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Proof of Bob Dole's popularity is that the crowd clapped and stomped even after the sun warmed things up.

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Clear tonight, low 20s. Mostly sunny, high in the mid-40s. Sunday's high, 49. Monday, 42. Rain.

Bob Dole Opens Presidential Campaign



PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Sen. Bob Dole made his official announcement that he was seeking the Republican nomination for President of the United States this morning on a special podium in the middle of Main Street in his hometown, Russell. The platform was built in front of the drugstore where Dole

had worked as a soda jerk while attending Russell High School. With the senator is his wife, Elizabeth, both greeting the thousands of people at the ceremony. The announcement was carried live around the world by a host of television cameras connected to satellite dishes in downtown Russell. (Staff Photo)

Dole Backers Jam Main Street — Rally-Like Atmosphere With Cheers, Bands

Before a jam-packed crowd of more than 8,000 people today, Sen. Bob Dole outlined a series of specific aims and goals, answering frequent complaints from the nation's press about "lacking a vision." To a background of partisan cheers and frequent applause, Russell's native son said he could be elected president, would fight for a balanced budget and legislation to continue, would see that education remains "a great equalizer," would provide for the handicapped and needy; and provide strong economic guarantees for the nation.

The 25-minute announcement of Dole's intention to become the Republican Party's presidential nominee was made from a spartan platform in the center of Main Street, a few feet north of the Eighth Street intersection. It was topped with a large "Dole for President" sign. The sign and platform were painted in his campaign blue with campaign gold lettering on the sign. It was the first of three stops today and two Tuesday in a whirlwind tour of sensitive political areas.

The rally-like atmosphere was climaxed with bands playing "Step to the Rear," a Dole campaign song used in previous years, and the release of several thousand blue and gold balloons which had been hidden behind the speakers' stand. Dole stepped down from the stage to visit with those in the crowd and to shake hands before the entire caravan was assembled and headed for

the Great Bend airport to board a chartered plane en route to Des Moines.

Introducing Dole was Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, Wichita, long-time friend of Senator Dole. She spoke of his decisive ability to make things happen and his dedication to Kansas and Kansans.

Russell Townsley, master of ceremonies, read a copy of the War Department telegram received May 3, 1945, by Dole's parents, informing them of his injuries in battle. After months in a hospital, Dole's condition worsened until mid 1947 when Dr. Hampar Kelikian, refugee neurosurgeon, Chicago, agreed to undertake surgery on Dole. Hospitalization was a cost the Doles could not meet.

Townsley introduced G. B. "Bub" Dawson, former co-owner of Dawson's Drug Store where Dole was employed during high school after school hours.

Dawson told of cigar boxes placed in the drug store and at the Veterans of Foreign Wars where contributions were made by area residents.

He handed Dole one of the boxes used which was secretly taken from Dole's office recently. Inside were checks and cash exceeding \$100,000 for Dole's campaign fund.

Marie Boyd, Phillipsburg, wife of McMill "Huck" Boyd, introduced Senator Kassebaum. She told of her husband's dedication to Republicanism and of her confidence in principles exemplified by Mrs. Kassebaum and Dole.

Congressman Pat Roberts, Kansas First District, was introduced by Russell County Republican Chairman, Russell attorney Larry D. Ehrlich.

Roberts told of the importance of the presidential campaign to Russell and to Kansas, congratulated those attending and Russell residents for taking part in a vital venture.

Kansas Governor Mike Hayden, boosting Republicanism and the need for good policies and sound government, was introduced by Roberts.

Dave Owens, Owens and Associates, Dole's financial advisor, introduced officials and leading Republicans in the crowd.

Townsley introduced the Russell High School Band following Governor Hayden's remarks. As the band played school fight and pep numbers, the Doles reached the stand from the nearby Unified School District 407 central office.

As the Doles reached the stage, the band broke into "Step to the Rear," a campaign song used in previous Dole campaigns. Townsley was pressed into service as cheerleader as the crowd's chant of "Go, Dole" grew stronger.

It was following the cigar box presentation that Townsley asked the crowd to join the 2,400 school students in singing "God Bless America."

Dole's remarks followed.

Dole Wants to Be 'Common Sense' President

—Would Build on Reagan Administration Record

By IRA R. ALLEN

Robert Dole came home today to tell Kansas farmers and shopkeepers who helped save his life he wants to be a "common-sense" president of the "left-out and the down-and-out."

Formally opening his campaign for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination, Dole tried to differentiate himself from the front-runner, Vice President George Bush.

"The Reagan record is not something to stand on," Dole said. "It is not something to run on. It's something to build on."

Dole said one of the greatest threats facing America is the federal deficit. He promised to tackle it "head-on" without raising taxes.

Paralyzed and once pronounced in terminal condition, Dole spent some 39 months in hospitals as

6,600—where, in 1976, as the party's newly chosen vice presidential nominee, he wept when recalling how the "times I needed help, the people of Russell helped me."

Dole was a star athlete when he found himself drafted out of the University of Kansas and his life as the son of a struggling cream and egg salesman to become a platoon leader with the Army's 10th Mountain Division in Italy, a unit of expert New England skiers.

He was shot April 14, 1945, trying to rescue a fatally wounded comrade in an assault on Hill 913 in the Appennini Mountains, and he was left nearly dead.

his neighbors in Russell tossed money for his medical bills into a cigar box at Ol' Dawson's drug store, where he once jerked sodas.

Dole ended up losing one kidney and the use of his right arm, but he took the cigar box to Washington with him in 1960 — and today it was presented to him again ceremonially by druggist G. B. "Bub" Dawson.

In his speech, Dole pledged to tackle the runaway federal budget head-on without raising taxes and to make "no area of federal spending" exempt from cuts except for programs for "vulnerable Americans."

He also adopted the Reagan agenda of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, a line-item veto and opposition to abortion and support for the

strategic defense initiative commonly referred to as "Star Wars," and aid to the Nicaragua Contra rebels.

But Dole sought to portray himself as a candidate who could appeal to Democrats as well.

"And if it does nothing else, my campaign will make clear that our party will never practice the politics of exclusion," he said. "I will be sensitive to the needs of the left-out and the down-and-out in our society as they try to fulfill their own dreams."

In a slap at Bush, whose polished resume consists mainly of appointed positions and who is running as the ideological heir to President Reagan, Dole said, "I offer a record not a resume. I offer a willingness to work hard, to stand tough, to go the distance. I offer the strength and determination, molded in America's small-town heartland and tempered during a career of public service to bring common sense answers to the complex problems facing America in its third century."

Responding to criticism that he has yet to paint a vision of his presidency, Dole said:

"My answer is this: America must stop living for today while ignoring the long-term implications of our decisions and actions of our children and for generations to come. . . . The president of the United States should demonstrate in his every decision a sense of history and a sense of the future — an understanding that what is efficient and appropriate in serving our national interest today must survive the test of protecting our national interest for years to come."

Dole has been the Senate GOP leader for the last three years.

Page 2—Russell Daily News, Monday, Nov. 9, 1987

Editorial

Well Done

Today's Presidential Announcement goes into the books as another job well done. Once again, people have come through to do what needed to be done. They turned out, almost to a man—even if the phrase is painfully Chauvinistic for some readers. It was, once again, the "can-do" spirit that has come to mean Russell.

For those who may not remember, the same spirit has been present for the five decennial Prairiesta events, the two huge oil shows, numerous rodeos and other civic activities woven into the fabric that is Russell.

Native son, Sen. Bob Dole, opened his campaign for nomination as presidential candidate for the Republican Party. The town became the center of attention for a few hours and media, press, radio and television, worked the electronic miracles that placed Russell into the homes of the nation. As expected, pieces dropped into place as the many scenes of the show had their moments on stage.

To say that everything went smoothly would be as far from factual as it would be to say that residents objected to the interviews, phone calls, closed streets, frantic activity and interruptions of daily routines. But these are minor compared to the positives—the side of Russell that usually manages to rise to the occasion—and enjoy doing it.

Of course, without Bob Dole, this past week or two could never have been. But, on the other hand, without Russell, Bob Dole might not have been.

Questioning reporters asked time

and again "What is there about Bob Dole that makes people here support him so strongly?" The answer, of course, is Russell but we've found no way to express that support in so many words.

Midwestern values are important, so are good schools, churches, civic pride and probably the most intangible of all, shared feelings of successes and failures, which are such an important part of community life. Without these, there's little to hold a community together. Many believe sincerely that Bob Dole will become the nominee and even the President. But even the doubters here can't help but share his experiences, whatever the outcome.

Psychologists differ on what makes one town stand head and shoulders above the rest. We suggest that it's not a result of some magic potion but is, instead, a spirit that comes from the same roots that bring men like Bob Dole back home from time to time.

To say these past weeks have been easy would be incorrect. They've been difficult in many areas because of the failure of others to understand what we in the Midwest take for granted.

Whatever comes, good times or bad, people hereabouts manage to do what needs to be done. This is a strength of small towns not found in civic books. A victory often is achieved in spite of circumstances—instead of because of them.

Like many, we are already looking forward to the next celebration in Russell—if it doesn't come along too soon.—R.T.T.