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VIEWPOINTS

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Dole's state effort gets a 1-2 boost

By Thomas Hardy
Political writer

U.S. Sen. Robert Dole's presidential campaign field operation will get underway next week when two aides to Illinois House Republican Leader Lee Daniels, of Elmhurst, join the Dole campaign staff.

Mark Schroeder will take a leave of absence as Daniels' director of constituent affairs to serve as the executive director of the Dole For President-Illinois committee. Kim Donohue, an analyst in the office of the House minority, will work for Schroeder as field director of the Kansas senator's campaign, Schroeder said.

Daniels was named state chairman of Dole's Illinois campaign in May and has invited all the Republican presidential candidates to an Aug. 20 fundraiser for the Illinois House Republican Committee. The committee is the statewide political apparatus for getting Republicans elected to the House, and Daniels is chairman of the committee.

Schroeder, who will assume his new post Monday, said Dole will appear at the fundraiser and participate in what organizers hope will be a forum for hearing the campaign pitch of each candidate.

Vice President George Bush, the front-runner among those considered as prominent GOP presidential hopefuls, has been reluctant to share venues with his likely opponents and schedulers do not believe he will come to Illinois until Aug. 27.

Bush and Dole have not formally announced their candidacies but are expected to do so in late summer. The others who have announced are considering announcing as Republicans. Candidates are U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp [R., N.Y.], former Delaware Gov. Pierre Du Pont, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, television evangelist Pat Robertson and former U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt [R., Nev.].

"Illinois is a Bush-Dole state at this time, and I think it will remain so until the primary next March," Schroeder said Tuesday.



Rep. Lee Daniels

Schroeder said he does not believe Dole's efforts in Illinois are lagging behind those of Bush, whose campaign was launched in the spring by former U.S. Atty. Gen. Sam Skinner.

"We're all doing about the same thing now, contacting party leaders, putting our teams together," Schroeder said. Dole's statewide co-chairmen will be announced Aug. 21, and Dole will run delegate slates in all 22 of the state's congressional districts, Schroeder said.

A big boost for any candidate will be endorsements from such Republican statewide officeholders as Gov. James Thompson, Secretary of State Jim Edgar and Lt. Gov. George Ryan.

All three are thought by party insiders to be leaning toward Bush, but Thompson and Edgar have been especially coy about their preference. Thompson said this week that he does not expect to announce his endorsement until late this year.

"We'd love to have the governor and secretary of state, and Senators Dole and Lee Daniels have talked to both," Schroeder said. "The governor has a lot of county party chairmen with him, and they're not committing to anybody until they see what he does."

Dole could lose presidency in winning nomination

By JACK BEATTY
L.A. Times-Washington Post Service

Independents and weak Democrats elect Republican presidents; there just are not enough Republican voters to do the job. That fact of political life should be Bob Dole's chief asset in the race for the GOP nomination. After all, the Senate minority leader has been called "the Democrats' favorite Republican." He has an image as an independent, non-ideological conservative. He co-sponsored, with George McGovern, the original food-stamp legislation, and he fought the Reagan administration to save the Voting Rights Act.

"We're sort of a hard-headed party," he told the Young Republicans convention recently. "We get the rap that we don't care." Dole cares.

But before he becomes the Republican candidate in the November election, Dole has to win the nomination of a party whose activists and primary voters are — in the main — right-wing, ideological conservatives. To appeal to this narrow but crucial electorate, Dole has for some time been taking positions that could come back to haunt him in the general election.

Pitted against a founding Jack Kemp and a politically weakened George Bush, Dole has a strong chance to win the battle for the nomination but — by the manner of his winning — lose the war to be the next president.

In just the past few months Dole has moved to the right of the administration in two small instances that are symbolic of his wider courtship of the right wing.

Dole has joined with Jesse Helms and a score of other Republican senators in making the appointment of our next ambassador to Mozambique hostage to a change in U.S. policy toward the Marxist government of that miserable, war-ravaged country.

Dole, Helms & Co. want the administration to stop trying to woo the government away from Moscow and instead switch its support to Renamo, the Contra-like guerrilla movement fighting the government. Renamo is backed by South Africa, whose apartheid system Dole has denounced.

Even the unlovely standards of guerrilla groups generally, Renamo's tactics are odious: It burns clinics, attacks medical teams (and has kidnapped an American nurse) sent to help famine victims, and cuts off the ears of peasants who fall into its bloody hands.

That Renamo should be supported by right-wing covens like the Heritage Foundation is no surprise, but what is sensible and intelligent Bob Dole doing backing such people? Going to Reagan's right on Mozambique might redound to Dole's credit with the hard cases at Heritage, but how will he explain his support of these terrorists to the rest of the voters?

Worse than that dilemma is a moral one. As South African columnist Simon Barber wrote last month, "Hundreds of thousands more Mozambicans may have to die of famine and war so that Senator Dole... can have a shot at the party's nomination."

And, against a future Democratic opponent, how will Dole defend his giving Surgeon General C. Everett Koop a calculated slap in the face because Phyllis Schlafly pressured him to do it? One thinks of Bob Dole, the disabled war veteran, as a brave man, and yet (according to a report on National Public Radio) an ad-memorandum letter from Schlafly was enough to get him to withdraw as

one of the sponsors of a recent dinner honoring Koop, who is in Schlafly's bad book because he insists that sex education is needed to combat AIDS. Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, no liberal, attended the dinner and praised Koop for his leadership in meeting the health crisis of our times.

There is more: The man who sponsored important legislation to reform the tax code and raise taxes in

Dole has for some time been taking positions that could come back to haunt him.

1982, thereby saving the Reagan administration from the worst consequences of the drastic 1981 tax cuts, now sides with the administration and against many of his Republican colleagues in opposing tax increases.

The man who voted for the anti-ballistic-missile treaty in 1972 now has embraced the administration's new-found broad interpretation that would effectively nullify the treaty and, says Sam Nunn, the conservative Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, contains the seeds of a "constitutional crisis."

It's hard to believe that pragmatic Bob Dole, a supreme legislative tactician during his years as the Senate majority leader, wants to precipitate a constitutional crisis, or that he really cares about the things dear to Schlafly's heart, or that he, Mr. Deficit himself, is against raising taxes to lower the deficit. No, this

"Lon Chaney of American politics," as William Schneider calls him in the current issue of the Atlantic, is putting his image of independence, of soundness, at risk in order to get the nomination.

Dole's skill at having things both ways — being at once "the electable" Republican with a strong appeal to Democrats and independents and the ally of Jesse Helms and Phyllis Schlafly — raises a vexing question: What does he really believe in? Notoriously, Dole has a problem with what his rival for the nomination, George Bush (who should know) calls "the vision thing." He is not a conviction politician like Ronald Reagan or Jack Kemp. He just can't get his tongue around the rhetoric of belief. And no wonder, when you consider what he has been through in his life.

At age 21, Lt. Dole was horribly wounded; a German artillery shell mauled his right shoulder and "permanently and totally" disabled his right arm. He spent years in painful convalescence, and to this day he

must rise early because dressing himself is so time-consuming. Such tribulations build character, and Bob Dole, who uses reserves of will every time he buttons his shirt, clearly has character.

But suffering can also breed cynicism. Dole recalled in an interview with Gail Sheehy in the March Vanity Fair: "You think nobody could have it worse than you; why did God do it to me. I didn't do anything, it's unfair. I'm never going to get married, never going to amount to anything. Live off a pension. Selling pencils on a street corner."

A man who has beaten back such despair is constitutionally incapable of indulging in the flatulent oratory of a Ronald Reagan or a Jack Kemp. He doesn't believe in causes, he gives the appearance of believing in only that formidable force, himself. The question is: Will that be enough for the voters?

About the writer

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As we see it

No favor to Bork in proposal by Dole

Mounting frustration over Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden's deliberate delay in taking up the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork has prompted Senate Republican leader Bob Dole to propose that the White House rush the appointment while senators are out of town.

Such a "recess" appointment is technically allowed under the Constitution and would defer the requirement for Senate confirmation of Bork until next year. In the meantime, he would serve as an associate justice until the Senate confirms or rejects him.

To some of Bork's supporters, this may sound like a neat idea. It isn't. The president would be wise to reject it out of hand, inasmuch as it could doom Bork's prospects of serving on the court for more than a few months.

A RECESS appointment does

not obviate the need for confirmation of the nominee. It merely delays the necessary consent of the Senate until the subsequent session of Congress.

By tradition, recess appointments are made only for non-controversial nominees in cases in which vacancies must be filled quickly to avoid disruptions in the business of government. To use this relatively rare procedure for a highly contested nomination such as Bork's would provoke the ire of many senators whose votes are needed to win his confirmation.

More important, circumventing the Senate's right to pass judgment on Supreme Court nominations, even temporarily, would smack of presidential court-packing. The result would be to undermine the substantial support that many Americans have shown for President Reagan's choice of Bork.

A RECESS nomination, moreover, would shift the focus of attention away from Biden's obstructionist tactics and an anticipated Democratic filibuster designed to block Bork's elevation to the court.

For tactical reasons as well as the merits of the case, it is better to keep the issue centered on the outrageous partisan shenanigans of Biden and other liberal Democrats. It is Bork's opponents who in fact are playing politics with the Supreme Court and a president's right to name an eminently qualified jurist who shares his conservative outlook.

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Russell's native 'blood' still garners praise from home

By Gary Duda
United Press International

RUSSELL — The road to success for Robert Dole, the Kansas senator on the brink of a presidential bid, has been strewn with obstacles.

Poverty, obscurity of small-town life and a near-fatal war injury that left him permanently handicapped were his lot in the first two decades of life.

To the people who live in his hometown of Russell, population 5,400, Bob Dole is nearly a legend — a man who overcame life's early adversities through hard work, determination and loyal support from the hometown crowd.

"It's quite a story," Kenny Dole says of his brother's life. "He's quite a hero."

Dole, the Republican leader of the U.S. Senate, began his political career from the red-brick streets of Russell in 1951 when he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives at the age of 26.

The people who put him there didn't need convincing that Dole was their man. To them, he had already proven he was a winner by surviving a World War II injury that doctors thought would kill him.

"They (doctors) didn't have much hope for him," says Kenny Dole. "In fact, they didn't have any hope for him at all."

Today, more than three decades after he entered politics, the 62-year-old Dole retains his hometown popularity.

"He's hometown blood," says Glenda Finke, a spokeswoman for the Russell Chamber of Commerce.

And Russell residents like to remind people Dole is their native son. Entering the western Kansas town, visitors on Interstate 70 see two large billboards erected through private funds that read "Welcome to Bob Dole Country."

At the same time, the people of Russell don't want Dole to forget them. The ones who think he has don't hesitate to say so to anyone who will listen in the local taverns and coffee shops.

"Dole's for Dole," says Milton Fabian, the owner of a local engine repair shop, who thinks Dole has forgotten Russell in his move up the political ladder.

Richard Newton, manager of an acid-oil recovery company, says he thinks Dole and his wife, Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole, could do more to help Russell, a



Bob Dole

town besieged by economic problems brought on by the slumping oil and agricultural industries.

When Dole left Russell for Washington,

he left a town riding high on the wave of economic prosperity. Today, Dole sits atop the political world while Russell struggles to survive.

Between 1985 and 1986, Russell County's 5,489-member workforce was trimmed by about 1,000 jobs due to a dramatic slump in the domestic oil economy.

Although times are tough, especially for working-class residents like Newton and Fabian, most of the town still stands behind its native son.

"I'd vote for Dole," Newton said. "Well, why not? It would be the best thing that could happen to Russell, Kan."

In an interview, Kenny Dole, 64, explains that Bob Dole's Russell roots run deeper than the typical hometown-native son relationship.

Kenny Dole, who bears a strong resemblance to his brother, says it was the people of Russell who once dipped deep into their pockets for money to send Bob Dole to Chicago for an operation to repair his war wounds.

The injuries occurred in 1945 when Dole, a second lieutenant with the 85th Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division,

was hit in the right shoulder with a mortar shell while trying to help a fallen soldier.

The injury temporarily paralyzed his arms and legs and left him on the verge of death. Before the injury, the 6-foot-3 Dole weighed 192 pounds and played football and basketball at the University of Kansas. A year later, he weighed 120 pounds and could not even feed himself.

Kenny Dole said that after the war, his brother, then 22, returned to Russell on a stretcher and soon was back in the hospital with an infection that resulted in the loss of a kidney.

After Dole won yet another battle for his life, the family learned of the Chicago doctor who performed an operation that eventually returned the use of his left arm and partially repaired his right arm. Dole still does not use his right arm much, using his left hand to shake thousands of hands on the campaign trail.

Kenny Dole thinks it was the war injury that steered Bob Dole away from a medical career and into politics. Before his injury, Dole was enrolled at the University of Kansas as a premed student. But without

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