

312.1
1987



The Topeka Capital-Journal

TUESDAY, November 10, 1987

46 pages

Official County and City Newspaper

single copy 25¢

Topeka, Kansas



Sen. Bob Dole's announcement in downtown Russell was capped with the release of hundreds of yellow and blue balloons, which soared southwest

erly over a crowd of about 9,000. Dole's visit to Russell was the start of a two-day, five-speech tour, which officially puts him in the race for the

Republican presidential nomination. Later on Monday, Dole made stops in Des Moines, Iowa, and Manchester, N.H.

Staff/Thad Allmon

Dole announces his bid, tells of his 'vision' as president

By MARTIN HAWVER
Capital-Journal staff writer

RUSSELL — Pressured for weeks for his "vision" of America, Sen. Bob Dole on Monday sketched a nation under his leadership that must have struck a familiar chord to many of the residents of Russell who gathered to cheer him on his first of five announcement-tour speeches.

Departing from his prepared text and drawing out his speech to nearly 30 minutes, Dole described a vision of America that rang of square deal and fair deal. "Bob Dole, do you understand the world and Main Street Russell?" he asked himself rhetorically.

"My presidency will be sensitive to the needs of the down and out. It will be an open presidency, like this nation is open," Dole said.

From his speaking platform in the heart of his small hometown, Dole said, "America's great heartland presidents were plain-speaking men whose clear-eyed vision enabled them to make the tough choices: Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan."

"My vision, like theirs, is shaped by the aspirations of shopkeepers and farmers, workers and everyday Americans. Like them, I see the opportunities before us ... Like them, I'm willing to make the tough choices needed to preserve opportunities for generations to come," Dole said.

"In the one fundamental area, then, it's that America must stop living for today, and ignoring long-term ef-

fects of its actions. A president should demonstrate with every decision that he has considered both history and the future," Dole said.

It was the flinty vision of a man who has seen successes and who has seen hard times, and it reverberated off the plate glass windows of empty storefronts that represented someone out of work, someone whose initial dream didn't work and who will have to come up with another one.

It was the speech of a candidate who once before tried for the Republican presidential nomination in a speech from the same corner, and who quickly was put out of the race in 1980 by George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

He didn't refer to the short-lived 1980 candidacy, but said, "I also recall a time in 1976 when President Gerald Ford joined me here, and that was another great day for Russell."

"I enjoy showing Russell off, although it doesn't take a whole lot longer now than it did when I was a boy," Dole said jokingly.

Dole, who has been spending several days a week in negotiations with the Reagan administration on a plan to reduce the federal deficit, called the deficit "the single greatest threat to prosperous and dynamic America."

"We do not expand opportunity when we burden our children with debt from our own self-indulgence. We will either sacrifice for our children or we will continue to make our children sacrifice for us. We have the

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privilege of choosing. Our children do not," Dole said.

"My pledge today is that we will tackle the runaway federal budget head-on — without raising tax rates," Dole said, carefully limiting the spectre of tax increases to rates alone, and leaving room for new or different taxes.

He proposed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget to enforce a multi-year budget-balancing plan that he said he would forge in his first weeks as president.

If Congress denies him a balanced budget constitutional amendment, he said he is willing to call a constitutional convention to approve the straitjacket on spending. He also said a president "must have a line-item veto" on spending, allowing the chief executive to reach into large appropriation bills and excise "wasteful and unnecessary pork-barrel projects."

Dole said education must remain a state-local-parental responsibility, but said the federal government can stimulate schools, including a back-to-basics approach that would include preschool education programs.

"In the highly competitive world of the 1990s, we can't afford to squander a single talent. As a start, we must cut the drop-out rate by at least 10 percent a year, and we must reduce by 21 million a year the 23 million adult Americans who can't read or write well enough to fill demanding jobs," Dole said.

He also said: "As president, I would continue my consistent and lifelong effort to protect the rights of the unborn — the first of which is the right to life."

He proposed wide-ranging changes in health delivery in the nation, saying: "We must be certain that we provide adequate medical care at both ends of the age spectrum — for infants and children as well as our elderly citizens. We're still not giv-

"When I am president, America will never retreat from those who need our help."

— Bob Dole,
presidential candidate

ing our infants the fighting chance they deserve to be born healthy, and prenatal care is the key."

He said the nation's health care system has serious gaps, which leave many elderly and disabled people without any assistance, striking "terror in the hearts of those who will soon need long-term care."

A supporter of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the so-called "Star Wars" satellite-based missile killer project, he said he hopes as president to start the phased deployment of the system.

Dole proposed an "alliance summit" of defense allies, including a formula for "burden-sharing" of international defense costs. "Our allies can afford to pay their share, and they should."

Dole spoke with wariness of the Soviet Union, referring to its leaders as "adversaries in the Kremlin" and saying it was the Strategic Defense Initiative that brought the Soviets to the bargaining table where an accord on medium-range nuclear arms in Europe is all but signed.

"But arms control is not the only item on our agenda with the Soviet Union. Whatever Glasnost turns out to be, it is not democracy," he said.

Dole pledged support for "genuine freedom fighters who hope to escape from terrorism, dictatorship and oppression."

"When I am president, America will never retreat from those who need our help. We will act with the knowledge that freedom is indivisible, not only for Americans, but for all humanity," Dole said.

Bob Dole's speech at a glance

Here are some highlights of Sen. Bob Dole's speech in Russell declaring his candidacy for president.

● He said the federal deficit is "the single greatest threat to prosperous and dynamic America."

● He said, "... we will tackle the runaway federal budget head-on — without raising tax rates."

● He proposed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget. He said he is willing to call a constitutional convention to gain one.

● He said a president must have the right of a line-item veto against "wasteful ... pork-barrel projects."

● He called for a reduction of the drop-out rate in schools by at least 10 percent a year, and an attack on adult illiteracy.

● He said, "As president I would continue my consistent and lifelong effort to protect the rights of the unborn ..."

● He said, "We must be certain that we provide adequate medical care at both ends of the age spectrum — for infants and

children as well as our elderly citizens."

● He said he hopes as president to start phased deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative anti-missile system.

● He proposed an "alliance summit" of defense allies and "burden-sharing" of international defense costs.

● He expressed wariness of the Soviet Union and pledged support "for genuine freedom fighters."

● He said, "My presidency will be sensitive to the needs of the down and out."

Iowa TV stations refuse to run ads critical of Dole

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The larger television network affiliates in Iowa have refused to air an anti-apartheid group's political ad critical of Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, the group's director said Monday.

"I am disappointed in the heartland of democracy," said Randall Robinson, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based group TransAfrica.

TransAfrica's 30-second advertisement criticizes Dole's support of President Reagan's veto of a Senate measure last year to impose economic sanctions against the South African government.

Dole had voted for the measure, however.

TransAfrica had wanted to run the commercial during the next three days in Iowa, which holds an early test of presidential candidate strength with its precinct caucuses next Feb. 8.

Robinson said no reason was given for the stations' rejection of the spots, but said "there was an implied degree of fear."

Most Iowa television station executives said the ad was turned down because it directly attacked a specific candidate, not because of its anti-apartheid message.

Michael Bock, general manager of KGAN-TV in Cedar Rapids, said the TransAfrica ad was rejected because it was "character assassination."