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The Dole Candidacy

If Republicans are as happy as many of them say they are with Ronald Reagan, Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas may not be their man. They've got George Bush, whose number one campaign theme has been loyalty to Reagan. And for those who doubt that loyalty, there's always true believer Jack Kemp.

Dole isn't running against the Reagan record, of course. But he is not running as a Reagan creation, a strategy whose wisdom seems more obvious by the day. The official announcement of Dole's presidential candidacy reflected some ambiguity, praising the Reagan record yet outlining how the Kansas senator would do things differently.

To his credit, Dole has repeatedly sounded the alarm on the federal deficit, which he calls the "single greatest threat to a prosperous and dynamic America." Dole promised that if he were elected he would sit down with congressional leaders and "not stop until we come up with a renewed commitment to a multiyear plan — a new compact — that ends with a balanced budget in the near future." This contrasts sharply with the lackadaisical approach taken by Reagan, who needed a stock market crash to get him to the table and is still floundering over what needs to be done. Dole places a high value on education. He

has also urged his party to remember that the government has a responsibility to help the poor, the disabled, children and older persons who have nowhere else to turn. It's a needed reminder not just for the Republican party but for American society as a whole, where in recent years idealistic theories about the marketplace have sometimes served a little more than excuses for greed and thoughtlessness.

Just as Democrats are pulled to the left in the early stages of the presidential race, Republicans are pulled to the right. This we hear Dole kicking off his campaign with some right to life rhetoric and a promise to "hackle the runaway federal budget head-on — without raising taxes." Sure.

In his long career in national politics Dole has demonstrated a flexibility that some consider a fault and others a virtue. "I may not be totally predictable," he said recently. "I'm not certain that's all bad."

Do the inconsistencies in the Dole record signal opportunism or open-mindedness? Undoubtedly some of both. But flexibility is certainly not "all bad," particularly when the problems facing political leaders often turn out to be far more complex than they seemed on the campaign trail.

Dole For President Exploratory Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 13, 1987

Contact: Janice Hardschberger (913) 569-1141

The Kansas Dole for President Chairman and member of the Senior Strategy Group at National Dole for President Headquarters, Mr. Kim Wells, an attorney from Lawrence, Kansas announced today the statewide district and county leadership for Senator Dole's campaign for the Presidency of the United States.

(The leadership in Russell County is listed on the attached sheet.) The grassroots leadership will be organizing the volunteer efforts in their respective counties and will be raising funds for the Senator's Republican presidential nomination.

"I am happy to welcome aboard such fine hard-working individuals," said Mr. Wells. "They have proven themselves to be respected and experienced leaders throughout the state of Kansas, and I look forward to working with them in the months ahead."

In addition to State Chairman Wells, the state leadership is also represented by Mrs. Lillian Papay, Great Bend, a long-time supporter of Senator Dole's, and Mr. John Peterson, an attorney from Overland Park, who are serving in Co-Chairman positions.

Former Lt. Governor Dave Owen, long-time advisor to Senator Bob Dole, who has served as a National Co-Chairman of the Exploratory Committee, also serves as the Finance Chairman of the Kansas effort.

Mrs. Janice Hardschberger, Haddam, serves the campaign as Campaign Coordinator in the Kansas Office which is located in Overland Park.

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Paid for by Dole for President Exploratory Committee

Just a great day for hot dogs, apple pie and Bob Dole

RUSSELL — You should've seen this town Monday. That's the only way you'd ever believe what it was like.

It was better than one of those wonderful old Hollywood movies with cotton candy, high school marching bands, little brothers with freckles and Jimmy Stewart sweeping June Allyson off her feet by being very sincere about everything.

You know what it was all about, of course. Hometown boy makes good. Hometown boy makes official announcement he is running for President of the United States of America. Senator Bob Dole, Russell High School, Class of '41, has come home again.

I get a lump in my throat just thinking about it all. We are talking soda fountains, high school bands, squealing schoolgirls, thousands of cheering people flooding the streets, and, for a nice Hollywood twist, a mystery woman who drives up in a spectacular blue limousine and, because she thinks so highly of Senator Dole,



Bob Getz

donates \$10,000 to Russell's needy people.

What happened here Monday probably gave Norman Rockwell goosebumps in his grave.

No matter what your political persuasion, you had to love this scene . . .

The setting is the middle of the intersection of 8th and Main. Both streets are brick.

gigantic American flag flaps. Hand-held mini-flags flap and wave all over.

Schoolgirls squeal every now and then, almost in unison. "Sing along with us now," a voice says into the mike.

"God bless America, land that I lovvvvvv . . ."

Russell's population is 5,427. Crowd estimates will range up to 8,000. Has an entire town ever been filled beyond capacity, so to speak, before?

"We want Dole! We want Dole!" the school kids shout.

Almost all the businesses downtown feature Dole messages ("Bob's the '11"), Dole pictures, Dole souvenirs.

For sale are Bob Dole caps, Bob Dole T-shirts, Bob Dole belt buckles, Bob Dole posters and even a Bob Dole stuffed pheasant.

The marquee above the Dream Cinemas has been changed. It says: "Hot Dogs, Apple Pie, Bob Dole — America's Hometown Combo."

Fran Schrimsher of Topeka wears her personalized auto tag dangling from her neck: "DOLE 88".

"People are always going 'toot-toot' on their horns when I'm driving along," she says.

Dole's speech lasts almost exactly 30 minutes.

Great Bend High School's great band belts out "Barbara Ann," "Georgia on My Mind," "Walk Like an Egyptian" . . .

Bob and Liddy Dole, working in different directions, descend to the street to meet the people, and the crowd closes in on them like the sea swallowing a couple of pebbles.

"Good to see you!" Liddy Dole says to somebody.

"Isn't this exciting?" she says to somebody else.

"Good to see you!" she says to person No. 40,400, whatever.

She exudes grace, warmth. You watch for her arm to fall off or her smile to burn out.

"Good to see you!"

Meanwhile, Senator Dole, no slouch himself in the "Hi, how are ya?" department, matches his wife's charm and smile, tooth for tooth.

What a dynamic couple. Bob Dole, tall, distinguished, crisply

groomed and tailored, still looks like he just stepped off a wedding cake. You expect to see cake icing on his shoes. A top hat in his hand.

And Liddy Dole, Southern belle and modern woman, could be straight out of "Gone With the Wind." Except she could teach Scarlett O'Hara a few things.

The mystery woman — "Sophie" — is quite a character, dressed all in black. She came all the way from New York City by limo, nonstop. Two chauffeurs shared the driving of her magnificent set of wheels. All Mayor Randy Mai can say is she's "a volunteer worker for the U.N."

It's late morning, hours after proceedings began, when the Dole motorcade pulls away, with Mrs. Dole smiling and calling out the window, "Byyyyyyye," leaving this town with a memory unlike any other.

So, what'd I tell you?

Shucks. On second thought, I doubt Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson were ever this good.

Wichita Eagle Tribune

ROD 11-14

Bob Dole Works to Shed Lingering Hatchetman Image

By IRAR ALLEN
 WASHINGTON (UPI) — Bob Dole's 1988 presidential campaign provides a contrast in rhetoric between his early act on the national stage as a wisecracking "hatchetman" and his new image as a man of compassion.

The Senate Republican leader has successfully changed his personality from the 1976 campaign when he ran for vice president with Gerald Ford to the 1988 campaign where he is a clear No. 2 to Vice President George Bush in a six-man race, billing himself as a people's politician, not a blueblood.

Thousands of Dole supporters, attending VCR "video parties" in conjunction with their candidate's formal announcement Monday, see a man Washington insiders have long known, but whose image a dozen years ago

was that of a tough political gut-fighter.

He may be best remembered to voters for his campaign rhetoric of 1976 when he told Walter Mondale the Republicans should no more be held responsible for Watergate than Democrats should be held responsible for "four Democrat wars" this century.

In interviews after the 1976 race and before he began his 1988 effort, Dole recalled the campaign rhetoric that led a prominent comedian to suggest that he was traveling to South America to "set up a charm school for dictators."

"I knew what my assignment was in the campaign," Dole said. "I was in the briar patch and Ford was in the rose garden." Later, he reflected, "I've been

under the pressure and I don't say I always responded the way I liked. You look back and you probably could have done better."

But defending his partisanship, Dole added: "You've got to be able to get people to respond. You've got to feed them a little raw meat now and then. They want to know you're different . . . when they see you standing up they'll know you're going to say something that you believe and you're not going to waffle on it."

It was apparent 12 years ago that Dole, for all his partisan slashing, was a genuine wit and a politician of unusual compassion, favoring civil rights, consumer protection and programs for the disabled.

Only recently has Dole boasted of his war record, to counter Bush's status as the Navy's

youngest World War II pilot.

Dole's right arm was shattered by German machine gun fire when — and he jokes about this — as a 20-year-old farmboy he was sent to the Italian alps as part of the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Critically wounded, his hopes of becoming a doctor gone forever, Dole spent 39 months in a hospital.

Standing next to Ford in the courthouse square of his native Russell, Kan., the day after he was picked to run for vice president, Dole recalled how neighbors passed a cigar box to raise money for his treatment — and the hard-bitten hatchetman wept.

"If I have had success, it is because of the people here," he said. "The times I have needed help, the people of Russell helped me."

The money paid for that inno-

vative surgery saved his arm, although he has little control over it and suffers numbness in his left hand. To this day, he cannot button his shirt collar without help.

Since then, he rose from a little-known four-term congressman to a highly partisan pro-Nixon senator of whom a colleague once said, "He couldn't sell beer on a troop ship."

After the 1976 campaign, Dole laid plans to run for president in 1980, quickly falling behind Bush and President Reagan in early primaries. But he honed his skills as a conciliator and succeeded the genial Howard Baker as GOP Senate leader in 1984.

Now, as he campaigns in Iowa and New Hampshire, Dole dwells on his leadership and his background with the same self-deprecating wit as before, but this time emphasizing his link of compas-

sion with the average voter.

He talks of fathering the food stamp program and protecting Social Security. He recalls his parents — his father wore overalls and ran a cream and egg store for 42 years. His mother took in sewing.

As county attorney in the 1960s, Dole tells of how it was his responsibility to approve welfare grants and found his grandparents on the rolls.

"Not because they were lazy. They weren't. They were farmers. They were tenant farmers. They were kicked off the farm. They went broke."

The new Dole is campaigning on four themes — leadership, experience, sensitivity and compassion.

Asked recently to describe his new persona, Dole said, "I'm not going to be the gunslinger."