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Bob Dole to Announce for President

By RUSSELL T. TOWNSLEY
Sen. Bob Dole will return home this weekend—Nov. 8—to make a formal bid for the presidential nomination. Triple events will mark the opening of a campaign for the Republican nomination which has been no secret for many months.

The announcement day, Nov. 9, will open on Russell's Main Street, a stone's throw from the Dawson Drug Store, community gathering place for teenagers when Senator Dole, a Russell High School student, was working behind the soda fountain, less than a block from the locations of Dole's parents' White Front Cafe and cream and egg station of the 1920s through the late 1940s and a block from the Norris Grain Company elevators, managed by the senior Dole for another 20 or so years.

Companion events will include a huge public open house to be sponsored by Republicans and others in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6240 Post on Sunday night, and a large, private family dinner for Bob, Elizabeth and Robin Dole Sunday noon.

The announcement is scheduled at 9 a.m. Monday at the intersection of 8th and Main streets, when Sen. Dole will step before a battery of microphones and say the words which will formally open his run for the roses, the top spot on the Republican ticket to be announced in August, 1988.

The activities will start much earlier, however. Crowds are expected to begin gathering on the open intersection sometime before 7:30 a.m., when concerts by high school bands from Russell and Great Bend and music by the Russell High School Pops Choir are scheduled.

The Russell Chamber of Commerce has designated the 7:30 a.m. assembly time as "Breakfast in Russell." Several vendors will be along Main Street offering coffee, rolls, and other breakfast fare at 7:30 a.m. or earlier.

The formal activities will begin at about 8:15 a.m., shortly after the arrival of 1,200 Russell school students, who will be seated in bleachers to be provided. They will be joined by an estimated 1,200 students who will arrive by buses from area towns. Included will be a contingent of 500 students traveling in 11 buses from Unified School District 489 in Hays.

The general format of the program will include a Flag Salute, invocation, and the introduction of honored guests sharing the platform with Senator Dole and Elizabeth.

Dole's remarks are expected to be delivered at about 9 a.m. The announcement is expected to close with a mass singing of "God Bless America," with the voices of the 2,500 school students adding to the chorus.

Iowa, New Hampshire Visits
Almost immediately after the announcement here, the Dole party will leave Russell for the Great Bend Municipal Airport to board a jet to take them to Des Moines, Iowa, where a similar announcement is planned. The final stop of the day will be in Manchester, N.H., for the third announcement of Dole's presidential aspirations. On the heels of the busy Monday, Dole and the press will move immediately to Charlotte, N.C., and Atlanta, Ga., on Tuesday.

Both Iowa and New Hampshire are termed key states in early presidential polling. Both have been attracting candidates for several weeks, each hoping to get an edge on opponents by winning favorable support in Iowa and New Hampshire.

In Iowa, a state-wide caucus, one of the first in the nation, is reported to provide an edge for a winning candidate. New Hampshire's primary is the first in the nation, and the outcome could chart a course for other states.

Announcement Setting
The setting at 8th and Main streets here will find a stage constructed in the street, a short distance north of the 8th Street intersection. The platform will be flanked by bleachers. The bands and choir will be on the open parking lot to the east, in bleachers adjacent to the huge mural painted on the south wall of Laurie Electric, formerly the Sellens building.

Artist Buck Arnold, Hays, was commissioned to do the huge mural, based on a rural scene taken from a 1929 photograph in the files of the Russell County

Historical Society. The parking lot will be flanked with bleachers for students. Additional bleachers will be provided along the south side of 8th Street, east and west of Main Street, for the school students. Planners wanted to provide a vantage point for the small children which would allow them to see over the hundreds of people expected to be standing in the street.

At the south side of the intersection, in the middle of Main Street, the prime vantage point, another bleacher will provide viewing access for a battery of television cameras. In addition to major networks, camera crews are expected from several Kansas commercial television stations and the KOOD television at Bunker Hill.

Press Here in Strength
An elite Washington Press Corps, estimated at a strength of 40, is expected to arrive in Great Bend at 5 p.m. Sunday and to

leave with the Dole caravan immediately after the announcement Monday morning. Special arrangements have been made for 15 to 20 telephones for the press to be located in the former jewelry shop near the intersection, another eight trailer-mounted toll phones nearby, and about 15 phones on the press bleacher.

Joining the TV crews will be representatives of a number of area and state radio stations, and representatives of major news, wire services, and regional, state, and area newspapers. A duplicate stage, including lights, amplifiers and speakers, bunting and decorations, will be erected in Russell High School gymnasium.

In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved to the school. Because of an area volleyball tournament in Russell Saturday, the campaign crews and a large number of volunteers

will not be able to get into the school building before about 8 p.m. Saturday. A long night session and a full Sunday are likely to be needed to have the stand-by stage ready.

Sunday's Activities
Some of the activities will begin Sunday. Because of the early hour of the Monday announcement, many of those planning to attend have arranged to spend the night in Russell. Area motel rooms have been at a premium, and the facilities have been booked solid for weeks.

Highlights of Sunday's activities include a public and private gathering. For Bob Dole, it will be a family reunion in the 4-H Building, where arrangements have been made to serve an estimated 200 relatives and close friends.

For the public, an open house is planned from 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. in the VFW Hall, to be open to the public. Republicans will gather for another type of reunion.

A reception for members of the working press to be sponsored by the local news media, including The Russell Daily News and The Russell Record, Radio Stations KRSL-AM and KCAY-FM, Russell, and the Chamber of Commerce, will be from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the VFW lower level meeting room.

Facilities will be furnished by the VFW, with local committees in charge of decorations and arrangements. Area residents are invited to the open house to meet with party officers, dignitaries, and special guests in town for the Monday morning announcement.

A part of the arrangements includes finding space to park an estimated 32 school buses, in addition to hundreds of automobiles of visitors.

Area Officers to Visit
Officers from Russell's Police and Sheriff's departments, the Barton County Sheriff's Department and the Great Bend Police Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, and Kansas Bureau of Investigation will assist in security arrangements.

All school children are to arrive at their respective schools before 8 a.m. All students who are bussed in will have early starting times but all will be delivered before 9 a.m. at their schools. The students will march at 8 a.m.

(Continued on Next Page)



THIS HISTORICAL MARKER, located on the south side of the entrance sidewalk to the Russell County Courthouse, marks the spot where President Gerald R. Ford and Sen. Robert J. Dole started their 1976 campaign for the presidency. When Dole was picked by Ford to run with him, the senator made the president promise that they would launch their campaign here. The Delta Mu sorority donated the sign. (Staff Photo)



PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD, right, and Sen. Robert J. Dole have just launched their campaign for election as president and vice-president May 14, 1979, in the Russell County Courthouse yard on Russell's Main Street. When picked by Ford to be his vice-presidential running mate, Dole made Ford promise that he would come to Russell to launch the campaign. With the exception of his second campaign for office, when he announced at Bunker Hill for his first term as county attorney, Dole has announced all his campaigns in Russell. On the stage, behind Dole, is Kansas' governor, Robert F. Bennett. (Photo by David A. Evans)



SEN. ROBERT J. DOLE

GOP Getting Down to Two

By ROBERT WAGMAN
Shagbi Valley Herald
Mount Vernon, Wash.
Sept. 1, 1987

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the 1988 presidential primary campaign moves into the critical months leading to the first primaries, the Republican contest is beginning to look like a two-man race.

Commission, his campaign has raised more than any other 1988 hopeful — \$9.4 million. He has spent more than \$4.4 million — a huge sum so early in a campaign — and is still raising additional funds at a fast clip.

Bush's main problem is that of all front-runners. He is expected to win every primary and cannot afford mistakes. If he falters anywhere, it might be taken as a sign of weakness, and he could see his campaign crumble around him.

Realizing that, in recent days Bush has begun to move away from Ronald Reagan on some key issues. In Iowa, where the Reagan farm policy is generally considered a disaster, Bush has been saying that a new farm policy is in order. He has also said that, if elected, he will probably institute a new education policy and would make some unspecified changes in trade policy.

Dole has raised far less cash than Bush, \$4 million in the first half of this year. But he collected \$3.4 million in the second quarter

— a fund-raising pace that shows Dole is to be taken seriously.

Polis taken a year ago showed him far behind Bush — in some polls by as much as 40 points. In recent polls he appears to have cut this lead to under 20 points.

In politics one always diminishes expectations — that way a loss does not hurt you as badly and a near miss can be considered a win. Recently, though, a key Dole aide made a rather startling statement. Dole's Iowa campaign manager, Steve Roberts, told a reporter that if Dole did not "do well" in the Iowa caucus "the race is through on the Republican side."

Dole's national campaign staff quickly disavowed the statement. Of the rest of the field, Rep. Jack Kemp is still in the best position to emerge as bonafide challenger. Kemp had hoped to become the standard-bearer of the GOP's right wing. So far he has failed to unite conservatives behind him, and today he is still a candidate in search of a consti-

tuency.

Kemp has had severe fund-raising problems, and his campaign is only now starting to move into the black. This lack of cash had badly hurt him.

Insiders say that Kemp is putting a major effort into some obscure straw polls that will be taken in Iowa in the coming weeks. If he can do well in these, his backers think he will begin to be taken seriously.

Former Delaware Gov. Pierre du Pont is putting his major effort into doing well in New Hampshire. He surprised many observers when he released an endorsement list that included several prominent New Hampshire GOP leaders. Du Pont has raised enough money to adequately fund a campaign in the early going.

None of the other announced or potential candidates have emerged as serious contenders. The Rev. Pat Robertson has reportedly raised a huge sum, second only to Bush (since he is not an official candidate, yet does not have to report totals), but he has been seriously hurt by backlash from the PTL scandal.

Former Gen. Alexander Haig has not ignited any sort of support that would make him a serious candidate, and Paul Laxalt's recent withdrawal from the race further suggests the contest will become a two-man affair. — Copyright, Newspaper Enterprise Association.

Dole Climbs Ahead Of Bush in Iowa

Vice-President George Bush's people have been crowing about the Time magazine poll showing that, nationwide, Bush was named as the first choice for president by 45 percent of "Republican and Republican-leaning respondents."

But in Iowa, where the second major presidential test will be held, Senate Minority Leader Robert J. Dole has overtaken the Vicep.

With just five months left before the holding of the Iowa caucuses, according to the recent Iowa Poll, Republicans who definitely plan or are likely to participate give Dole the edge. Thirty-two percent named Dole as their first choice for president or are leaning toward him, while Bush is second with 29 percent.

While direct comparisons with the new numbers can't be made easily, notes the Des Moines Register, "an April survey of all Iowa Republicans — not just likely caucus-goers — showed Vice-President Bush leading with 40 percent support. Dole was second with 33 percent."

This presents a great danger to other candidates in the race. If the GOP electorate begins to view the contest as a two-man affair, the rest of the field might as well pack up and go home. It will become a self-fulfilling prophecy: If the race is perceived as a Bush vs. Dole affair, it will become a Bush vs. Dole affair.

'Presidential Hour' Proposed by Dole

In 1968, Bob Dole moved up to the Senate, taking the seat of Republican Frank Carlson, who retired. Willingly, even gleefully, the freshman senator took on the job none of his senior Republican colleagues seemed to want: Attacking the likes of Edward Kennedy, Edmund Muskie and J. William Fulbright when they criticized the new Republican President, Richard M. Nixon.

At one point, Dole surveyed the pride of Democratic senators who had obvious aspirations to reach the White House and suggested that the Senate set aside a "presidential hour" every day that would be reserved for four groups: "First, those senators who think they are president. Second, those who think they should have been president. Third, those who want to be president. And fourth, those who are willing to settle for vice-president."



DOLE HAD STILL NOT FORGOTTEN—Sen. Bob Dole wiped a tear from his eye when he was overcome with emotion as he spoke as the vice-presidential candidate on the Courthouse lawn here in August, 1976. He recalled the help citizens of Russell had given him in the late 1940s when they raised \$1,800 for surgical expenses to help him recover from World War II wounds. President Gerald R. Ford was the one who rose to his feet and led the applause for Dole. The two were announcing their campaign for the presidency. (UPI Photo)