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Dole announces campaign plans

Dole

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Senator promises clean bout

By MARTIN HAWVER
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — Sen. Bob Dole this morning announced his Republican presidential nomination candidacy to a cheering home town crowd of about 3,000.

Dole, R-Kan., vowed in the first of four campaign announcement speeches planned today, to "neither attack my opponents in the Republican Party, nor the incumbent president."

Dole's speech, in front of Russell's city hall-fire station, followed the brief hand-shaking tour of two local nursing homes and Russell Hospital.

Dole also dropped in at the Dawson Drug Store, where he worked nights as a high school student, and revealed the Russell political hot spot's recipe for Coke: "A lot of ice in the bottom of the glass, very, very little pop, and ask for the time."

Dole said, "I have no illusions about the magnitude of my undertaking; neither have I any undue concern for the magnitude of the problems associated with it."

"Financing, logistics, simple human effort or the lack of these may conspire in time to defeat a candidacy, but they cannot deter it at the outset."

Dole delivered a fairly tame announcement speech, heavily emphasizing growing government's inability to solve many of the problems that face Americans.

"... The federal government, in its size, cost and reach, is too large for this nation and in its capacities, too small."

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The size of government today reflects some people's mistaken belief that government has magical powers which the individual does not possess, and ig-

nored the fact that there is no power on earth greater than that of the individual in a free society," he said.

Dole railed briefly against single-issue candidates and campaigns. "It is evident in the growth of single-issue constituencies, overwhelmed by the range of issues which confront the nation, many of our people doubt their capacity to understand them and deal with them."

Dole said during his 20-minute address that "my fellow Republicans have views which the American people must weigh, and the president has a record which must be considered and accounted for."

"I am certain we will be diligent in helping to consider the record, and I am sure the President will be equally diligent in accounting for it."

Dole said, "I will offer no slogans; slogans are no substitute for ideas, and novelty cannot replace hard, painful thought, if, as we hope, government is to be a shared national endeavor once again rather than a costly entertainment."

"I intend to promise only the possible, so that when I am successful in my aims, I won't disappoint you."

The senior Kansas senator said, "I will be reaching out to women and to men — whether in politics, in business, in the labor market or in the home. When we insist that women 'tell us what they really want,' we cast ourselves in the master's role — benevolent, perhaps, but superior, nonetheless."

"We are not patrons, we are partners. That is not a sentiment, it is a reality."

Dole said in winding down his announcement speech "above all, I mean to say what I stand for and speak plainly so that the American people may know which weaknesses of mine they will have to make up for or accommodate, and so they may know which strengths they can count on."

Dole's speech was interrupted seven times by applause. Across the square from his speaker's platform, American Agriculture Movement members parked their tractors, one of which bore a headless effigy with a sign asking, "Guess who?"

Wilbert Sanko, Great Bend, sporting AAM buttons, banners and bangles, said, "We looked all over for Bob Dole in Washington this winter, and he didn't have much time for us. We talked to a lot of aides, though."

Russell High School band, twirlers, and a precision flag waving team entered

the crowd before Dole began his announcement address. Among tunes with which they regaled the crowd was a slow-motion version of the disco hit "Staying Alive."

At a press conference in the firehouse, where Dole's late father was a volunteer 51 years, Dole said he planned "a whole campaign which will attract all people."

"I realize there are a number of outstanding Republican candidates, but I believe I have the strength, the confidence and the compassion to put it all together," he said.

Dole said he was well aware that a "gunslinger" image is often associated with him on the campaign trail, but said this campaign would be different from his last bid, when he was president Gerald Ford's vice-presidential running mate.

"I'm cognizant of the fact that I am asked those sort of questions a lot. We had a strategy in 1976, a Rose Garden strategy."

"There was only room for one person in that rose garden and Gerry Ford stood there while I was out in the briar patch. I don't believe, though, that I ever made a personal attack on President Carter, though I noticed some Democrats now are saying what I said then."

Dole called his campaign thus far a "weekend warriors" regimen, but said in late summer he planned to be campaigning on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Monday mornings.

He said sometime in late summer — September or October — that "all us candidates will start putting together and releasing our own energy alternative plans and plans for the economy. That way we'll float them out and let people judge them for themselves."

Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, May 15, 1979 Section 1 3

Dole starts quick-hitting campaign

By Jon Margolis
Chicago Tribune Press Service

DES MOINES — Sen. Robert Dole (R., Kan.) started his official presidential candidacy Monday by talking softly and planning a swift strike.

The soft talking was to offset the hatchet-man image which Dole acquired as President Ford's running mate in 1976.

The quick-hit strategy, which dictated the visit to Iowa, where the first 1980 delegates will be chosen, was decided upon because Dole knows that he either scores very big, very early, or he goes home to run for re-election to the U.S. Senate.

"I HAVE TO DO well in Iowa and in New Hampshire," he said, referring to the first primary state, which he was scheduled to visit Tuesday. "I don't say I have to win in New Hampshire, but I'd have to come in second."

Dole officially started his presidential campaign by going home to Russell, Kan. (pop. 5,500), which stopped normal business for the morning to hear its favorite son declare his candidacy.

The high school band played, the mayor presided, and the local Methodist minister prayed at the ceremony outside city hall before giving way to Dole.

"I DO NOT PROPOSE just to make

people believe in government again," Dole declared, in a graceful and philosophical announcement speech, "but rather to urge that they believe in themselves again."

Dole's speech presented the image of a conservative with compassion. He decried heavy government involvement and said, "there is no power on earth greater than that of the individual in a free society."

He also spoke, however, of helping the poor and disabled, and said he would seek support from blacks, hispanics, women, and the young.

Dole enters the race with some strengths. He appears to be the second choice of many backers of Ronald Reagan, the supposed front-runner. Since being the vice presidential candidate in 1976, he is known nationally.

HOW HE is known is another matter. "We had a role in 1976 that I certainly didn't shrink from," he said. "I went into the briar patch."

He came out of it scarred in the public mind, and though he says polls show he is no longer regarded as abrasive, his "high road" speech was clearly designed to emphasize his "new role" as a candidate in his own right.

Because politicians generally think at least three or four other Republicans

have a better shot at the nomination, Dole must do well in the early primaries or face near-certain unraveling of his campaign.

In addition to Reagan, John Connally of Texas and Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee are all ahead of Dole in the current public opinion polls. Texan George Bush, and Rep. Philip Crane of Illinois have stronger organizations right now.

IN DES MOINES, Dole gave the same speech he gave in Russell. To his townsmen, it was a great speech. In Des Moines, he read it without fervor. "It was not impressive," said one prominent Iowa Republican.

Fortunately for Dole, he has until June 20, 1980, after all the primaries are over, to decide about running for re-election. After he announced his presidential intentions, he told his neighbors that he'd "see you all in November, 1980." He didn't say what he'd be running for then.

Russell readies for Bob Dole Day

MARTIN HAWVER
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — Mrs. Bina Dole got "more kisses than I've had in a long time" and an invitation — presumably to the White House sometime in January 1981 — from her son Sunday.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., who Monday at 9:30 a.m. will announce formally that he is a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination attended briefly a Mother's Day fish fry here Sunday afternoon before darting out of town to deliver a commencement address at Allen County Community College, Iola.

Monday is Bob Dole Day here, and radio announcements are calling for the whole town — Republicans, Democrats and anyone else who wants to watch history in the making — to gather at City Hall for his announcement.

City Hall is just two blocks and four railroad tracks south of his mother's home.

Bob Dole Day was building momentum Sunday in this northcentral Kansas town of about 6,000 as several stores

unfurled "Hello Bob" and "Good Luck, Bob" signs.

Dole's announcement will be made in front of City Hall, a one-story brick and stone building which boasts a public clock which keeps pretty good time. After his announcement, Dole will trot around the corner and about 30 feet north to the four-bay fire hall where he will hold a brief press conference before a motorcycle to Hays and flight to Des Moines, Iowa, for his first out-of-state speech as a bonafide presidential candidate.

Mrs. Dole, who was the center of attention Sunday afternoon in her neat red brick house, could only wish her son good luck in the next 15 months which will tell whether he is to be the Republican standard bearer at the 1980 election.

"I'm not sure he can do the job...I guess nobody ever knows for sure...but he has the training, the experience for it," Mrs. Dole said of her 55-year-old son.

"I guess I'd just have to say that I

think that Bob sees it as a challenge. He's always been a workaholic, I guess."

"Back when he went to high school and worked at Dawson Drug right here next to City Hall, and that summer he went to work for Kaw Pipeline Co. and then the war, and all the rest of it. He just always keeps busy."

Mrs. Dole has staked out a low-key campaign schedule to back her son's two-pronged campaign — to take his best shot at the GOP presidential nomination, or failing that, to retain his U.S. Senate seat.

"I'll give coffee, but I won't walk door to door as much as I did last time," Mrs. Dole said of her 1976 efforts when Dole was selected by President Gerald Ford as his running mate.

Dole, who sees himself gearing for early and decisive victory in the first few presidential primaries next spring, places himself behind former California governor Ronald Reagan and Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn. He places himself — now — about tied with former

Texas governor John Connally.

Mrs. Dole plans to be at her son's side Monday morning just as she was in 1976 when Dole returned from the GOP national convention in Kansas City in July to open his campaign for the nation's number two job.

"Sure I'll be there to watch...they've got a chair for me...we're going to have a big crowd down at the city building, or outside of it, that is."

"There isn't anyplace around here that could hold the crowd we're going to have Monday except for the outdoors," Mrs. Dole said.

"And getting permission from the city for this wasn't any trouble at all."

Mrs. Dole believes her son's presidential victory is all locked up, and she is planning White House strategies already.

"No doubt...I'll go to visit him in the White House. I won't live there, even when he asks. I have my home here. But I'll visit, you can be sure I will," she said.

DODGE CITY DAILY GLOBE 5-15

Dole receives rousing support from hometown folks

Greeted by rousing cheers and applause when he took the podium to make his announcement, Dole was interrupted 11 times by applause during his 20-minute address.

"Today we have a President who goes about insisting that he will be 'personally' responsible for this and 'personally' responsible for that. He means well, no doubt, but what he says

is without meaning. We don't need a president who says he will be 'personally' responsible for things he can't do anything about. We need individual Americans to be personally responsible

again for their own lives, and the life of this nation," was the first statement to draw applause.

He drew an ovation when he said, "The size of government today reflects some people's mistaken belief that government has magical powers that the individual does not possess, and ignores the fact that there is no power on earth greater than that of the individual in a free society."

"If we can eliminate misconceptions about the purpose of government then we can get away from building the federal budget and the federal bureaucracy and get back to building the nation," was another statement that drew cheers.

The Senator, dressed in a gray pin-stripe suit and wearing a light blue shirt with a maroon tie, was flanked on the speakers platform by his wife, Elizabeth, his mother, Bina, still a resident of Russell, and his daughter, Robin.

Dole introduced the three women in his life and told that his wife would be a partner in the campaign and that Robin would work on the campaign staff. "My mother will still be the boss."

He embraced the three women after completing his announcement and before heading for a press conference in the fire station where he explained that his father, the late Doran R. Dole, had been a volunteer for more than 50 years.

"I believe the majority of the Republican party will support my campaign," Dole told the press conference. "I don't know what the Democrats will do. I guess it will be

President Carter. He likes the job, he works hard and I guess he wants to keep on."

"I'll be a weekend warrior until sometime this summer. Primarily I'll campaign on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, maybe some Mondays. Elizabeth will be campaigning. She was in Baltimore Friday and drew standing ovations. I draw standing ovations, too, but that's when they stand up to leave," he quipped.

Dole admitted to his status as an underdog in the campaign but was optimistic about his chances. "There are a record number of outstanding Republican candidates and we will cover the same ground. I believe I have the strength of character and compassion to be the winner."

"I have the experience in the Senate. I have been in a national campaign and I think this all is in my favor."

"I have a good chance to win in New Hampshire and the best thing is to win that first one. I definitely see some increased support for my campaign," Dole predicted.

The newest official candidate wasn't afraid to get a little levity into his dealings with the news media. Asked about how he would go about choosing a running mate if he wins the nomination, Dole replied, with a sparkle in his eye, "Ford did such an exceptional job of picking a running mate (Dole, of course) that I don't see how I can go any other way. Seriously, I haven't given it much thought yet. Later on, it

representatives were on hand from Ness, Trego, Barton, Ellis and Russell Counties. They were not vociferous during the announcement but they displayed some caustic signs on their tractors parked opposite the speakers platform. "Where was Bob in Washington?" and "Mr. D. where were you when we needed your support in Washington?" were two of the more prominent jibes.

There was plenty of support for Bob Dole in his hometown but it wasn't all because people felt he would be the best man in the nation. One man, who refused to be identified, said, "I sure hope he gets nominated and then elected. It will sure be good for Russell and my business if he gets elected."