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## Dole's hat is officially in the presidential ring

RUSSELL, Kan. (UPI) — Sen. Robert Dole, sounding very much the way a grass roots candidate named Jimmy Carter did four years ago, Monday told 4,000 cheering home-town admirers he was entering the race for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination.

The conservative two-term senator, who ran for vice president on Gerald Ford's ticket in 1976, said he would not attack his fellow Republican candidates or Carter during the campaign but pledged to erase the doubts that Americans have about the future by running a positive and thorough campaign.

Dole, who became the seventh official candidate to announce for the GOP nomination, relied on some of his staunch conservatism to attack the growth of bureaucracy in the federal government and called for a return to a government that believes in its citizens.

"Today, we have a president who goes about insisting that he will be personally responsible for this and personally responsible for that," Dole said. "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.

"I intend to promise only the possible, so that when I am successful in my aims I shall have occasion to disappoint as few as possible."

Monday was officially designated Bob Dole day in the senator's home-town and public schools were dismissed, so that about 1,500 children crowded around the platform for the candidate's announcement.

About 20 tractors belonging to members of the American Agriculture Movement, which has been critical of current farm policy, were parked across the street from the city hall steps where Dole made his announcement, and they later paraded through this central Kansas farming community of 5,000.

Dole, who left immediately after making the announcement for his first official campaign swing to the early key states of Iowa and New Hampshire, predicted in a news conference that he has a good chance of winning the New Hampshire primary.

"It seems to me that in the final analysis I have a good chance of winning in New Hampshire," he said. "Our people tell me that there is movement in the polls in that direction in New Hampshire."

Dole, who developed a reputation as a "hatchet man" while running with Ford in 1976, acknowledged that he would have to work to change that image if he hoped to emerge as the spinster from the July convention in Detroit.

"It will be a hard campaign in the sense that we will work hard at it," he said. "Not in the sense that we will mow down the other candidates but that we will speak on the issues. I would predict that by this fall each candidate will have to have an alternative energy plan. Then we will find out which candidate is the best prepared."

The former chairman of the Republican National Committee during the Nixon administration said he decided to enter the campaign because "our economic position, our defense position and our prestige are being rapidly eroded around the world." Dole said he wanted the country to return to "an America which understands what it means when it speaks of rights — civil rights, human rights, individual rights, equal rights."

Dole, 55, is considered a longshot in a field dominated by the likes of Ronald Reagan, John Connally, George Bush and Senate Republican leader Howard Baker. Aides said his strategy is aimed at developing widespread support as the convention delegates' second choice, in hopes the front-runners will erode their support in a bloody struggle.

Others who have announced for the GOP nomination are Rep. Phil Crane of Illinois, former Gov. Harold Stassen of Minnesota, former RNC official Benjamin Fernandez of Los Angeles and Sen. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut.

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## Bob Dole's Mother Feels Confident Son Will Succeed in His 1980 Bid

By Paul Stevens  
Associated Press Writer  
RUSSELL, Kan. (AP)—Ronald Reagan and other Republican presidential hopefuls, take heed.

Mrs. Bina Dole has regained the same confident feeling she had in her son Bob's first 14 political races.

"There's no way he can lose," the 78-year-old mother of the Kansas senator declared 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 R. Ford and Dole was her son's first setback after 14 consecutive victories, beginning with a state legislative race in 1961.

"I have a different feeling than I've always had in his other campaigns and I hope to continue to feel that way because he's always won before."

Is it a crystal ball or woman's intuition, Mrs. Dole? "You call it what you will, but I do have that feeling this time," she replied.

Dole, the seventh Republican to enter the race, was off campaigning in Iowa and Virginia after his Monday morning announcement. 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" sweat-shirt.

It was viewed as a happy day by all, including Dole's 24-year-old daughter, Robin; his brother, Kenneth, a Russell oil lease broker, and sisters, Mrs. Gloria Nelson of Fort Morgan, Colo. and Mrs. 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 her son staged a news conference inside the city hall fire house where her husband, a late Doran Dole, was a volunteer fireman for 51 years. He died in 1976.

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

Her husband would have loved to have been present Monday, Mrs. Dole said, just as he would have enjoyed seeing President 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," Mrs. Dole recalled. "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 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 who know Bob Dole know he's got a good, dry sense of humor and sarcastic wit, and it's not always as strong as it was interpreted."

The Dole family plans to be visible in the campaign ahead, she said. "Issues are very important, but there's something else there, too, and the family can help to paint that picture."

As a mother, Mrs. Dole said she worries about the potential danger involved in being a president and the hours it consumes. And she knows 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," Mrs. Dole said. "As long as I know he's happy and doing what he wants to do, that's what it's all about."

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## Sen. Dole Heads On To Iowa

By Laura Scott  
Kansas Correspondent

DES MOINES—Taking his newly launched run for the White House to Iowa, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole signaled Monday that his strategy for drawing support in this key caucus state would be to emphasize his background as a spokesman for farmers, a group that Dole has claimed will form his national constituency.

After a luncheon meeting with Republican business and political leaders here, Dole said he expected Iowa voters to pick him from the crowded field of candidates because he is a Farm Belt senator who has worked for agriculture in his 18 years in Congress.

"I defy anyone to name any one (of the GOP hopefuls) who has had experience in agriculture except me," said the 55-year-old, second-term senator from Kansas. "That, and the fact that I am not going along, making a number of promises I can't keep, probably will appeal to Iowans."

Only hours before his Des Moines appearance, the senator, surrounded by his family, launched his campaign for the GOP nomination for president in a charged setting before 3,000 friends and supporters in his home-town of Russell, Kan.

Not all farmers were going along with Dole's assessment that he was their national spokesman. Half a dozen American Agriculture Movement tractors were parked silently across the street from his announcement platform at the Russell City Hall, bearing signs saying, "Bob Dole, where were you when we needed your support in Washington?"

But the silent protest did not mar the event in Russell, where hometown



Dole meets the press and presses the flesh in a Russell, Kan., drugstore

folks welcomed their presidential candidate with hooded worth of a local military hero who already had won the war.

In fact, Dole's fight for the presidency had just begun with the trip to Iowa. From there, he went to Virginia and New Hampshire.

The campaign began with a team of

10—smaller than those of some other GOP candidates—and with a treasury of \$150,000, a long way from the goal of \$1 million the Kansas senator hopes to reach by the end of the year.

If the reason for the first stop to be at Russell was obvious ("I came home simply because the strength I need for the undertaking before me is here,"

Dole told friends and neighbors), the reason for Iowa as the second stop was even more so.

Iowa will be the site of the first caucus leading to election of delegates to the 1980 national conventions, and one of the first tests by which a candidate can judge his chances in running for the presidency.

Dole, who has been in Iowa twice in recent months, said he would appeal to Republican voters because he is "moderately conservative" with experience that entailed serving as

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## DOLE

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tional party chairman and 1978 GOP vice presidential candidate.

It was a different Dole on Monday from the one who had barnstormed through this and other states in 1976 in search of votes for Gerald Ford, earning the reputation of a gung-ho, sharp-tongued politician.

This time Dole was subdued, promising no bad words for his Republican opponents nor for Democratic President Jimmy Carter, and saying his campaign would aim to encourage the individual to be responsible for his life rather than to rely on the federal government.

Both here and earlier in Russell, Dole said he would wage "a whole campaign," reaching for not only Republicans but also Democrats and independent voters.

However, in a statement released from his Washington office Monday, Dole took a little harder line toward Sen. Edward Kennedy, a possible contender for the Democratic nomination for president. Dole said Kennedy's plan to insure all Americans against health care costs was "a first step toward federal regimentation of not only the insurance industry, but the health care industry as a whole."

At the same time, the Kansas senator attempted to rebut the verdict of political observers that his 1976 vice presidential candidacy had turned away from the Republican Party its needed endorsement by blacks, Mexican-Americans and other minorities.

He said he had done well in attracting minorities in his home state, although, he admitted, they are "not in that great of numbers." He predicted also that Carter's unkept promises to those minority groups would help Republicans candidates next year.

He said the United States had lost credibility in its foreign relations because of Carter's "rather naive understanding of foreign relations," indicated by the severing of diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Among those listening in Iowa was Mrs. Mary Louise Smith, former GOP national chairman from Des Moines, who assessed Dole as somewhere in the middle of the crowd of presidential contenders seeking support in Iowa. She declined to name a front-runner, saying a residue of support from 1976, which reportedly is keeping Ronald Reagan in the lead, is "very difficult to measure."

The Kansas senator named Jack Pester, a 44-year-old Des Moines refinery owner who also has a refinery in Derby, Kan., as his midwest political coordinator. He has named no county chairmen in Iowa. He said he expected an announcement of a statewide committee soon.

If the western Kansas wheat fields and the Iowa corn fields provided kindred settings for Dole's first two official campaign stops, they did not draw the same audience. In Iowa, the business and political leaders were quiet and curious, trying to assess their support of this one-of-many candidates. In Kansas, the frequent applause of hometown friends laced the senator's words.

Many of the residents of Russell remember Dole from the years he spent growing up there; he remembers Russell for the moral support and the \$5,000 it gave him to pay his hospital bills when he returned home from World War II with wounds that left his right arm useless and shattered his dream of becoming a doctor.

## Dole Campaign Trail Leads to Virginia

By Joseph A. Lastelle  
Chief of the Washington Bureau

FREDERICKSBURG, Va.—Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas took his presidential campaign Monday night to Virginia, a state that backed the Ford-Dole ticket in 1976.

Dole spoke at a dinner meeting of 300 Republicans, keeping a commitment that he made in January. It was typical of what Dole has been doing the last 10 years, traveling the country, making speeches to Republicans, in the hope that someday they would reward him.

"People want someone—especially after two years of President Carter—they want someone who is strong, who will stand up and provide leadership," he said.

At a press conference, Dole was asked what the principal issue in his campaign would be—what he would hang his candidacy on.

"I hope I don't hang it up on anything; I want to keep it moving," Dole replied.

Dole went on to say that he had spent 18 years in Congress dealing with the problems of the nation. He said he had served his party, had a strong background in agriculture and strong ties with veterans groups, and through the

finance committee had dealt with problems of taxpayers and senior citizens.

"I have that advantage," he said. "I don't know anybody that's mad at Bob Dole."

In answer to another question, he said he had an "excellent opportunity" to win the Republican nomination. But his hatchet-man image of 1976 still haunts him, and one reporter asked if he would modify his approach this year.

"I thought I might," Dole chuckled. "I'll be able to set the tone of the campaign. I don't want to change my personality."

Dole arrived in Fredericksburg, 51 miles from Washington, to complete his first day of campaigning after announcing his campaign in Russell, Kan., and Des Moines, Iowa. As he walked into the dinner meeting he was greeted with applause.

He offered what he called a positive Republican alternative. He spoke of the need for a catastrophic health insurance, reform of the welfare system, an indexed tax system, a balanced budget, substantial reductions in business and individual taxes, and "maximum human liberty and minimal governmental control."

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## An Emotional Day For a Native Son

By ROB RAINS  
UPI Reporter

It was an emotional gathering Monday as native son Robert Dole returned to be among friends and former classmates in Russell to announce his bid for the presidency.

Dole's voice choked occasionally as he reminisced and told well-wishers he was announcing his candidacy at home because the strength he needed for the campaign would come from this central Kansas farming community of 5,000.

And the residents were appreciative.

"The thing I give him credit for is not getting what we used to call the big head," said C. E. Brandenburg, 83, whose daughter went to high school with Dole.

"He remembers his people," said Ron Sedo, a pastor in nearby Osborne. "The fact that he is in the national political limelight

has really given the community a lift."

"I think that the fact that he returns here to make his announcements is a real tribute to the community. He started every campaign here and he's ended every campaign here. We are really proud of him."

Before making his formal announcement, Dole visited two nursing homes, Russell City Hospital and a drug store where he worked while in high school, calling many people by their first names and thanking them for their support.

Dole, who was elected to the Kansas Legislature and four terms as county attorney before going on to the U.S. House and then the Senate, had to fight his emotions as he recalled how the people of Russell helped him recover from crippling injuries he suffered in World War II.