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Dole evens the numbers



By Cliff Schappa, AP
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U.S. Today

11M IN: Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., with wife Elizabeth, announces Monday in Russell, Kan., he'll seek the GOP presidential nomination. He's considered Vice President George Bush's top challenger.

GOP 6, Dems 6 — for now

By Richard Benedetto
USA TODAY

With Kansas Sen. Bob Dole's announcement Monday, the 1988 presidential fields are set at six Democrats, six Republicans. Maybe.

Most agree the GOP race will boil down to Dole and Vice President George Bush, with little likelihood of a new candidate entering.

But discontent with the choices has some Democrats longing for new faces.

Most often mentioned: New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley, Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn.

A USA TODAY/CNN Poll found half of Democrats, but only a third of Republicans, dissatisfied with their choices:

■ Democrats: Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore Jr., Rev. Jesse Jackson, and ex-Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt.

■ Republicans: Dole, Bush, ex-Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont, New York Rep. Jack Kemp, ex-Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and former TV evangelist Pat Robertson.

Main problem for a newcomer: The Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary are

just three months away. "There's just not enough time to put together the organization and money needed," said Stephen Hess, Brookings Institution political analyst.

But a Cuomo or Bradley could enter after March 16 if no Democrat emerges.

Such a scenario: Gephardt wins Iowa, Dukakis takes New Hampshire, Jackson and Gore sweep the South, and Simon wins Illinois.

Democratic Chairman Paul Kirk is a doubter: "I don't subscribe to the scenario of no one emerging as a front-runner. The process is designed to winnow out, and I think it will."

Dole hits ground running

Russell's son touts his roots

By Angela Herrin
Of our Washington bureau

RUSSELL — Promising to use "common sense" and make "tough choices" to solve the problems facing America, Sen. Bob Dole returned to his hometown on the Kansas plains Monday to launch his second bid for the presidency.

"I offer a willingness to work hard, to hang tough, to go the distance," Dole told a flag-waving crowd gathered on Main Street in front of the drug store where he once worked as soda jerk.

"I offer the strength and determination — molded in America's small town heartland and tempered during a career of public service — to bring common-sense answers to the complex problems facing America in its third century. I have carried the spirit of this place with me throughout my life."

Using the grain elevators and brick storefronts of Russell, population 5,500, as a backdrop, the Kansas Republican painted a self-portrait of an everyday American who would bring a steady Midwestern pragmatism to

● DOLE, 5A, Col. 1

- Crowd gets charged up for Dole in Russell, 4A.
- The cold overwhelms some supporters, 4A.
- TV coverage of the announcement varies, 1C.



THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON Tuesday, November 10, 1987 5A

Dole emphasizes experience as Republican leader

● DOLE, from 1A

the White House, along with the experience gained during 27 years in Congress.

The 64-year-old Republican Senate leader was his party's vice presidential nominee in 1976. His 1980 presidential bid faltered in the early going, but he is one of the leading contenders for the GOP nomination this year, having built a reputation as a tough legislative strategist and savvy political Washington insider.

But to kick off his campaign, Dole chose to return to Russell, where the movie theater marquee proclaimed, "Apple pie, hot dogs and Bob Dole," and the audience cheered when he named Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan as "America's great heartland presidents."

"My vision, like theirs, is shaped by the aspirations of shopkeepers and farmers, workers and everyday Americans," Dole said.

Marie Boyd, widow of Republican National Committeeman McDill "Huck" Boyd introduced Sen. Nancy Kassebaum to the crowd. Kassebaum then introduced Dole as, "One who has faced reality and refused to be overwhelmed."

She said Dole has spent his life preparing for the job of president. "No one possesses the skill that he does of putting together a consensus from differing views."

Although Dole attempted to use his speech to define who and what he is, he also tried to point out what his opponents — particularly Vice President George Bush — are not.

By emphasizing his small-town roots and congressional experience, Dole tried to contrast him-



Mike Huttmacher/Staff Photographer
Nancy Vogel, left, and Phyllis Tiffany, Dole supporters from Hays, brave a cold November wind to cheer on western Kansas native Bob Dole as he announces his candidacy for president.

self with Bush's background of wealth and privilege and to exploit criticism of Bush as a "wimp," whose major political asset — despite a long list of appointed posts — is his tie to Reagan.

"I offer a record, not a resume," Dole said. "Reagan set us on a new course, and history will be grateful. But the Reagan record is not something to stand on. It's not something to run on. It's something to build on."

In Russell and later in Des Moines and Manchester, N.H., Dole was accompanied by his

wife, former Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole, and his daughter, Robin. In each place, he reminded his listeners of his hands-on experience as Senate Republican leader, citing the 1983 overhaul of the Social Security system, the 1986 restructuring of the tax code and passage of the Voting Rights Act.

And despite criticism that he has failed so far to present a clear picture of where he would lead the nation, Dole shunned the role of political visionary Monday and issued a no-nonsense call for gov-

ernment to face up to current problems such as the deficit.

"Americans must stop living for today while ignoring the long-term implications of our decisions and actions for our children and generations to come," Dole said. "The President of the United States should demonstrate in his every decision a sense of history and a sense of the future."

Calling the federal deficit the single greatest threat to America, Dole said he would bring together congressional leaders during his first weeks in office to draw up a

multyear deficit-reduction plan and demand a balanced budget amendment.

If Congress were to balk, Dole said, he would push for a constitutional convention to approve such an amendment and fight for line-item veto power for the president on spending bills.

"We do not expand opportunity when we burden our children with debt from our own self-indulgence," Dole said.

Dole stopped short of making a pledge — made by Bush and Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., — never to raise taxes.

Instead, he promised he would not raise personal or business tax rates — relying instead on what aides described as possible combinations of user fees, higher excise taxes and fewer tax deductions.

And although Dole vowed that no spending areas would be off-limits, he softened that line by pledging to protect programs that help "vulnerable Americans . . . I will be sensitive to the needs of the left-out and the down-and-out in our society as they try to fulfill their own dreams."

Dole's announcement brings the field of announced presidential candidates to six Democrats and six Republicans. He joins fellow Republicans Bush, Kemp, former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and longtime television evangelist Pat Robertson. In his speech, he proclaimed his support for Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, calling it the "best insurance policy against a still-uncertain future."

But the Kansas sidestepped an all-out endorsement of the proposed U.S.-Soviet arms-control treaty banning intermediate-range

missiles in Europe. He warned that the treaty must have firm verification and compliance procedures and should be accompanied by an agreement cutting Soviet conventional forces.

Dole also warned that Glasnost "is not democracy" and said the United States should press the Soviets to retreat from "reckless involvement" in Afghanistan, Angola, Kampuchea and Nicaragua.

As president, Dole said, he would also hold a summit with America's strategic allies to set up a "burden-sharing" agreement for defense.

"It's high time for those who owe their own security to America's military might to assume their rightful role and bear their rightful burden in the defense of our common interests," Dole said.

While calling for an end to the nation's budget deficit, Dole said the United States must also tackle an "education deficit." To do so, he urged merit pay for teachers, magnet schools and national fellowships to train teachers.

He also called for a return to "traditional values" and said he would continue to oppose abortion.

Although pledging to fight unfair trade practices, Dole took a swipe at current Democratic trade-bill proposals saying "we cannot be seduced by the delusion that if only we build trade walls high enough, we can shut out a flood of foreign-built products."

Dole's campaign has amassed \$10.4 million — second only to Bush. His campaign has workers in 37 states, and the organization got a big boost recently with the addition of former Labor Secretary William Brock and former Reagan polster Richard Wirthlin.