

# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

TUESDAY  
APRIL 11, 1995

## Dole: 'I am a candidate'

### Kansans give senator a rousing campaign send-off

By KRISTEN L. HAYS  
The Capital-Journal

Kansans gave Bob Dole, its senior U.S. senator, a presidential campaign send-off Monday with enough energy and enthusiasm to make the 35-year Washington insider revel in his small-town mid-America roots.

"It's great to be here in Kansas," the U.S. Senate majority leader told the crowd of about 5,000 at the Kansas Expocentre.

"Of course, I'm not the first person to say, 'There's no place like home,'" Dole continued, "but I've never forgotten where I came from or where I go home to."

Dole, 71, chose Topeka, the capital city of his home state, to launch a breakneck presidential candidacy announcement tour that will span 11 cities in 10 states in four days. This is his third bid for the White House, but unlike his unsuccessful races in 1980 and 1988, Dole has been anointed the front-runner for the GOP nomination.

In what operated like a well-oiled machine, Dole's campaign staff — some of whom arrived

On the campaign trail of



Bob DOLE

"There are some intelligent people in Washington, but there are a lot more of them in Kansas."

—Sen. Bob Dole

him — the White House.

"You can see America from here," Dole said to a sea of supporters holding both handmade and professionally manufactured signs. "Common sense and common sensitivity — that's the Kansas way."

"There are some intelligent people in Washington," he continued, "but there are a lot more of them in Kansas. I hasten to add a lot more in the other 49 states, particularly Iowa and New Hampshire."

Iowa is the site of the first presidential caucus, and New Hampshire is the site of the first primary.

Dole edged out former President George Bush in Iowa in 1988 but gained only a paltry vote in New Hampshire that year.

After the kudos to his audience came the announcement that was obvious yet not official until Monday morning:

"I am a candidate for the presidency of the United States," he said to a wildly cheering, sign-waving crowd.

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—David Eullitt/The Capital-Journal

The crowd went wild Monday in Landon Arena when Sen. Bob Dole announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president of the United States.

### BOB DOLE FOR PRESIDENT Campaign notebook

**Presidential pursuits** — For those of you who are "Trivial Pursuits" fans, here are a few facts and figures for the "Presidential Pursuits" category:

■ An estimated 5,000 enthusiastic supporters and dignitaries attended Sen. Bob Dole's rally at the Kansas Expocentre.

■ A standing-room-only crowd was attracted to the GOP prayer breakfast that started at 7 a.m. Monday at the Ramada Inn Downtown. A total of 1,050 tickets were sold for the breakfast, and another 100 people were allowed in as standing-room-only observers to hear the remarks of Elizabeth Dole. Holders of the \$8 tickets breakfasted on coffee, juice, a fruit bowl and pastries.

■ A private, \$1,000 a person fund-raising reception Sunday at Dole's law school alma mater, Washburn University, brought in roughly \$250,000 for the campaign, according to a GOP spokesman. About 300 people were at the reception, some attending as complimentary guests.

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—David Eullitt/The Capital-Journal

Kansas Gov. Bill Graves shook hands with Sen. Bob Dole after introducing him to announce his candidacy, beginning his third campaign for the Republican nomination for president.

## Dole signs tax pledge in N.H.; taps supporters in New York

By JOHN KING  
The Associated Press

EXETER, N.H. — After a friendly send-off in Topeka on Monday, newly declared presidential candidate Sen. Bob Dole ventured into more treacherous territory.

The campaign set off for New Hampshire, the Granite State, which has no sales or income tax, where his two prior presidential campaigns ran aground.

This time, he sought to remedy a position on taxes he blamed for his 1988 defeat.

As he addressed a large crowd in Exeter, his campaign revealed Dole had signed a pledge

not to raise income taxes — the very pledge Dole was criticized by George Bush and others for refusing to sign in 1988.

Throughout the day, which ended with two fund-raisers in New York City, Dole reveled in the role of front-runner, not once mentioning his Republican rivals.

He immediately proved his fund-raising prowess and tapped into his long list of endorsements among them every ranking Republican in New York except Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Even Giuliani attended his private fund-raiser.

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—Jeff A. Taylor/The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole waved goodbye to Topeka as he boarded his plane at Topeka's Forbes Field, en route to New Hampshire, New York and fund-raising activities.

## Big crowd proclaims native son a winner

### Excitement of 5,000 well-wishers lends rally a festive air.

By JAN LANDON  
The Capital-Journal

There were few doubts among the crowd of people on hand for Bob Dole's official campaign announcement Monday morning that his third run for president will be the charm.

Well-wishers, many decked out in red, white and blue, clapped and chanted and treated the Senate majority leader to several noisy ovations during his 20-minute speech.

There was a festive air, with back slapping, hand shaking and smiling Dole supporters talking about taking the White House in 1996.

Their signs carried messages including, "Dole for President," "Boot Out Bill," "Take the Hill Bob," "NRA for Dole" and "Dole's Got Soul."

Banners carried similar messages. Dole for President hats were hawked in the stands for \$5 a piece. At a table on the floor, fancier hats were \$20, the same price as the T-shirts. There was also a snack table, selling bagels, turnovers and beverages.

Vendors were kept busy.

Thousands of Dole supporters from across the state had come in buses and private cars. Some had to leave at 4 or 5 or 6 a.m. to make it in time for the 9:30 a.m. announcement.

Many stood for more than an hour shoulder to shoulder on the floor of Landon Arena in the Kansas Expocentre as they waited for Kansas' most famous modern-day native son.

"I got up at 3 a.m.," said Wanda Morrison, from Hutchinson and carrying a Dole pineapple sign transformed into a Dole election sign. "I had to dust it off. I've carried it to national conventions when we nominated Reagan and Bush. I decided to get it out now. This is the most important time."

Marching bands from Washburn Rural High School, Topeka High School and Russell High School took turns playing upbeat tunes.

While organizers had hoped for bright sunny skies for Monday's announcement, spirits didn't seem to be dampened when the weather moved the festivities to the Expocentre.

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## Mother Nature expected to cut Dole a break on Friday

By TIM HRENCHIR  
The Capital-Journal

Mother Nature would have given Sen. Bob Dole a cold shoulder had he visited his hometown Monday, but Russell's favorite son should get a warmer reception Friday.

The National Weather Service forecasts Russell will experience high temperatures in the 70s on Friday, when Dole will attend a pancake breakfast in the city where he grew up.

Russell residents, however, awoke to much chillier conditions Monday, when tempera-

tures should be in the 70s when senator visits his hometown of Russell.

atures stayed in the lower 30s and wind-chill indexes plummeted into the lower teens. Russell also recorded 0.12 inch of rain.

And those conditions were mild compared with what much of northwest Kansas was experiencing.

A spring snowstorm blanketed that region on Monday, forcing westbound Interstate 70 to be closed about 54 miles from Goodland to the Colorado state line.

Snowfall amounts of 4 to 7 inches had fallen

in the Goodland area by late Monday, with a total of 8 to 12 inches expected by today. The storm forced Goodland-area schools to close.

Northerly winds, gusting from 20 to 30 mph, were causing considerable blowing and drifting of snow, the weather service said. It issued a snow and blowing snow advisory lasting until this morning for parts of western Kansas.

Numerous traffic accidents along I-70 were blamed on sleet, freezing rain and blowing snow. No one was seriously hurt in the accidents, officials said.

Also on Monday, heavy rain pelted parts of central Kansas with pea- to marble-size hail.

The weather service posted a tornado watch Monday morning for southeast Kansas, but allowed that watch to expire in the early afternoon.

Most of the state's larger cities — including Topeka, which Dole picked over Russell as the site to announce his candidacy for president — recorded precipitation Monday.

Topeka temperatures Monday stayed in the upper 30s and lower 40s.

The weather service didn't expect any overnight frost in Topeka. Temperatures were expected to remain around 40 degrees overnight. There's a 70 percent chance of rain today, with the rain changing to snow by the afternoon. There is a 30 percent chance of light snow tonight.

There is a 20 percent chance of light snow continuing Wednesday, ending in the afternoon.

The extended forecast for Topeka is similar to Russell's, calling for highs in the 60s Thursday and 70s Friday and Saturday.