNAL 3-12-80

Dole backs Baker in Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kan.) announced Wednesday that he is supporting Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.), a rival candidate for the party's presidential nomination, in Puerto Rico's presidential primary election Sunday.

The unusual endorsement came a day after Dole decided not to enter the April 1 primary in his home state.

He is under pressure from supporters at home to drop the presidential bid and run for the Senate again.

Dole said that although his name is on the Puerto Rico ballot, he has not campaigned actively there.

"In my absence, I urge all Puerto Rico voters to support Howard Baker," he said. "I have no quarrel with the other candidates, but feel Sen. Baker is the best qualified to address Puerto Rico's problems."

THAT APPEARED to be an effort to slow the campaign of former United Nations Ambassador George Bush, who won the first GOP contest in Iowa on Jan. 21 and could gain new headway in Puerto Rico's first primary.

Dole, campaigning in Concord, N.H., Wednesday, was asked about his endorsement.

"Well, I think in Puerto Rico it's a question of resources," he said. "We'd have to spend, I think we figured \$50,000 to \$75,000, to really get anywhere."

When questioned on whether he was considering dropping out of the New Hampshire primary, the senator said: "Oh, no, I think this is a different ballgame altogether. I'm up here, we've got the resources in New Hampshire and we're making progress, and I hope to do some good up here."

BUSH AND former California Gov. Ronald Reagan now lead the Republican field, with Baker running third in most public opinion polls, as he did in the Iowa caucuses.

Dole finished last among the active candidates in Iowa, with only 1.8 per cent of the vote. He finished with withdrawn support from the race, then decided to press his campaign in the New Hampshire presidential primary on Feb. 26.

He has said he will take stock of his candidacy after New Hampshire.

Dole, the 1976 Republican vice presidential nominee, will have to choose between pressing his candidacy for the White House and seeking re-election to the Senate from Kansas.

Dole's scheduled Salina visit causes campaign speculation

Could it be the start of a Dole campaign for the U.S. Senate?

Spokesmen for Sen. Robert Dole wouldn't identify it as such, but there should be considerable interest in his scheduled visit to Salina this Saturday.

Dole's office has confirmed the senator is "tentatively" scheduled to speak at a legislative luncheon at noon Saturday at the Hilton Inn.

Whether it proves to be the start to a Senate campaign remains to be seen, however.

"It is just an attempt to get out to the state and talk to some folks," explained Bob Wait, Dole's press secretary at his Washington, D.C., office.

Wait emphasized Dole's Salina appearance still is tentative and is dependent upon his legislative commitments in Washington.

Political observers have been waiting for Dole officially to abandon his quest for the Republican presidential nomination and concentrate on his re-election to the Senate. Dole has yet to make the formal break with his 1980 presidential aspirations, and questions about his political plans are likely to

dominate Saturday's appearance.

The luncheon, sponsored by the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, is open to the public. Reservations must be made to the Chamber office by 4 p.m. Friday. The cost is \$3.

Another feature of the luncheon will be a report from Pat Roberts, representing First District Congressman Keith Sebelius. Also on the agenda are the "regulars" — state Sen. Ben Vidricksen and Reps. Jayne Aylward, Jerry Slippson and Larry Turnquist, who will report on legislative activities in Topeka.

A-4 The Kansas City Times
Monday, February 25, 1980

Win or lose, Elizabeth Dole says long campaign is all worthwhile

By Kathleen Peterson
Ora Washington Bureau

MERRIMACK, N.H. — Frustration. A flash of anger — but not often, and only in private. Bewildered. Elizabeth Dole cannot understand why observers do not see what she sees.

But there is no sense of defeat as the New Hampshire presidential primary approaches.

"I wonder if they'll ever get down to carefully examining the record, the performance, the things that ought to matter when you're selecting a president," she asks. "Too often we get caught up in the politics of politics." Polls. Momentum.

"I feel as Bob does, that when you're choosing a president it should be based on looking thoroughly at the record. To me, that means 19 years in Congress. I don't see a substitute for that."

Leaving over a hamburger at the Merrimack Hilton before speaking to yet another audience last week, Mrs. Dole said she had not thought about what she might do if the polls hold true and her husband places last in the Republican primary here Tuesday.

"It's a big 'if,'" she said. "I'm still so involved in the present, working toward a goal."

The goal: "It would be nice if he could be where he was in the polls in

September. He was running third then," tied with George Bush, behind Ronald Reagan and Sen. Howard Baker.

But she doesn't expect a third-place finish, and hesitates to say what percentage she expects. A Boston Globe survey Sunday gave Dole just 1 percent.

Then she did venture an answer.

"Working together on something, working toward the same goal, you feel a closeness knowing you've gone through a challenging experience together."

— Elizabeth Dole, wife of Sen. Bob Dole

What will it all have meant if he does place seventh in a seven-man race? "It will have been a plus. Working on something, working toward the same goal, you feel a closeness knowing you've gone through a challenging experience together."

"I could have come to respect Bob even more. I do, for the way he's handled a situation that is a very difficult one."

One copes with the disappointment, she said, adding in earnest: "I feel he has such real qualifications for the job, and I'd like to see people become aware of those qualifications. If there were a genuine discussion of the issues and the experience, and his 19 years in Congress... I'd like to see those things perceived."

But they aren't. He has been a weak candidate the last three months, the same months that saw his support erode from 8 percent in September to 1 percent last week while Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, was his party's full-time manager on the bill to tax "windfall" oil profits.

The time spent on that legislation has had an immeasurable impact on the campaign, Mrs. Dole said.

"One of his main qualifications for the presidency has in a sense been a political liability," she said. "It's the biggest tax bill ever considered in the history of this country, and if you're Bob Dole you don't run away from that responsibility. You become a weekend candidate. It's something you can't foresee."

One night before the Iowa presidential caucus, the 4,000-member Iowa Farm Bureau was meeting.

"Bob was literally on the Senate floor when the Farm Bureau met," she said, and he was fighting for a measure that was "the No. 1 priority for that group. They decided not to allow surrogate to speak so I was unable to give his views."

Dole flew to Iowa that night and was introduced to a Farm Bureau dinner, but had missed his one opportunity to speak.

"He went back that same night and was on the Senate floor at 9 a.m. the next morning."

Elizabeth Hanford Dole, a former White House consumer advocate, a lawyer and until her husband's presidential quest a Federal Trade Commission staffer, has had what one staff member described as an unprecedented role in the senator's campaign.

She has been adviser, fund-raiser and "chief surrogate," taking over Dole's appearances as well as invitations accepted on her own behalf over the last several months in New Hampshire. She worked on a recent three-week publicity campaign — three full-page ads in 11 New Hampshire newspapers plus radio and television spots — which cost \$50,000, according to Dole.

The campaign is a tiny presence in a state beset with candidates' literature, precinct captains, network film crews and Cabinet secretaries. The Dole headquarters in Concord consists chiefly of a scheduling person, a press secretary, a driver, one or two other staff members and an occasional volunteer, plus full-time help from the senator's daughter, Robb Dole.

Mrs. Dole tells audiences she offered to give up the FTC job to work for her husband last spring. "And I haven't had a weekend off since."

She describes herself as a "jack-of-all-trades, taking up whatever task needs doing. Friday she called the advertising consultant to tell him that one of the television ads she saw was "zesty." Last Wednesday before the GOP debate, she made sure that nothing disturbed her husband's privacy for a few rare moments of "quiet time."

"It's good to have the kind of relationship where he can call me with anything that needs doing," she said. "That's the way I want it to be."

There has even been the suggestion that Dole might have taken himself out of the race for good but for her enthusiasm. But she's watched that her part is not overblown. Decisions are his, not theirs, she says, including the decision to stay off the ballot in the April 1 presidential primary in Kansas.

It was a wise move, she said, because "his Senate duties are his first priority."

Her themes are the themes of the last-minute ads: experience, specific stands on issues. "He's been dealing with issues day in and day out," she told a group of high school students Friday in Gilford, N.H., an hour's drive from Manchester. Only a half-dozen voting-age teachers were present.

She also brings up Dole's record of service in World War II, his severe injuries and his three years in a hospital recovering.

"He's had to face adversity and that produces strength," she says. "I see that again and again in his life." That experience also produced compassion and heightened sensitivity, she tells the students, and both are "important qualifications for the presidency."

"She gets into the issues," Dole said of his wife over the weekend. "It's not just what a wonderful person my husband is."

"He's running on his record, not rhetoric," she tells a Republican Women's coffee Saturday morning in Amherst, N.H.

Does she ever get discouraged about the campaign, the non-coverage by the press, the polls? "I don't enjoy that state of mind," she said.

The campaign has produced "lasting friendships, lifetime friendships," she said. "Overall it's definitely a plus experience. Problems come up and at times you feel frustrated. We've had more than our share of bad luck. But it doesn't keep you down."

"I see all the responsibilities on my husband and he's not had an opportunity to put his full time into running like the other candidates have. He's never complained."

Mrs. Dole, having finished her hurried supper before addressing a group of New England journalists in Merrimack, says: "We're hoping there is good will out there for him." The late advertising is designed to "rekindle that support" reflected in Dole's ranking in the polls in September.

"Everything is focusing on this state and the primary," she said. "It's important that he do well here."

Section 3 Chicago Tribune, Thursday, February 14, 1980

18—Topeka Capital-Journal, Sunday, March 9, 1980

Dole prepares to come home

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Bob Dole is expected to return to Kansas in mid-April to announce he will seek another term, according to various sources here.

Dole is keeping quiet about his intentions but the April announcement date seems logical.

Kansas holds its presidential primary April 1 and the hoopla — indeed, if there is any — from that election will be in full swing.

In the meantime, Dole can continue to be senatorial. He was acting like a candidate for re-election last week, blasting the administration on the Senate floor for failing to adequately insulate farmers from effects of the grain embargo.

He was busy in the Senate Agriculture Committee rounding up support for a new farm bill, and seeking allies to force the administration to pay farmers not to plant wheat and feed grains, a plan rejected last week by the Agriculture Department.

Dole's presidential campaign has folded and he seems to be concentrating on improving his relations with Kansans. Farm interests are the best place to start.

Miracles occur in the strangest of places, and two happened last week.

First, Illinois Rep. John Anderson took an amazing leap to the front of the GOP pack with his strong showings in the Vermont and Massachusetts presidential primaries.

Second, Dole almost endorsed the man, a candidate whose intelligence Dole respects and a liberal whose views and straight-forward talk are a breath of fresh air amid the stale, tiring and say-nothing discourses of most other GOP candidates.

Dole, who has said repeatedly that Anderson is the brightest candidate in the bunch, holds on to a belief that the GOP nomination is a "horse race."

"Illinois will be key to Anderson. He's an underdog, but I wouldn't bet against him," Dole says.

Dole is risking plenty with such lavish praise. He can infuriate backers of Ronald Reagan, a sizeable contingent in Kansas, and raise doubts within the GOP establishment.

Yet Dole is gratified with Anderson's showing in the two New England primaries for personal and political reasons. Dole says Anderson's second place finishes are healthy for the Republican party and show that voters "are responding to issues, qualifications and experience."

Throughout his own presidential campaign, Dole lamented the fact that voters paid little attention to what candidates were saying or why their background qualified them to be president.

"While I may not support all of John Anderson's positions on the issues, I am pleased to see the voters respond to a man who has the courage to speak his convictions," Dole says.

In addition to praising Anderson's candor, Dole also heaped on the plaudits as a not-too-subtle dig at George Bush, a candidate Dole detests for perceived "fuzziness" on the issues and a lack of rapport with mainstream America.

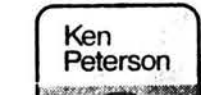
Dole's perception of the presidential race, despite the failures of his own campaign, have so far been accurate. Illinois would seem to be crucial to Anderson. Anderson is avoiding conservative states in the South and pinning his hopes on a strong appearance in his home state primary on March 18, in Connecticut on March 23, and in Wisconsin on April 1.

Kansas Reps. Jim Jeffries and Bob Whittaker are cosponsors of a bill designed to repeal the entire Gun Control Act of 1968.

Endorsed by anti-gun control lobbyists and introduced by Rep. Harold L. Volkmer, D-Mo., the bill would, among other things, loosen the restriction on individual sales of firearms and allow purchase of firearms across state lines if the purchase is legal in both states. The legislation would allow congressional review of regulations proposed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and would sharply restrict activities of the bureau in gun control.

The powerful Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms says the bill "deserves the whole-hearted support of all who cherish the right of individual, law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms for self-defense and for the defense of family and property as well as for hunting, sport, collecting and other legitimate purposes."

The bill has at least 90 House sponsors, but is expected to remain bottled up in subcommittee.



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