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## Area Faithfuls Help Dole Enter Presidential Race

With a cheering crowd of about 4,000 hometown admirers looking on, Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., made his expected announcement Monday for his candidacy for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination.

Speaking from a podium erected between the City Building and the News-Record Building, the senator was introduced by former Kansas Lt. Gov. Dave Owen, of the Kansas City, Kan. area, whose wife is a Russell native.

Owen said the pleasant task of introducing Kansas' senior senator was not a new one for him, but that this was the first time he had introduced the senator in his hometown, Russell.

He introduced Dole as "Our friend, and God willing, the next president of the United States of America, Bob Dole." The program before the large gathering began at 9:33 a.m. with the invocation by the Rev. Richard Robbins, of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Mayor Roger W. Williams welcomed the crowd and the large press (including radio and TV) contingent, thanking all for their cooperation. He invited all to return "in November 1980" (the date of the next presidential election).

Bands from Dorrance, Lucas-Luray, and Gorham schools, plus those of Russell High School and Ruppenthal Middle School in Russell, played several selections beginning at 9 a.m. in the roped-off area. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played before the senator made his announcement address.

A post-speech press conference in the Fire Station at the City Building lasted about 20 minutes, until 10:25 a.m. Then the senator and Mrs. Elizabeth Hanford Dole, his wife, left for the Hays airport to fly to Des Moines, Iowa, where he was to reiterate his candidacy announcement.

Marring the festivities, but not much, was a pair of signs erected on and near a tractor, evidently belonging to an American Agriculture Movement member, at the southwest edge of the program area. The signs said "Mr. Dole - Where were you when we needed your support in Washington?" and "Where was Bob in Washington?"

Dole's speech was interrupted by applause, sometimes polite, sometimes very enthusiastic, nine times. He said he had no illusions about the campaign ahead and predicted he would have a good chance to winning the first primary in New Hampshire and emerge as the front-runner by the time the GOP National Convention is held in Detroit in July 1980.

The senator arrived in Russell Saturday evening to spend much of Mother's Day here with his mother, Mrs. Bina Dole. After attending church services his wife, and his daughter, Robin Dole, 24, dropped in for a visit and a bite to eat at "Shack's" Traditional Fish Fry, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Shackelford, 27 S. Lincoln St. an annual event that lasted Sunday from about 11:30 a.m. until well past 8 p.m.

Area—

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on a press party-reception in the Bojo Room at the Ramada Inn hosted by the Russell Publishing Co., publishers of The Daily News, The Russell Record and several other newspapers.

There were many members of the national and state press at the party — and covering the tumultuous events of Sunday and today here. They included various television and radio representatives, newspaper photographers, and reporters from The New York Times, The Washington Post and other large, prestigious newspapers, as well as from Newsweek magazine.

The senator's busy morning began Monday at about 7:15 with a visit to Russell City Hospital, followed by visits to Ala Fern Nursing Home, the Russell Care Center and Cole & Rogers Dawson Drug Store, where he was employed when he was a youth.

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## Reagan, Connally, Dole Rake Carter

By United Press International  
RN 5-19-79

Three of the leading contenders for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination struck into the heart of President Carter's home territory Friday — and none had anything good to say about the former Georgia governor.

Former Govs. Ronald Reagan of California and John Connally of Texas scored the president's economic policies. Reagan who has not officially announced his candidacy, said pay raises — although eaten away by inflation — push wage earners into higher tax brackets, enabling the government to collect millions of dollars in "illicit" taxes.

He told a \$100-a-plate GOP dinner in Raleigh, N. C., that the government is both the cause and the chief beneficiary of inflation. "I believe the polls have indicated inflation and the economy are the top issues in the

minds of the American people," said Reagan, who moved on the Georgia today for the GOP state convention in Carter's home state.

Connally had a similar theme in Birmingham, Ala., at a \$125-a-plate dinner.

"Inflation is the most troublesome problem facing the country today and part of it is because of energy," Connally said. "We can't solve inflation by only

reducing federal spending. We have big government deficits which need to be eradicated."

He said either Carter or Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., would be tough to beat in the 1980 election.

"Anyone who takes Carter's candidacy lightly is foolish, but if Kennedy announced as early as February, he'll win the nomination," Connally predicted.

Meanwhile, Kansas Sen. Robert Dole focused his attack on

the president's foreign policy during a private reception in Durham, N. C.

The 1976 GOP vice presidential nominee said if Carter had given stronger support to the shah of Iran before he was overthrown, America's energy crisis could have been avoided.

"We have an interest there and we should have made it clear at the outset that we supported the Iranian government. We should have shown the flag."



BOB DOLE  
UNITED STATES SENATE

June 5, 1979

To my friends in Russell,

I again wish to thank all my friends -- Democrats, Republicans, and Independents -- for the warm and friendly homecoming on the day of my announcement for the Presidency. It was a magnificent send-off for what will be a long and challenging national campaign.

Elizabeth and I deeply appreciate the eagerness with which so many friends and neighbors volunteered to help in planning the announcement. And I know that those from out of town who journeyed to Russell and those who watched the coverage of the ceremonies on national television news broadcasts were tremendously impressed by the spirit and friendliness of our community.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to everyone.

Bob  
BOB DOLE

The Salina Journal, Tuesday, June 5, 1979

## Looking at Bob Dole's balance sheet

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. — Bob Dole of Kansas, one of the 22 Republican hopefuls, turned up in Florida a couple of weeks ago to make a non-political talk to the Florida Medical Association. Dole can be non-political in the same way that Sophia Loren can be non-sexy. Ho, ho. He is in fact a political pro, and a most attractive one at that.

As a formally announced candidate for the Republican nomination, Dole brings to his own campaign some assets that most of his opponents can't match. He has been around the track before. He knows the straightaways, the curves, and the bumps in the road. As Gerald Ford's running mate in 1976, he gained experience in nationwide campaigning — the kind of experience that only Ronald Reagan and Ford himself have shared. It makes a difference.

At least Dole hopes it will make a difference. He will be 56 this July, and he has no wide-eyed illusions about his prospects. It is now or never. If Reagan withdraws, if John Connally runs out of steam, Dole will have a good clean shot at the prize. But if his candidacy doesn't catch fire, well, he has until June of next year to announce that he would rather run again as senator from the Sunflower State.

By  
James J.  
Kilpatrick



Responding to questions, Dole looks at his candidacy as matter-of-factly as if he were going over an annual report. In addition to his real-world experience on the campaign trail, he lists other assets. His farm background may mean little in Manhattan, but it will help him in such early primaries as those in Illinois, North Carolina and Wisconsin. Within the party, nobody is mad at him; he will inherit some support from Ford's old lieutenants.

Dole doesn't mention this item himself, but it can be said objectively: He is a handsome dog, six feet plus, immaculately tailored, and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Hanford, is a knockout. Neither does Dole mention his heroic war record as a platoon leader in Italy in World War II. Dole has some excellent credits in foreign affairs; he has worked vigorously for the cause of handicapped persons and for autistic children; he chalked up a nice 77 score with the American Conserva-

tive Union last year. (He rated only 20 with Americans for Democratic Action.) All told, pretty good assets.

### The hatchman image

Dole looks as candidly at his liabilities. Though a recent poll by the Los Angeles Times gave him a three-to-one favorable rating, an image lingers from the 1976 campaign — Dole the hatchman. Dole the wisecracker, Dole the tough guy. His largest problem is to dispel that image and to establish himself as a serious candidate for the White House. He understands that he has no particular allure for urban voters. He voted in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment to treat the District of Columbia as a state for purposes of congressional representation — a vote that may win a few points with liberals but will cost him with conservatives. Finally, Kansas has only seven electoral votes, and that's not much of a base to begin with.

Dole is an effective public speaker. He warmed up the Florida doctors with a string of one-liners, and he ruefully summed up his own experience as a vice-presidential candidate in 1976: He went from the unknown to the unloved. Once he had their attention, he gave the doctors a rousing stump speech on the necessity for personal political involvement. "Don't just give at the office," he urged them. "Give of your-

### ...knows how to hunt ducks where the ducks are

self." — Old stuff, perhaps, but Dole spoke with conviction.

He had some blunt words about his own party. "Almost anybody could list 20 things the Republicans are against, but who can list three things we're for?" Pressed for specifics, Dole rattles off a dozen affirmatives. He is for catastrophic health insurance, for the indexing of income taxes, for a plan of welfare reform that would give more responsibility to the states. He is for repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act, for the decontrol of oil prices, for a plan of flexible farm parities, for tax credits to increase capital formation, for a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution.

Dole figures he has time enough to develop his views as the pace picks up. For the time being, his concern is to raise a million dollars. The task sounds formidable, but as a former GOP national chairman, Dole knows how to hunt ducks where the ducks are. Outside of Kansas, he's nobody's favorite; but he's nobody's bogeyman either.