

Dole finally gives his answer: He's running for another term

Opposition from Glickman still a question

By Bud Norman
The Wichita Eagle

TOPEKA — Kansas' Republican Party breathed a sigh of relief Friday when Sen. Bob Dole finally answered the question of whether he would seek re-election with a simple "Yes."

"Nobody knew I was going to say that," Dole said. "Not even my staff, and they've been with me all day."

The Senate's minority leader made the announcement at Topeka's Ramada Inn, where GOP activists and officeholders from across the state were gathered for Kansas Day meetings. The packed room responded with a long standing ovation.

Dole said he had delayed his decision to seek a fifth term for several months because he had been diagnosed as having prostate cancer. Re-

publican strategists had admittedly been anxious about the prospect of life without one of their main power brokers in Washington.

"It was the shortest announcement speech I'd ever heard, and also the best one," said Kim Wells, Republican state party chairman. "This should help the party a lot. Now we don't have to worry about an open Senate seat and we can concentrate on the Legislature."

Well-tanned after a recent vacation in North Carolina, Dole said he was able to commit himself to another run because Dec. 18 surgery for prostate cancer had proved successful.

Though he admitted "I won't be working late for a few more weeks," the 68-year-old Dole said he expected to be fully recovered soon, and that he would be able to remain active through a six-year term. He named several people in the room who had fully recovered from similar operations and even offered his latest cholesterol level, 160, as further proof of his good health.

Meanwhile, other Republicans in Topeka were trying to gauge how Dole's announcement would affect the party's health. Rep. Dick Nichols of the soon-to-be-defunct 5th District summed up the optimistic mood by saying that Dole would not only enjoy an easy race, but that "others will look to him for help in their campaigns."

George Parsons, a longtime Sedgewick County GOP activist, said: "Probably the most important thing is it frees us up to take Dan Glickman on in the 4th District. I think that's the bottom line."

State Sen. Eric Yost, R-Wichita and the only announced candidate for Democrat Glickman's congressional seat, predicted that Dole's announcement would scare Glickman

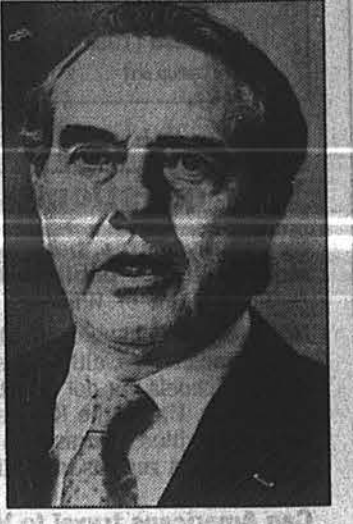


"While I respect Sen. Dole, our agendas are very different. A race between us would give Kansans a real choice at the polls."

Rep. Dan Glickman

"There's a lot of frustration out there; we've got to be honest about that."

Sen. Bob Dole, who predicted better times by Election Day



The Topeka Capital-Journal, Saturday, January 25, 1992



—Chris Ochsen/The Capital-Journal

Republican Party faithful applauded Sen. Bob Dole after he announced he would run for a fifth term at a news conference

Friday at the Ramada Inn Downtown. There had been speculation about whether he would run after having prostate surgery.

Dole says 'yes' to Senate race

■ Cheers greet decision to seek fifth term, which ends speculation Dole might retire for health reasons

By MARTIN HAWVER
The Capital-Journal

With a simple "Yes," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., announced Friday he will run for re-election to a fifth six-year term.

The announcement ended months of speculation that the 68-year-old Dole, who underwent prostate cancer surgery five weeks ago, might retire.

The state's senior senator, who was in Topeka for the kickoff of Republican Kansas Day activities, said he decided just Friday morning to make his announcement in Topeka and then told his wife, Elizabeth.

"I told Liddy just this morning that I was going to go ahead and announce it. And I haven't said a thing about it until right now," he said at a news conference at the Ramada Inn Downtown.

He said he will be taking the next two or three months relatively easy, "not working late at night or early in the morning," but said he will be up to speed physically after that.

He said that the Dec. 18 prostate removal operation was a success and that he has no concerns about his health.

"I have a certificate of health if people want to see it," Dole said.

Dole's health is a major concern for Kansas Republicans, because Democratic Gov. Joan Finney would appoint a successor to Dole should he have to step down for health reasons.

His announcement capped weeks of speculation that if he retired, U.S. Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., or Nestor Weigand of Wichita might mount a Senate campaign.

Kim Wells, state Republican chairman, said the Dole '92 campaign already is organized down to the county level, with chairman, finance people and volunteers ready.

Dole was greeted by cheers at his announcement in a packed press conference in which GOP well-wishers outnumbered the press. An aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Slattery, D-Topeka, also watched.

Dole has been elected by substantial margins since his last major contest against former 2nd District Rep. Bill Roy, a Democrat, in 1974.

Dole, a Russell native, said running for re-election to the Senate "is going to be difficult, very difficult this year."

"There is an anti-incumbency mood, yes, we have that in Kansas, too," he said.

"I enjoy public service, believe I have done a good job and will be re-elected."

He said the next few months' congressional action will be crucial for Republicans seeking re-election.

"Things don't look real good if you are out of work or can't get a home, but people also don't want us to just run up the debt another couple hundred billion dollars, either. I think people are going to be keeping track of us, all members of Congress this year," he said.

Dole said he will continue in his position as Senate minority leader and hopes Republicans have enough success in other states so he can become majority leader again.

Kansas is "losing congressmen, from six when I was first elected to five and to four in the coming election, and small states such as ours have to keep their strength. That's one reason I wanted to run," Dole said.

Dole flew into Topeka on Friday and was to leave Friday night, ahead of the major political activity of Kansas Day, which will be today.

"My doctor told me I could have one day, and that I could blame him either way for whatever I decided to do. I just thought that I better get this announced here, rather than having it done at some off-the-record briefing," he said.

Elizabeth Dole will be in Topeka today for Kansas Day activities.

Saturday, January 25, 1992

50 cents

Dole will seek another term

68-year-old says cancer battle delayed decision

By The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Bob Dole ended a moderate degree of uncertainty about his political future on Friday, announcing to a room crowded with supporters and news media representatives that he will seek election this year to a fifth six-year term in the U.S. Senate.

Dole, 68, said his decision had been delayed by his battle against prostate cancer during the past five months. He said he has been given a clean bill of health as a result of surgery on Dec. 18 to remove the cancerous gland.

"I really feel pretty good," he said. "But you do get a little tired."

Dole had told no one of his decision, he said, until he called his wife, Elizabeth Dole, from the airport just before leaving Washington Friday morning. His staff and Kansas Republican Party officials

had no advance information.

President Bush called Dole at the hotel where he made the announcement to congratulate the Senate minority leader.

"The president didn't even know," said Walt Riker, Dole's press secretary. "He was only told that Dole was making an announcement."

Riker quoted the president as telling Dole, "Thank God you're running. America needs you. I'll do anything I can do to help you."

Dole offered to help Bush in the New Hampshire primary, Riker said, but it would be premature to speculate on what form that help might take.

In Washington, Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said in a statement:

"This is great news for Republicans in the Senate and for America. Bob's decision also will be a big morale booster for Republican candidates everywhere."

The only major potential opponent known to be looking at challenging Dole is Rep. Dan Glickman,

D-Kan.

In the wake of Dole's announcement, Glickman, Wichita, said in a statement he would make a decision soon whether to challenge Dole or seek re-election to the House. He gave no timetable for an announcement, but said, "I don't intend to agonize over this."

Glickman confirmed he would have "jumped into the race" had Dole decided to retire.

The first question posed to Dole at a news conference at a downtown hotel where he attended the annual Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas dinner Friday night was whether he was going to run again.

"Yes," he replied, and loud applause broke out from 75 to 100 Republicans in the room.

"Nobody knew that," Dole said of his decision.

He said he "sort of hinted" to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum a couple of days ago that he would run, and that he had been leaning toward running all along.

Because of his surgery less than six weeks ago, Dole remains on a limited schedule. He has returned to his Senate duties, but told reporters Friday his regimen includes no early morning or late night work.

"I thought about it a lot," Dole said of his decision to run. "I wanted to be sure I was in good health. I got this little wake up call in August or September (when the prostate problem was detected)."

He said he asked his physician if he could come to Kansas to make "this little announcement," and the doctor approved the trip. Dole also attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at an Environmental Protection Agency regional office building in Kansas City, Kan., and spoke at a luncheon to the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce before coming to Topeka for his announcement.

Kim Wells, state Republican chairman and a Dole aide in the senator's past campaigns, said Dole has a campaign organization in place but was not prepared to announce who would head it at this time.

Dole said he didn't know who his Democratic opponent would be, but he hoped he would not have to raise much more money for a campaign.

The senator does have opposition in the Republican primary on Aug. 7. He is Richard Rodewald, 55, a retired General Motors worker who now farms near Lawrence.

Salina, Kansas

Bob Dole: His political career



Offices held

- Kansas House of Representatives, 1951-53.
- Russell County attorney, 1953-61.
- U.S. House of Representatives, 1961-69.
- U.S. Senate, 1969-present.
- Senate majority leader, 1984-86.
- Senate minority leader, 1986-present.

Failed campaigns

- Republican presidential nomination, 1980.
- President Gerald Ford's vice presidential running mate, 1984.
- Republican presidential nomination, 1988.