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Dole ends presidential bid

Senator says he'll aid Bush

By Angella Herrin
Of our Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas ended his campaign for the White House on Tuesday, clearing the way for vice president George Bush's formal nomination as the Republican party's 1988 presidential candidate.

Standing in the historic Senate Caucus room surrounded by campaign workers and House and Senate colleagues, a relaxed and smiling Dole admitted it wasn't easy to step aside and declare Bush, his bitter rival, the winner in the hard-fought battle for the nomination.

"My friends know that I am a fighter. I don't like to lose. I make no apology for that. It is simply the way I am," he said. "They also know I am an optimist. . . I have been beaten before and no doubt will be again. But I have never been defeated and never will be."

But Dole, 64, said it was time to quit the campaign and return to his post as Senate minority leader.

"One thing you learn how to do pretty well in our business is to count. You come to trust your instincts to tell you when it's over," Dole said. "In my heart, I know that time is now. I congratulate George Bush and wish him well in November."

Bush, campaigning in Wisconsin, welcomed Dole's announcement.

"It relieves some of the tension," he said. "It is a significant, major happening because it would all but make me the nominee of the party and . . . enable me to do the things in terms of unity."

The only other Republican still in the race, former religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, wasn't talking about unity. "I am staying in the race for the duration," Robertson said in a statement issued from his Chesapeake, Va., headquarters.

● DOLE, 4A, Col. 1



Bob Dole was smiling and relaxed Tuesday as he ended his campaign, and afterward, as he is applauded by his wife, Elizabeth.

Vice Presidential Possibilities

In addition to Elizabeth Dole, shown above, other often-mentioned candidates for a Republican presidential ticket headed by George Bush include:



George Deukmejian
California governor



Lamar Alexander
A university chancellor



William Armstrong
Colorado senator



Thomas Kean
New Jersey governor

Republicans can wait on running mate

By Larry Eichel
Of our Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — With George Bush's nomination assured, the big unanswered question on the Republican side is who this vice president wants to be the next vice president.

Bush says it is too early even to think about the subject of a running mate. His aides insist he has not discussed the matter, at least not in their presence.

"George Bush will be looking for George Bush — competence, loyalty, integrity," said Rich Bond, Bush's national political director. "On the subject of the vice presidency, there's no greater expert in the world."

The guesswork, though, has begun, and the names mentioned most often include California Gov. George Deukmejian, former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean, Colorado Sen. William Armstrong, New York Rep. Jack Kemp, White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker and former Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole.

● BUSH, 5A, Col. 1

In 8 weeks, Dole goes from front-runner to dropout

● DOLE, from 1A

"Although it seems obvious that George Bush will be the nominee of the Republican party, my own plans at this time remain unchanged," Robertson said.

"I intend to lead a solid group of conservative delegates to the convention in New Orleans."

Robertson has 34 delegates. Bush has 793 and Dole had 192, with 73 uncommitted. It takes 1,139 delegates to win the GOP nomination.

Dole's withdrawal came after several weeks of speculation that he would leave the race, following disastrous defeats in the Super Tuesday primaries throughout the South and the Illinois primary. Bets with money problems that forced him to dismiss his staff, and public opinion polls that showed him far behind Bush, Dole's campaign seemed to survive only on his own fierce determination.

The end of Dole's second bid for the presidency comes a little less than eight weeks after he left Iowa the triumphant victor in the state's Republican caucuses. Polls then showed Dole poised to win the New Hampshire primary, and emerge as the Republican front-runner. "For a while, my pollster was calling me Mr. President," Dole joked later.

But instead, Dole and his staff were stunned by the loss in New Hampshire. The campaign staggered into Super Tuesday, fraught with disagreements and money problems. The firing of two top aides by campaign chairman Bill Brock served to underline the internal fighting Dole was unable to resolve.

On Super Tuesday, Dole lost in all 17 states, unable to claim victory even in Missouri and Oklahoma, neighbors to his home state.

Great Bend worker ends campaign toil

By Al Polczynski
Staff Writer

Nowhere could anyone find a more ardent worker in the Dole for President ranks than Lillian Papay in Great Bend.

An hour after Sen. Bob Dole called it quits in Washington, Papay talked, her quaking voice betraying her feelings at times, of emotions ranging from exhilaration to disappointment.

A 64-year-old homemaker, Papay shared the leadership of Dole's Senate re-election campaign in 1986 with Kim Weiss, an Overland Park lawyer. No sooner

Dole insisted that Illinois would be his "recovery" state on March 15, even though worried aides, eyeing the lead Bush had built, urged him to suspend the campaign.

In a desperate attempt to salvage his candidacy, Dole laid off most of his staff and announced he was pulling his TV advertisements off the air to pay for a half-hour live broadcast. But even that last-minute, direct plea to voters was marred by technical difficulties.

After his defeat in Illinois, Dole started campaigning in Wisconsin, calling it his "comeback" state.

had Dole won than the two assumed similar roles in his presidential campaign, later to be joined by John Petersen, Gov. Mike Hayden's legal counsel in Topeka.

Papay estimated she spent at least six hours a day on the campaign, although some days the campaign absorbed both the beginning and the end of the day without a break. No one can tell Papay that this huge investment of time, energy and work was a waste.

"Oh, no," she said emphatically. "He's a friend. You do things like that for a friend."

Her friendship with Dole dates back more than 18 years, but she began spending a great deal of time on his campaigns beginning with the hard-fought Senate race in 1974.

In that race against Democrat Bill Roy, Papay was 1st District

coordinator.

"That's where he won the race — by 26,000 votes, enough to provide his statewide victory margin of 13,500 votes," she said. Since then, Dole has won re-election without strong opposition.

Among her memories of this campaign, Papay cherishes the one of a bus ride to Des Moines with Kansas supporters — the Kazoo Korps — who formed a cheering section for Dole at the Midwest Republican Conference.

And the letters she and other Kansans received from the more than 100,000 Iowans who were urged in a letter-writing campaign to vote for Dole in their Feb. 8 caucuses.

"It just seemed like the time was right," Papay said Tuesday. "But George Bush had all those years to prepare for this. He inherited a lot of governors and other leaders from the Reagan campaign."

"If both would have started out fresh, Dole would still be in the race. I'm sure of that," she said.

Dole scored a significant victory in Iowa but was tripped up in New Hampshire a week later.

"After New Hampshire, the people forgot to look at the man," Papay said. "They wanted to go with a winner. Sometimes a winner is not the one to go with. And we were spread too thin in the Super Tuesday states. We should have concentrated on four or five. We could have won those. Then the race would have been different."

Papay knew the end was coming.

"Knowing Bob Dole as I do, he's not the kind to stay in, run up big bills and spend years paying them off," she said.

"This is what he had to do. It's sad, but I agree, it's what he had to do."

wife, Elizabeth, as a running mate. However, many in the Bush camp think that the rivalry between the former Secretary of Transportation's husband and Bush would prevent such a match-up. There also are doubts about naming a vice president who is married to a Senate leader.

Some supporters had urged Dole to suspend his campaign, rather than withdraw. But one source said Dole wanted to make a clean break, rather than appear to be waiting for Bush's candidacy to be damaged by revelations about his involvement in the Iran-Contra affair.

Dole, flanked by his wife and daughter Robin during his short speech, joked that he would not attack Bush as he had in the final days of his campaigning.

"We're not going to say anything mean, we're not going to attack any Republicans," Dole quipped.

In fact, Dole said he will, "return to the Senate as the Republican leader . . . ready to do all I can to elect Republicans in November and doing all I can for our nominee, George Bush."

Dole recalled his announcement speech on a cold November morning in his hometown of Russell. "It was only natural I should begin