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Campaign '88

4A THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON Wednesday, March 30, 1988



Russell residents Larry Rogers, Sharon Hughs and Trina Fell watch Sen. Bob Dole's televised withdrawal speech Tuesday.

Decision dismays Kansans

Republicans across state praise former candidate

By Al Polczynski
Staff Writer

At her desk in the Russell State Bank, Kay Homewood confessed to being "disappointed and a little shaky" Tuesday after Sen. Bob Dole ended his second run at the GOP nomination for president.

"It definitely was a dream," said Homewood, GOP vice chairwoman for Russell County. "I'm just disappointed that other people couldn't see him as we see him."

Russell's Main Street, where 5,000 people cheered Dole in November as he announced his candidacy, was quiet Tuesday.

Several reporters roamed the street, getting reactions from people from whom Dole said he had always drawn his strength. They congregated at Rogers Drug Store — the Ol' Dawson Drug Store where Dole once jerked sodas — and they talked to his old high school chum Bub Dawson and Larry Rogers, current owner of the store.

"It's the country's loss. I really believe that," Dawson said. "The town as a whole feels badly. Russell's for Bob. There's very few that aren't."

ON A scale of 1 to 10, clothier Dean Banker rated Tuesday no higher than a 3. Besides Dole's withdrawal, Banker said, people were stunned by the closing of Russell's Inn, the largest and only full service motel in town.

Dawson viewed Dole's withdrawal as a testament to the senator's loyalty to his party. "He wouldn't do anything to cause a rift in the party," he said.

Russell's disappointment was matched in Washington, where Republican Sen. Nancy Kassebaum had stood near Dole in the historic Senate caucus room as he made his seven-minute speech.

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NORMA JEAN Steele, Dole's younger sister in Derby, had thought for days that the end of the race was coming. "If he thought it would

hurt the party, he would end it. That's what he's done," she said. "But the political ballgame isn't over for Bob Dole ... he's still pitching."

In Wichita, GOP National Committeeman Jack Ranson talked of the high hopes Kansans had for the Dole campaign. "It's sad to see the drama end so early. I thought it might go right down to the convention."

Norman Staab, past national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is a fellow Russellite who served as co-chairman of Veterans for Dole. He remembered the pride he felt as he introduced Dole to a VFW conference in Des Moines and to a national reception in New Orleans last year.

"He got a lot of exposure from veterans," Staab said. "I'm so disappointed. I thought he sure could have done it this time. But I just feel we didn't move early enough."

Rick Harman of Fairway, former candidate for governor, said he couldn't think of "another political event in a long, long time that was more sad for me personally."

WITH HIS wife, Susie, Harman had spent many hours telephoning former Kansans, urging them to support Dole.

"In our lifetimes, we will be hard-pressed to have a presidential contender rise up from our midst," Harman said. "This was exciting. That made it special for us."

But Russell residents can take solace in what Banker said: "Like I told Kenny Dole (Dole's younger brother in Russell), I don't care what they say, I still think we had the best man in the race. You try not to show your emotions. We don't like to wear them on our sleeve."

Editorials

In God We Trust

Dole's gracious exit

It is one of the ironies of politics that Bob Dole, in withdrawing from the race for the Republican nomination for president, looked most presidential.

Those who perceived Dole to have a "mean streak" must have been disappointed. There was no venom, no curtness, no acerbity. Dole was gracious, a statesman. He accepted the inevitable by putting past hostilities aside and pledging support to the party and to George Bush.

If he ever entertains the notion of running again, perhaps his graceful exit in 1988 will have dispelled the leftover image of Dole as the hatchet man. He earned that label in the 1976 campaign as Gerald Ford's running mate. It was the role he was told to do by the campaign advisers — and, in typical Dole fashion, he did it well. Too well. The strategy backfired; some even have said it cost them the election. And Dole was branded with an image he didn't deserve.

Circumstances also played against Dole. He was running against the man perceived to have the blessing of an immensely popular president. As Dole himself said, he could handle Bush one-on-one, but the shadow of Reagan in Bush's corner put Dole at

a distinct disadvantage. As the Washington Post pointed out, Dole is just the most recent in a long line of legislative leaders who have found it difficult to translate their sterling records in Congress to popular support in the hustings. He joins the likes of Howard Baker, Lyndon Johnson and Robert Taft.

Finally, Dole himself must accept some of the blame. The organizational problems in his campaign and his reluctance to let go of the reins worked against him. His war chest was depleted much too soon — and it was not always spent wisely. The resulting turmoil resulted too often in negative reports in the media topping the positive news about the candidate.

Kansans feel a kindred disappointment that Dole won't be the next president. And it involves more than just state pride. They know that Bob Dole's pragmatism, his ability to work for compromise with legislative leaders, would have been put to good use in facing the difficulties that are bound to surface for the next administration.

Barring some calamity between now and August, that wasn't to be. But we can be grateful that the nation can continue to rely on his leadership in the Senate.

April 14, 1988

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

POLITICAL FAILURE

Our political leadership is also failing. There can be no consensus on defense policy until our political leadership assumes its responsibility of debating—and ultimately answering—the following questions:

What are the threats to America and the West?

What is our national defense strategy to deal with these threats?

What is the mission of the U.S. military?

What do we expect our armed forces to do?

How do we expect them to do it?

A lack of proper answers to these questions is far more dangerous to world peace than the weapons everyone worries about. Wars usually start because one side misperceives the strength and intention of the other. Overestimation of the enemy can sometimes be as dangerous as underestimation. If we are to assume that was begun because of faulty or broken-down policy, it's time to ask how we expect to generate good public policy from skewed data, and perhaps to wonder just how dangerous poor data are to world peace.

APRIL 14—AN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, everyone has calendar dates that mark important events in their lives. Well, today is one of mine. On an Italian battlefield 43 years ago—April 14, 1945—my life changed forever.

OPERATION CRAFTSMAN

Forty-three years ago, I was a young second lieutenant in the 10th Mountain Division, leading a platoon of soldiers against some heavily entrenched German forces. It was but one small story in a large-scale Allied offensive called Operation Craftsman. We were supposedly driving the Nazis back to Berlin through the soft underbelly of Europe, but those of us who had been fighting through the mud and the mountains knew firsthand that the Italian underbelly was anything but soft.

My platoon was pinned down by fierce enemy fire. Ahead lay a deadly minefield. All around me, men were going down. I tried to bring one of them back to the safety of a foxhole. In doing so, I too became a casualty.

AN NECESSARY REVIEW

Now, Mr. President, I am not here today to tell old war stories. What happened to me 43 years ago today is not nearly as important as what has happened since.

As a disabled American—and there are 37 million of us—I choose to use this anniversary to review how far this country has come with respect to the lives of the disabled—and how far it has to go.

Mr. President, on this date 5 years ago I stood before this body and announced the formation of a foundation dedicated to expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

THE DOLE FOUNDATION

A few years ago, the Dole Foundation was just an idea. An idea born out of the rehabilitation of one man and the support he received from his

hometown of Russell, KS. But one foundation can't do it alone. I would like to believe that America stands on the brink of a new frontier. A frontier where disabled individuals will be judged not by their disabilities, but by their abilities.

Unfortunately, 67 percent of work-injury persons with disabilities who want to work cannot find employment. In America today, 25 percent of all of our unemployed are disabled. Only 1 disabled woman in 5 works, and 82 percent of black disabled Americans are unemployed.

The Dole Foundation for Employment of People With Disabilities is working to change those statistics. In its short history, the Dole Foundation has awarded 75 grants totaling \$2 million to grassroots nonprofit organizations all over America. These local organizations provide job training and job placement to people with disabilities.

OPPORTUNITIES, NOT HANDOUTS

In fact, the Dole Foundation is the only foundation in America that is solely dedicated to the economic independence of people with all types of disabilities. I am proud to say that the Dole Foundation is the national leader in providing grants to organizations that train and place people with disabilities in jobs.

Mr. President, I am convinced that the vast majority of people with disabilities don't want handouts. They want the opportunity to work, to take care of their families, and to pursue the American dream. But barriers still prevent them from reaching that goal. Sadly, many of these obstacles only exist in the minds of those who are not disabled.

REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT

With the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Congress stated loud and clear that persons with disabilities must have an equal opportunity to participate in our society. This year, we reaffirmed that commitment with the overwhelming passage of the Civil Rights Restoration Act. I have always been committed to ensuring the rights of the disabled. I have not—and will not—veer from this commitment.

We need new initiatives in the public and private sector to help create new employment opportunities and to eliminate age-old disincentives.

TRANSPORTATION

The lack of accessible transportation remains a major concern for persons with disabilities. In the 99th Congress, I introduced the Air Carrier Access Act which later became law. The Department of Transportation should be issuing its rules and regulations within the next few months.

I look forward to seeing provisions that will finally eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, and will also end the mistreatment of the disabled by some air carriers.

Thank you, Mr. President, for another year that has been so good. While the Do-