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'There's No Way He Can Lose'

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"There's no way he can lose," declared the 76-year-old mother of the Kansas senator Monday after he returned home to formally announce his candidacy for the GOP presidential nomination.

"I have a different feeling about this campaign," Mrs. Dole said, noting that she never was "really sure" of his chances as the party's vice presidential nominee in 1976. The defeat of President Gerald Ford and Dole was Dole's first loss after 14 consecutive victories, beginning with a state legislative race in 1951.

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you will, but I do have that feeling this time," she replied.

Sen. Bob Dole, the seventh Republican to enter the Republican race, was off campaigning in Iowa and Virginia after his announcement Monday morning. Meanwhile, most of his family relaxed in their mother's neat, shaded brick home. Outside, an American flag flew in the brisk western Kansas wind.

Nine-year-old Kristin Nelson, one of Mrs. Dole's eight great-grandchildren, was asleep in a lounge chair outside the front door, still wearing her "Bob Dole for President" sweatshirt.

It was viewed as a happy day by all, including Dole's 24-year-old daughter Robin; brother Kenneth, a Russell oil lease broker and sisters Gloria Nelson of Fort Morgan, Colo., and Norma Jean Steele of Derby, Kan.

There were moments of laughter and sadness for the family matriarch, a veteran of her son's past campaigns who hopes to be active in this one also because "I enjoy it very much. I love

people—that helps."

She becomes so engrossed in campaigning, Mrs. Dole said, that when she was out on the road in 1976, her son "tried to get hold of me and slow me down. I didn't have time to wait on him, we were too busy. I enjoy it very much."

Mrs. Dole was slightly miffed, she said with a laugh, when a state Republican official mispronounced her name as "Bee-nuh" instead of "By-nuh."

Dole ribbed her about it before the 4,000 area residents who witnessed his announcement, when, in introducing his mother, he told them that "some of you know her as 'Bee-nuh' and others know her as 'By-nuh'." Mrs. Dole said the "most emotional" part of the day was when the senator staged a news conference inside the city hall fire house where her late husband, Dorian, was a volunteer fireman for 51 years. He died in 1975.

"That kind of got to me, and I think it got to Bob, too," she said.

Take head Ronald Reagan

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Her late husband would have loved to be present Monday, Mrs. Dole said, just as he would have enjoyed seeing Ford and Dole return to Russell in August 1976 for their first campaign stop.

"When President Ford was at the house that day, I cried on his shoulder," she said. "I said, 'It just isn't fair that his father isn't here to know about this.'"

Dole's promise to mellow his campaign style from the tough approach he took as Ford's running mate is welcomed by the family.

"This time, you'll seem more of his personality," said daughter Robin who campaigned in more than 15 states for her father in 1976 after graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

"The label was a bit overdone. All of us

spent most of Monday chauffeuring his brother around town and to the airport in nearby Hays.

As a mother, Mrs. Dole said she worries about the potential danger involved in being a president and the hours it consumes. And she admits her son's trips back to Russell may be less frequent in the months to come.

"Bob's always been busy and involved when he went into politics," she said. "As long as I know he's happy and doing what he wants to do, that's what it's all about."

Hatchet buried in 'positive' race

By SCOTT SEIRER

RUSSELL — To the delight of a hometown crowd of more than 4,000 residents, Sen. Robert Dole Monday became the seventh Republican to announce his bid for the presidency.

Speaking in front of City Hall, he outlined a campaign that will be both positive and free of attack on other candidates. That contrasts his salty tongue role in the 1976 election, when he was President Gerald Ford's running mate.

In making his announcement, Dole said he hopes to help Americans renew their faith and confidence in government. The federal government, he said, has become so big and unmanageable that Americans no longer feel they have control over events in their lives.

Americans are thrashing about in search of something to believe in, he said, and that is his concern in the campaign.

"There is no power on earth greater than an individual in a free society."

Dole's announcement attracted national media attention, for which he was grateful. "The Washington Press-Club (where others have announced) offers splendid hospitality," he said. But he added: "I came here simply because the strength I need is here."

Dole, interrupted nine times by applause during his 20-minute speech, focused only briefly on the shortcomings of the Carter administration, noting the ill health of the economy and the lack of a recognizable foreign policy.

The lack of a strong foreign policy, he said, is eroding the peace that was achieved in 1973. "This is not a time for grave doubts in foreign policy. I do not urge that we turn our backs on the future. I urge that we recover some old truths

about ourselves as a people and that we be guided by these as we face the future. The truth is that today many Americans have doubts about the future of this nation. We have to eliminate those doubts. I believe we can."

Dole said his campaign will be free of empty promises. "I intend to promise only the possible," he said, "so that when I am successful in my aims I shall not disappoint you."

In reference to Carter's personal guarantees made during the 1976 campaign, Dole said "We don't need a president who says he will be personally responsible for things he can do nothing about."

"I intend to say what I stand for, as I have in the past," he said, adding that by doing so he will allow voters to examine both his strengths and weaknesses.

He asks that Americans be diligent in examining his views and weighing them against the views of other Republicans and Carter's record. "I'm sure the president will be equally diligent in accounting for it," he said.

Dole had words of praise for the residents of Russell. "I was helped and healed in this place," he said in reference to his near-fatal World War II wound that crippled his right hand.

Noting he began his public career in Russell, the 55-year-old Republican said "No place has ever been so hurtful that this place couldn't ease the pain."

Pausing to get a grip on his composure, Dole added he has experienced no satisfaction that cannot be enhanced in his hometown.

Following the speech, Dole's mother, Bina, breathed a sigh of relief. "I was so afraid he would break," she said.

Mrs. Dole said she will "do whatever they want me to" to help her son change his address to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Her role, however, hasn't been outlined. "It's a little early," she said.

Following the announcement, Dole was driven to Hays, where he caught a flight for Dr. Moises, Iowa, where he will campaign. From there he'll campaign in Fredericksburg, Va., and Concord, N.H.

Just before he gave his formal announcement speech, Dole thanked faithful supporters who had gathered for a breakfast reception in the basement of City Hall. Sometimes, he said, thanks for campaign work has been slow in coming. "I'll try to send you letters but we run a conservative campaign."

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, also took a turn as a speaker, saying she will be a full partner in the campaign. She's found the time to do so by resigning her position as commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

Dole is considered a long-shot in a field dominated by the likes of Ronald Reagan, John Connally, George Bush and Senate Republican leader Howard Baker.

But the Kansas is confident. "The poll that counts is the one on election day," he told his supporters. "I believe I have a little survivor instinct."

Polls taken last week, he said, indicate the New Hampshire voters are entering the Dole camp. "I think we have a good chance of winning in New Hampshire," the country's first primary election. He also said polls are favorable in Iowa, where another early party caucus election is on tap.

Dole said he expects to do well next year in Kansas' first presidential primary. And, he added, he'll be attentive to his term in the Senate, which

expires in 1980.

Financing is being sought for a Senate race, he said, explaining that even though his political ambitions now are on two tracks, "I intend to be very honest with the Kansas voters."

One of Dole's supporters, staunch Republican McDill (Huck) Boyd, Phillipsburg, sees the Senator's chances of victory as good. "He's going to take the positive approach," Boyd said.

By doing so, he added, Dole will avoid the bloodshed that's likely to develop in the Republican ranks, enabling him to emerge as a fresh candidate to challenge the Democrats.

Others who have announced for the GOP nomination are: Rep. Phil Crane of Illinois, former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota, former GOP national committee official Benjamin Fernandez, former Gov. John Connally of Texas, Sen. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and former CIA director George Bush of Texas.

Others still expected to announce include Rep. John B. Anderson of Illinois, Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee and former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California.

Dole doubts that his image as a hatchet man, picked up during the tough 1976 campaign, will be a thorn in his saddle. Pollsters say that image is not a problem, he said.

Dole said the 1976 campaign was waged on two fronts, with Ford working in the White House rose garden and Dole taking the briar patch.

"We were 30 points behind and we almost won," he pointed out.

Boyd agrees that Dole's work in the 1976 was satisfactory. "When you start out that far behind you have to do something," he said. He describes the close election as "damn near a political miracle."

No doubt who's tops in Russell

By Roger Verdon

Texas has the Alamo, Milwaukee has its beer, but Russell has Bob Dole — the home-town boy who has made good.

Monday, Bob Dole Day, the man who once worked at the local drugstore from 7 a.m. to midnight for one dollar a day, told a crowd well-prepared for the announcement, that he would seek the ultimate political office.

They cheered, took pictures, and nodded in agreement.

But before the announcement was even made the bets were already in.

Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder had given Dole a 50-to-1 shot chance at winning the presidential election and Russell residents were quick to snap up what they figure to be an easy-win bet.

Even as Dole and his followers were weaving their way to the Cole and Rogers Dawson Drug Store on Main Street Monday morning, the regulars inside were making book on their favorite candidate.

One of Dole's biggest boosters bar none told a reporter that the Vegas oddsmaker was going to get some local business. Chet Dawson's father employed Dole as a soda jerk at the drugstore.

Dawson's platitudes about Dole are unending. "Intelligent, honest, straightforward, trustworthy, one hell of a man."

The drug store has been in the Dawson family ever since uncle Fred Dawson bought it in 1902.

Chet and his brother "Bub" bought the store from their father.

Since Dole gained national prominence Dawson says he has been interviewed by state media as well as Time, Newsweek and Life magazines.

But that's not the most important factor. "That isn't important. We have to get the media behind Bob so he can run for president."

"He would make a wonderful president — just what the country needs. If Bob wins the nomination he'll be elected president. I promise you."

The drugstore hosts an assortment of regulars who discuss, with some vehemence, "sports, sex, religion — about that order," Dawson said.

Monday was different. It was all Dole.

Dole's attachment to the drugstore was a surprise to Steve Cole, who has been part-owner of the business for seven years.

It was a pleasant shock, Cole said, about learning a senator once pulled Cokes behind his counter.

"When Ford came here (in 1976) that was the most exciting thing I've ever seen," Cole said, late Monday morning.

"And then today when he (Dole) got in back and started pulling a Coke that was probably the second most exciting thing that's happened."

Chet Dawson had a hug waiting for Dole, the man Dawson says "could make anything" behind a soda counter.

Dixie Dugan, a drugstore em-

ployee for 27 years, says Dole doesn't come around as often as he once did. He used to buy his Christmas presents at the store. "He used to hang out at the store. He doesn't do that anymore," she said, with a little sadness in her voice.

Mayor Roger Williams has already anticipated Dole winning the Republican nomination and then going on to the White House. He said Dole's presence alone is seen as a boom for tourism, yet he hasn't seen any statistics to back up that feeling.

BY THE WAY

Bob Dole made it official Monday. See page 3.

R.C. Williams, the mayor's brother, says Dole's image as a "hatchet-man" has hurt him but he "was saddled into that job" for the sake of his party.

Actually, he said, Bob's lead a "nice, clean life."

Russell newspaper publisher Russell Townsley said a reporter from an Eastern newspaper showed up recently, stormed into his office, and demanded, "Okay, where are the skeletons in Dole's closet?"

There aren't any, Townsley replied. Ask someone in Russell why Bob Dole would make a good president and you'll get an answer like the

one given by a woman named Carter.

Mrs. Cameron Carter, who, when asked if she was related to the man in the White House, answered an emphatic "No way," said she thought Bob was "a nice person. My husband was in school with him."

Wanda Reagan says she's pretty sure about Bob Dole, but she's not so sure where her brother, Ronald Reagan, stands. Her brother, of El Dorado, is a registered Democrat, but doesn't always vote the party ticket. Regardless of her brother's thinking, Wanda said, Bob's her man because, "I just think he would be good."

Everyone who cares in Russell is somehow attached to Dole.

One woman motel-owner, while showing a reporter her illegal pair of Great-Horned Owls (she had notified the local game warden) said Dole's uncle from California stays at her place every time he visits. He stayed one year for two weeks — during a blizzard.

The waitress at the truck stop will tell you, "I grew up with him. I don't know about the nomination. I know he'll carry Russell, but..." and her voice trails off. She adds that she will be working until the afternoon and will miss Dole's speech.

Elsewhere, there are other comments. The cashier at theIGA supermarket turns to her colleague and says, "He's not presidential material."

Her colleague replies, "If elections were tomorrow, I

wouldn't vote for him. Hell, who would?"

There is also a kid in the crowd Monday morning hawking pro-Dole and anti-Carter buttons at one dollar each. His goal, he says, is not so much to make a President Dole as it is to make money.

The cynics were there: one man sported a "Snoopy for President" button. Another said Dole didn't have a "chance in hell."

When Bob Dole left the podium full of microphones on the corner by the Russell city offices, and finished his press conference at the firehouse, and was whisked off to the airport, Russell began to settle back into its normal routine.

The house at 1035 Maple, where every curiosity-seeker in town Sunday had dragged through the streets for a look at the candidate sitting in the yard of his mother's home, was quiet again. A few weeds were in the yard, a few cars were parked out front. It did not appear much different from its neighboring homes.

The streets settled down again, but not the anticipation. Russell took a breath Monday, but the heavy breathing has yet to begin.

One resident here, anticipating the best and the worst that could come of all the political hoopla, said, "If by some fluke or hard work or whatever, he gets to the White House, can you imagine what it's going to do to our little town?"

He didn't make a projection — nor did he answer his own question.

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