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Campaign starts slowly—

Dole faces built-in disadvantages

By KEN PETERSON
Capital-Journal
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., has some built-in disadvantages as a presidential candidate, his campaign manager will readily admit.

First, Dole is perceived as a non-saleable item outside Kansas. Second, he lacks the national media star image of a John Connally or Ronald Reagan. Third, Dole figured his campaign would start slowly and, sure enough, it did.

Thomas D. Bell, Dole's campaign manager, spells out the obstacles confronting his candidate but plants the impression that Dole is going to surprise a lot of people when 1980 arrives.

Dole could well be a born-again Jimmy Carter, by Bell's reckoning.

Several months ago Dole and Bell agreed that they would not react to early polls. The deal fell through in mid-June.

In fact, Dole's Senate staff and his campaign organization raced to see who would be the first to release a Los Angeles poll that showed, according to their interpretation, Dole had the highest approval rating of any announced candidate. Their judgment was based on favorable impressions, however, rather than preferences. With former President Ford removed from the list, Reagan outdistanced the others by a sizable percentage, 40 to 10 percent in Dole's case. Connally trailed Dole in preferences by 1 percent.

The Los Angeles Times poll carried considerable weight for a candidate and staff who professed they would not react.

And Bell scoffs at later polls in other newspapers showing Dole near the bottom of choices among top state Repub-

EPA, FDA sign agreement
WASHINGTON (AP) — Under a new agreement, the Environmental Protection Agency will have complete authority over public drinking water, while the Food and Drug Administration will continue to regulate the purity of bottled water and water used in food and food processing.



BOB DOLE
... non-saleable outside Kansas?

lican leaders and delegates to the 1976 GOP convention.

"You get very isolated views of what is happening in the world," Bell says of those polls. He figures not many 1976 GOP delegates will attend the 1980 convention. Delegate loyalties will not be as fractured as the Reagan-Ford split in 1976, he says.

The Los Angeles Times poll significantly helped Dole's campaign because the money started rolling in, Bell says, as contributors realized that the senator could have a chance.

The one good factor working in Dole's favor is his ability to campaign before small groups, Bell contends. Republicans also have a good feeling toward Dole, Bell says.

Bell does not buy the hope expressed in some corners that Reagan will falter. If the nomination was today, Reagan would win easily, Bell adds.

"Bob will not depend upon Reagan

doing poorly to win," Bell says, although he admits Dole's campaign would be aided immeasurably if Reagan drops out.

Bell, in his remarks to various Republican organizations, notes that party members generally agree Reagan has the nomination locked up at the moment, but when asked who they think will win next year, seven out of nine will come up with different names, including Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee.

The Dole campaign is relying on hard work to pay dividends later, much as President Carter did when he started running two years before the 1976 election.

Bell flatly predicts Dole will win the New Hampshire primary. Dole has visited the state 18 times this year, and has two more scheduled soon. Dole has hired Carroll Jones as his New Hampshire campaign manager. Jones resigned as vice chairman of the GOP state committee to work for Dole.

Jones also directed the 1978 campaign of New Hampshire Sen. Gordon J. Humphrey, who upset Democratic incumbent Thomas J. McIntyre.

In the meantime, the Dole campaign has hired new staff members who formerly worked for presidential aspirant Rep. Philip Crane, R-Ill. The Crane campaign suffered a mass defection about two months ago and Dole evidently picked up a few of them.

Andre LeTendre, former president of the national Jaycees, is scheduling director for Dole. He served in a similar job with the Crane operation and was also sought by George Bush and Connally, Bell says.

Mari Maseng is staff director for Elizabeth Handford Dole. She was the former press secretary for Crane's presidential campaign and worked in the 1978 campaign of Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

Bell says a major coup was the hiring of Bill Russo as the Dole political director, the one who handles field operations in crucial states. Russo talked with Baker's campaign before joining the Dole side. Russo was deputy politi-

cal director in the 1976 Ford campaign.

Believing that an almost open-ended primary season is ahead, the Dole campaign has concentrated on New Hampshire to the point where it has a chairman for each township.

Regional campaign coordinators also are focusing on Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts and Kansas — which will hold its first presidential primary April 1. Kansas, of course, is considered important because to lose in his home state would be almost fatal to Dole's quest.

Baker, the Senate minority leader, is ahead of Dole in almost every poll. Dole and Baker reportedly do not get along as bosom buddies and Dole can be expected to criticize Baker if he believes the Tennessee Republican is using his leadership role to further his announced presidential ambitions.

Dole indirectly criticized Baker last week after Baker said he would not support a new strategic arms limitation agreement unless the administration and the Soviet government agreed to amendments.

Dole said he believes it is far too early to talk of rejecting the treaty.

The Baker-Dole rapport could prove an interesting sidelight to the presidential campaigns.

JEFFERY HULL

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GUEST EDITORIAL

BY

Jeffery Hull

July 15, 1979

Editorial Editor
Russell Daily News
Box 513
Russell, Kansas 67665

Dear Editor:

Please find enclosed an editorial which you may feel free to use.

The Editorial is in regards to the argument in favor of the next President being of Kansas background, and why Senator Dole may be the person to fill the office.

Any questions you may have may be directed to me at the above address or by calling (913) 296-3751, during the day.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Hull

Executive Director
Kansas Young Republicans

This state has been embroiled in political controversy since before President Abraham Lincoln raised a thirty-four star flag above Independence Hall to symbolize the birth of Kansas, the state. Kansas, being born out of the first blood spilled during the Civil War, offers no surprise to anyone looking over our past, that the political environment in Kansas is not only exciting and colorful at times, but is also based on very sound principle and thought, the spirit of compromise and common sense, if you will.

In its' more than one hundred years, Kansas has placed before the nation two men as potential presidents.

Governor Alfred Landon was first in 1932 when a groundswell grew around his cash basis law and the formation of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Little more than two decades later, General Dwight D. Eisenhower was Kansas' second favorite son to campaign for our nation's highest office. The history books tell Ike's story of how he led the nation bolstered by his solid Kansas background.

Now as we prepare to enter the 1980 presidential campaign, Kansas has once again offered one of her finest to the nation as the possible next President of the United States. Bob Dole.

Senator Dole has served his state and nation well thus far in his career as serviceman, county attorney, Congressman and United States Senator, as well as almost becoming Vice President in 1976.