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8—Topeka Capital-Journal, Sunday, January 28, 1979

Dole believed musing Puerto Rico primary

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., casually mentioned to someone the other day he was thinking about entering the presidential primary in Puerto Rico.

Ken Peterson



Puerto Rico? Yes. And, although the field is not crowded, the race is slowly starting.

The Puerto Rican Legislature approved a presidential primary for Feb. 17, 1980, making it the first test in the nation, a full week ahead of the much-heralded New Hampshire primary where early presidential candidates generally fight it out. New Hampshire, of course, is trying to change the date so it can be first again.

Dole, who now is making routine telephone calls to New Hampshire, passed along his interest in Puerto Rico to San Juan Mayor Hernon Padilla and former Gov. Luis Ferre. Both are Republicans.

Puerto Rico doesn't carry much clout in a Republican convention, only 14 delegates, but the psychological value of winning the first one cannot be discounted.

Besides, Puerto Rico in February has to be more pleasant than New Hampshire in February.

George Bush is already one of those expected to enter the Puerto Rican primary, and Los Angeles businessman Benjamin Fernandez, who already has announced he is a Republican presidential candidate, has entered.

Dole, who has a self-imposed deadline of March or April to decide on his presidential race, is not particularly concerned about the newest GOP entrant, former Texas governor and Nixon Cabinet member John Connally.

Dole reportedly believes Connally has the power to raise huge sums of money, but will not go over well in the New England primaries. Dole considers Connally a dynamic speaker, but also believes Connally may have trouble even in his home state with fellow Texan George Bush and the popularity displayed in Texas for Ronald Reagan.

Dole and Connally share at least one thing in common. They regard Reagan as the current front-runner.

President Carter's "New Foundation" State of the Union message last week didn't go over particularly well with Kansas congressional members.

"It was no inspiring speech," reviewed Rep. Dan Glickman, a Democrat.

"He has a great deal of trouble inspiring people."

Republican Rep. Bob Whittaker thought the president's remarks were a beautiful 1980 campaign kickoff speech, and GOP Rep. Keith Sebelius considered it two-thirds Gerald R. Ford.

Republican Rep. Jim Jeffries said he had no particular reaction, but ventured, "It was kind of what I thought might happen. It was something on the long side."

They were grateful Carter talked about cutting inflation, but Whittaker noted the president made no mention of energy, agriculture or Social Security.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., called the speech "forgettable," and in prepared remarks added, "He (Carter) told us that in our government is a myth that we must choose between compassion and competence. In reality, we've had precious little of either."

Glickman, who said he will reserve judgment on Carter's recommended defense spending increases, said he was concerned that the president seemed more comfortable talking about foreign affairs than domestic issues. He said he hopes the nation is not seeing another Nixon administration in the making, strong on foreign relations but weak in domestic policy.

Sebelius said, "He did get a polite, lukewarm reception from Congress, including his own party."

As he listened to the president's address, Sebelius sat next to Dole and later joked that he hoped network cameras would get a shot of the Kansas senator so people would wonder who the handsome fellow was sitting next to him.

Sebelius claims that White House staff members sat in the back rows of the House and, on at least two occasions, he saw them.

Jeffries sat in the back row of the Republican side, and, as Carter walked back down the middle aisle toward the rear of the House, Jeffries slowly edged his way toward the center in hopes of shaking Carter's hand. He had his hand stretched out awaiting the president's grasp when Carter turned to the other side of the aisle, leaving Jeffries holding air.

It seems Jeffries volunteered to serve on the less-than-stellar District of Columbia Committee in order to get one of his top choices, the Government Operations Committee. Jeffries declines to call the arrangement a "deal," but he told House GOP leader John Rhodes of Arizona that he would serve on D.C. if he could be guaranteed a spot on the Government Ops Committee.

Asked how he felt about the constitutional amendment to give the District full congressional representation, Jeffries asked if that was the one to give D.C. two senators. Yes, and also at least one House member.

And he replied, "I'm opposed to that. I think D.C. belongs to the people. It doesn't belong to the District of Columbia, it belongs to the people of the United States."

Okay?

Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum, R-Kan., gave not one, but two speeches last week. She made her historic first Senate floor statement in support of a constitutional amendment to limit future senators and congressmen to 12 years of service and also gave a three-minute humorous speech at a fancy Washington Press Club occasion.

Writing the funny speech proved much more laborious and time-consuming than the Senate address, her aides confide.

After she was introduced, Kassebaum looked around the black-tie affair and said, "Gee, Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore."

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD — Dole, who knows about such things, suggested to a subcommittee of the Republican National Committee here last week that changes should be made in the vice presidential selection process. He called his recommendations "modest." They were taken under advisement.

Among his suggestions was juggling convention agendas so the presidential nominee would have more time to make a final choice of running mate. He also said he could support a requirement that the presidential candidate submit a list of potential vice presidential candidates to public scrutiny, thus giving the candidate some feedback on his selections.

He also suggested a possible mini-convention two or three weeks in advance of the main convention, where a limited number of delegates or members of the Republican National Committee would make the selection.

He said he would oppose any move to take away the presidential candidate's power to select his own vice president.

"The vice presidency is important, despite all the jokes about it. As the responsibilities of the president multiply, the vice president is given a larger and more important role. In addition, recent history indicates that vice presidents often succeed the presidents," he said.

Chicago Tribune, Monday, February 5, 1979

Dole draws criticism, protest for cult hearing

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Monday's "informal" congressional hearing on cult worship already has attracted criticism from religious leaders, a planned counter-demonstration, and special police protection for the office of Sen. Robert Dole (R., Kan.), who called the session.

Bypassing the committee system, Dole has arranged an "informal independent hearing" to educate members interested in the cult phenomenon while avoiding accusations Congress is violating constitutional freedoms.

The panel is to hear from such anti-cult witnesses as "deprogrammer" Ted Patrick, reported to have been charged last week with kidnapping and assaulting a cult member while trying to return her to her parents.

Also scheduled is Jackie Speler, legislative assistant to the late Rep. Leo Ryan (D., Cal.) Ryan was murdered by Peoples Temple cult members in Jonestown, Guyana, just before the ritual murder-suicide that wiped out that commune in November.

AN INFORMAL group of church leaders last week wrote Dole and accepted his desire to hold educational hearings, but complained "all of the witnesses you have scheduled appear to have definite positions in support of regulations of cult activity."

Not one of us cares to defend all of the tactics or ideologies of every religious group in America, but we are very clear that the legitimate free exercise of religion must never be abridged."

Dole then invited the National Council of Churches and the American Civil Liberties Union to send witnesses.

By Ken Peterson

Ken Peterson

Washington-Kansas line

30—Topeka Daily Capital, Thursday, March 8, 1979

Dole's prospects termed dim in presidential race

By Ken Peterson
Capital Journal

WASHINGTON — The nation's oldest conservative political action committee has virtually written off Sen. Bob Dole's chances to win the GOP presidential nomination.

But that assessment was brushed aside by Dole advisers as merely an attempt to discredit his campaign because of concern the Kansas could lure away backers of Ronald Reagan or Philip Crane.

Gregg Hilton, executive director of the Conservative Victory Fund, writes in this week's issue of Human Events magazine that Dole's presidential prospects "have recently taken a nose-dive."

Dole aides say Hilton used inaccurate or blatantly false statements to reach his conclusion, but Hilton stands by the article.

The most controversial assertion Hilton makes is that Gerald Nash of Nashua, N.H., chairman of Dole's presidential exploratory committee, "reportedly" does not want the senator to enter the New Hampshire primary because of poor showings in the polls.

Quoting an unnamed source, Hilton said Nash told a number of prominent political figures at a Feb. 24 Lincoln Day dinner in Nashua that he advised Dole to skip the New Hampshire primary.

Hilton declined to name the source in an interview Wednesday, but acknowledged the source would benefit if he made negative Nash's comments.

"But he didn't," Hilton said, saying he got the information from more than one person and got the run-around when he tried to call Nash.

Nash angrily called Hilton's claims a fabrication, contending that he never gave Dole such advice and that he was out of the state on vacation when the Nashua dinner took place.

A news analysis

"I have no idea why he wrote that. All I understand is that the paper is a telephone interview."

He said he was out of state from Feb. 20 to March 4.

Nash, an industrial real estate developer and an old Army buddy of Dole's, said he believes the Kansas senator has as good a chance as any candidate in New Hampshire, site of the first presidential primary.

Hilton is as pessimistic as Nash is optimistic about Dole's chances. Hilton said he should not be considered anti-Dole, but that he cannot find any semblance of a campaign staff anywhere in the nation to help Dole. He said Dole will not last long in the grueling presidential primaries of 1980 despite his hard work.

Polls in New Hampshire show Dole with only 2 percent of the Republican vote even though he has made repeated visits to the state, Hilton said. Dole aids point out that Dole has moved up in recent polls, from 2 to 7 percent in a 600-sample survey taken three weeks ago by the Los Angeles Times.

Bob Waite, Dole's press secretary, directly countered Hilton's contention that Dole "has sharply restricted his appearances since the November election. In the last four months, Dole has visited fewer than five states."

Waite listed a dozen states Dole has visited since November, including such crucial primary states as New Hampshire, Iowa, and Florida.

Waite said the PAC is trying to portray Dole as "not a true conservative." Most of the negative feeling toward Dole has developed from the old conservative wish for what he termed ideological purity.

Hilton also writes that Dole's early political action committee, Campaign America, is about to go out of business and that "rumors have been circulating for months that the PAC is in financial trouble."

Indeed, Campaign America essentially went out of business Wednesday. Dole aides dispute the committee had financial problems and reports filed with the Federal Election Commission show Campaign America has a healthy balance. Dole established the committee as a means of helping local GOP candidates last year and also as a way of drumming up valuable contacts for his presidential quest.

Paul Russo, a Reagan worker in 1976, served as director of Campaign America. He evidently has left Dole's camp and is preparing to work again for Reagan. The former California governor formed his own presidential exploratory committee on Wednesday and Russo was present for the announcement.

John Sears, Reagan's campaign manager, said Wednesday he thinks highly of Russo and would like him back.

Hilton wrote that Dole's top political operatives in Campaign America were leaving, another point of contention with Dole's aides who say the people mentioned were not top officials. Russo would have been asked to stay with Dole but not as the overall director, Waite said.

"Let's not get worried about something like this. People will consider the source," Waite quoted Dole as saying when he saw Hilton's story.

Hilton said Human Events is the largest conservative weekly in the country. Congressional advisers to the Conservative Victory fund include announced presidential candidate Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill.

"I get along pretty well with Crane," Hilton said, claiming neither he nor his committee will endorse a candidate.

The article will appear in Saturday's issue of Human Events.

14 Section 1 Chicago Tribune, Monday, March 12, 1979

Dole urges probe of Billy's 'hidden \$500,000 deficit'

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kan.) called Sunday for appointment of a special prosecutor by the Justice Department to investigate allegations that the President's brother Billy Carter mishandled \$500,000 in Carter family warehouse funds.

Dole noted that a Washington Post story Sunday alleged that a former bonded warehouse employee and Billy Carter altered records and pledged the same collateral twice in 1978 in an effort to conceal a \$500,000 deficit in payments on a National Bank of Georgia loan.

Dole, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he believes "the time has come when it would be in the best interest of everyone, including the President, to appoint a special prosecutor to look into loans involving the National Bank of Georgia and the Carter family warehouse."

ATLANTA ATTORNEY Charles Kirbo, who administers the blind trust in which the President's 63 per cent share of the Plumas, Ga., peanut business is kept, said Sunday that company records show no concealment of deficits or absence of collateral for the loans.

Kirbo said the former warehouse employee "doesn't know what he's talking about."

Dole said he does not want to make "a partisan issue" of the warehouse loans.

"But these new allegations, which apparently would involve violations of 1976 and 1977 banking laws, make it imperative, I believe, that action be taken by the Justice Department," he said. "It would be in the best interest of the nation and the Carter administration if action were to be taken quickly on this matter."

—Topeka Capital-Journal, Sunday, April 1, 1979

Glickman, Simpson await Dole's decision

WASHINGTON — Spring has begun its gentle approach. Politics, barely out of hibernation from last November, is coming alive with equally gentle stirrings.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., the key character on the scene, is fidgeting with a time to announce his presidential candidacy. Latest word, and it may be unreliable as last week's economic forecasts, has him taking the big step in late April with dual appearances in Russell and Topeka.

Dole, the senior senator who has to be one of the busiest elected officials in Washington, is the pivotal figure for other Kansas political aspirants, including a state senator who will change parties to get a shot at Dole's Senate seat and a Democratic congressman who is gingerly feeling his way at the moment.

"I'm not leaning toward running. I am thinking about it," Rep. Dan Glickman, the state's only Democrat in the Kansas delegation, said in an interview last week.

Glickman, a two-termer from Wichita, will take a poll within the next three months to see where he stands in a potential statewide race. The poll probably will test not only Glickman's name recognition, but also will find out how Dole is faring in his home state, a crucial question since Dole is looking at a run for the presidency and has hoped all over the place on issues ranging from catastrophic health insurance to a balanced budget in an effort to gain some national notoriety.

The state senator is John Simpson of Salina, who is thinking of changing from the Republican to Democratic label. Independently wealthy, articulate and a man who has voted too liberal for many Republicans, Simpson thought of running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican in 1978, but could find no financial backers. Philosophically restless, Simpson is expected to switch parties when the current legislative session adjourns, and take on Dole as a Democrat.

Dole, however, has plenty of time and he can go either way, president or the Senate. The presidential primaries start in February 1980, giving him plenty of time to test what chance he has of winning the nomination.

If his performance is poor in the early going, he can still file for the Senate seat. The filing deadline arrives in June.

Glickman obviously would be more comfortable if Dole just went on to a higher quest and left the seat vacant. He is not a bit worried about Simpson taking the Democratic nomination from him, and considers Dole vulnerable because of the scare Bill Roy put into him in 1974.

"Bob Dole still evokes very positive or very negative feelings from people. I think those kind of people tend to polarize people," Glickman said.

Glickman is building up to a situation uncannily like Roy. Roy was a two-term, the only Democrat in the Kansas delegation, and popular in his



SEN. BOB DOLE
... still fidgeting

urban-based district when he decided to challenge Dole.

Glickman has an even larger urban base, Wichita, to operate from than Roy had in Topeka, and he is sending out news releases statewide, a tactic Roy also employed. Glickman claims that the releases he deploys outside the 4th District are on matters with statewide interest — agriculture, gasoline — and the public needs to be kept informed of them. The fact that Glickman gets his name in front of people unfamiliar with him accounts for something, however.

Roy also did preliminary polling.

Glickman has carefully avoided tying himself to the liberal or conservative wing of the Democratic party, offending few sides with his overall voting record and gaining a reputation as a moderate.

Kansas organized labor reportedly is urging Simpson to switch parties. Simpson himself provided considerable help to Democratic Gov. John Carlin in 1978, taking on the incumbent Republican, Robert F. Bennett. Where Carlin winds up in the potential Democratic senatorial primary could prove interesting.

Glickman is an untested politician in the kind of hardball campaign Dole can wage. Glickman won an aggressive campaign against longtime GOP incumbent Garner Shriver, who made no effort to counterattack. The Republican candidate in 1978 was pure token.

Simpson, who may try to emulate retired Republican Sen. James B. Pearson in philosophy and attitude, could force Glickman's hand if, indeed, he switches parties. The idea he is considering the switch evidently leaked out of Dole's Topeka office, a nifty move to get it on the record for all to see.

Simpson, who is considered more to the left than the Kansas GOP norm, probably is weak in western Kansas, and unknown in eastern Kansas. Glickman admits he would need to bolster his image and name in Kansas City, Topeka and extreme southeastern Kansas.

The fact that Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum is from Wichita is a factor to consider but Glickman does not consider his residence a decisive issue. As he notes, Kansas in this century has had two sets of senators serving at the same time who were from the same cities, Wichita and Topeka.

"My sole exclusive decision will be 'do I have a chance of winning?'" Glickman said, noting he must ask himself what the grind of a statewide race would do to his family.

Meanwhile, Dole continues testing sentiment for the presidency and keeps himself involved in just about every issue going in Washington.

In speeches, he keeps 'em laughing. In Kansas politics, he keeps 'em guessing.

Russell starting point for Dole

By Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., will return to his hometown of Russell, possibly this month, to announce his candidacy for the GOP presidential nomination, it was learned.

The Kansas senior senator reportedly considered making his formal declaration in Washington, but instead decided to return home since Russell played a prominent and symbolic role in his 1976 vice presidential campaign.

The day after he was selected by Gerald Ford for the No. 2 spot, Dole went to Russell for one of his first public appearances. Amid family, friends and well-wishers, Dole tearfully said he was proud to be on the national ticket.

On the fateful 1976 election day, Dole returned to Russell to see his mother and to vote before going on to Washington to watch the returns.

The announcement date is uncertain, but the chairman of his presidential exploratory committee, Gerald Nash of Nashua, N.H., is known to be asking Dole to officially declare as early as possible.