

EDITORIAL PAGE

Bob Dole Makes
'Unofficial Announcement'

So now we know. It is not a secret any longer.

Bob Dole will run for the presidency. Dole, 71, made the announcement Thursday night during CBS television's "The Late Show With David Letterman." His announcement, however, was not the official one. That, he said, will come in early April.

We were pleased to hear the announcement, however no one in Russell seemed to be surprised by it. Dole had been taking all the preliminary steps for the announcement for quite some time, and it had appeared it was a forgone conclusion that he would make the race. As the Senate majority leader now for the second time, with 26 years in the United States House and Senate, one race for the vice presidency and two for the presidency behind him, Dole is the No. 1 Republican in Washington and the second most powerful man in the nation.

Most of the people in Russell and Russell County will support Dole in his quest for the highest office in the land, regardless of their political faith. They know him to be a leader and an honest politician with immense capabilities and leadership qualities.

His announcement now means that two men from our city are seeking the Republican presidential nomination. The other man is Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. He also grew up here. Dole graduated from Russell High School in 1941, and Specter received his diploma from RHS in 1947.

Russell is the only city in the United States to have two United States senators and now the only city with two men seeking the nomination for the presidency. These are honors of which townspeople are extremely proud.

Dole's declaration Friday night came during an off-the-cuff conversation between him and Letterman, a talk show host known for his quick acerbic wit.

But it was Dole who led Letterman toward the subject of his candidacy after Letterman quizzed him on his relationship with Newt Gingrich, speaker of the House of Representatives.

Dole described his rapport with Gingrich as cordial, then, displaying the wry sense of humor that has become one of his trademarks, said, "We have a good relationship. Newt is the speaker of the House. He is the only speaker we have ever had named Newt."

"We've never had a president named Bob, either," Dole said to resounding cheers from the television program's live audience.

Letterman asked Dole if he had or had not committed to running, to which Dole initially replied, "I have not, but I am going to run for president."

"I will make a formal announcement in early April. This is an informal announcement."

The Kansas senator announced in January that he had assembled an exploratory committee to investigate the financial feasibility of his making a third run for the nation's highest office. Dole first ran for the

presidency in 1980, then again in 1988. After serving one term as state representative from Russell County and four terms as county attorney, he was first elected to Congress in 1960. In 1976, he was President Gerald R. Ford's vice presidential running mate, but the two were defeated by Democrats Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

Dole is regarded by many political observers as having an excellent chance of obtaining sufficient financial backing and staging an effective presidential campaign against the Democrats in 1996.

Other possible Republican candidates for the 1996 campaign race include Texas Senator Phil Graham, who is expected to make his formal announcement in late February; former Vice President Dan Quayle; Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter; Indiana Senator Richard Lugar; and former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander. Jack Kemp, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, often mentioned as a possible Republican presidential candidate, already has said he will not run.

Wrapping up his appearance on the "Late Show," Dole further flexed his comedic abilities by reciting his "Top Seven," list of things he would like to change in Washington.

Referring to an earlier appearance on the "Late Show" by Vice President Al Gore, Dole said, "He had his own Top 10 list. I have a Top Seven list because we (the Contract With America people) are cutting everything by 30 percent."

Dole took several swipes at the Clinton administration as he read the list, not the least of which was his number one item: "The number one way to balance the budget — Arkansas? Sell it!" he said.

Dole's budget-saving list included:

7—Stop paying Clinton speechwriters by the word.

6—Get Letterman to pay his speeding tickets.

5—Serve canned hams at all White House state dinners.

4—Save government ink by replacing long William Jefferson Clinton signatures with 66 percent shorter Bob Dole signatures.

3—Make Gore and Gingrich pay for those good seats at State of the Union addresses.

2—Fire the White House gardeners; let Al Gore do something to earn his keep.

1—Arkansas? Sell it!

Dole has been a member of the Senate since he was first elected in 1968.

He became Senate Republican leader in 1984, but his role as Senate majority leader ended when the Democrats took control of the Senate in November 1986.

He regained the title of Senate majority leader when the GOP took over both houses of Congress in January, after sweeping electoral victories throughout the country in last November's elections.

Power and success to you Bob, and let us know how we can help. — A.D.E.

Dole team
shapes upAll the pieces for '96
presidential campaign
are nearly in place

By Jake Thompson

WASHINGTON — Sheets of paper hastily taped to the windows and walls of a cramped office east of the Capitol reveal the worst-kept secret in Washington.

"Bob Dole for President," the makeshift posters declare. And they're not left over from 1988 or 1990.

"He's on track, on schedule and, yeah, he's running," confirmed Tom Korologos, a longtime friend of Dole and a prominent Washington lobbyist.

Actually, he's probably ahead of schedule. Certainly Dole is in much better shape than this time in 1987, having already lined up many key members of his 1996 team.

A month before the ritual of an official declaration, volunteers are deployed in primary states. He's beginning to amass the \$20 million he will need. Possible vice presidential candidates are being talked to.

Dole

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Dole made it informally official on Friday, indicating on both the David Frost and David Letterman shows he would run for the presidency.

Actually, the real news will be Dole's acknowledgment that he is considering a one-term presidency, an obvious response to questions about his age, 71.

"But my view is, just follow me around for a few days and that will be gone," Dole told Frost, referring to his health and energy.

More questions than his age will have to be addressed in the next two years.

Has he learned from previous failed presidential quests? Is his public image too stern? Can he remain a Senate leader and devote the time required by a presidential campaign? And what is his vision for America's future?

Dole is a Midwestern, Main Street, Chamber of Commerce Republican, said Dennis Goldford, a political scientist at Drake University in Iowa. "But the question is: Has the center of gravity in the Republican Party passed him by?"

Dole and his faithful, however, are convinced the stars have never lined up better for the Kansan.

"This is your time," William Lacy, deputy chairman of Dole's still unofficial presidential campaign, said he has told Dole. "This is the year. If you want to do it, everything is lined up for you."

Of course, several in his party — including Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, former Vice President Dan Quayle, Sen. Arlen Specter and several governors — would disagree.

In his interview with Frost, Dole said he did not expect to see House Speaker Newt Gingrich in that crowd. Or Ross Perot, either, "unless everybody else blows it."

"Trains are boarding"

"We are far and away ahead of where we were in terms of staffing, in terms of talent compared to 1987-88," Lacy asserted.

Many on the team will look familiar.

There's Lacy, who was a top strategist for Dole's 1988 bid. He managed Sen. Fred Thompson's successful campaign in Tennessee last fall.

There's Jo-Anne Coe, who has worked for Dole since the 1960s, recently running his political action committee, Campaign America. She

will oversee the presidential campaign's fund-raising.

Also from the 1988 effort, James Murphy will again oversee the Northeast and Brian Berry, the South. Tom Synhorst, who directed Dole's Iowa caucus victory in 1988 and now runs a telemarketing firm in Johnson County, will play a similar role initially.

Then there are new faces.

Scott Reed left his post as executive director of the Republican National Committee last week to become Dole's campaign manager. At the Republican National Committee, Reed oversaw a \$100 million budget and several hundred staffers. Before that, he worked for Jack Kemp.

On his first day, Reed was working on moving the Dole campaign into larger quarters.

David Carney, who worked for Bush's 1988 presidential campaign, the Bush White House and was a key strategist at the National Republican Senatorial Campaign the last two years, joins Dole as an adviser.

The campaign soon will name Jill Hanson as its political director. Hanson was a political adviser to Arizona Sen. John McCain and a regional political director for Bush's 1992 campaign. She worked with Lacy in the mid-1980s.

"Even though the rest of the nation doesn't want to hear about presidential sweepstakes, everyone knows that you have to be on a train early. And these trains are boarding," said Barbara Russell.

Russell, a native Kansas Citian, knows about early. She began work officially for Dole in New Hampshire the day the exploratory committee was formed Jan. 12.

While Dole's inner circle is filling up, major blanks remain. There's no campaign chairman, serving as a recognized figurehead, strategist and spokesman for Dole. The campaign hasn't chosen a pollster, media consultant or communications director.

Others on board have titles without clear duties. "There's a loyal army of Dole people who will do whatever's necessary to help him," said Kirk Clinkenbeard, Dole's finance director from 1988.

But even some members of Dole's political family have mixed views on another campaign. Some have hung back, suggesting that he step down as majority leader later to devote his full attention to the campaign.

Dole mentions
VP possibilities

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bob Dole said Sunday he "has been tested in a lot of ways," giving him a sound background for his upcoming run for president. He mentioned several possible running mates, including Jack Kemp, Colin Powell and governors from California and several other states.

The Kansas Republican said he will formally announce his candidacy in April, around the 50th anniversary of one of his most severe tests, a World War II injury.

Dole will be 73 years old in 1996, making him older than any president at the start of his first term if he is elected. In light of that, he was asked on NBC's "Meet the Press," whether he would commit to only serve one term as president.

"Well, I must say that's an option that people have talked about," he said. "But ... we have not made a decision. I assume we will make that decision before we announce so the American people will know it."

"Some people might like it," he mused. "Some might say, 'Well, you're a lame duck on day one.' There have been a lot of one-term presidents."

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Dents the past few years, the past two decades or so. But it's a judgment we haven't made."

Dole sought to identify himself with the ideas of Kemp, the conservative who says Republicans should create economic opportunities and reach out more to minorities.

There has been speculation that Dole could name his selection for vice president when he announces his candidacy, and Dole was asked whether he would consider tapping Kemp, who recently bowed out of the presidential race.

Dole said he would consider Kemp and went on to mention former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell and Gov. Pete Wilson of California.

"You know, it's not really a short list," he said. "It includes a number of people. We have a number of outstanding governors: Governor (George) Voinovich (of Ohio), Tommy Thompson (of Wisconsin), who is thinking about running, Jim Edgar (of Illinois), Bill Weld (of Massachusetts), Governor (Christine) Whitman (of New Jersey). You've got this

whole list of people that I think would be outstanding running mates, and some may run for president."

Dole had this exchange with columnist Robert Novak:

Novak: "You include General Powell in that list, though? Colin Powell?"

Dole: "Oh, yes. I had a good visit with him two or three weeks ago. We didn't talk about this specific thing, but ..."

Novak: "Did he say he was a Republican?"

Dole, laughing: "No, but he — the thing that encouraged me — he did know that polling was going on in America and his name was in the polling. ... In fact, he

knew he was running ahead of me."

During the television appearance, Dole spoke of the "very high risk" of having a first lady who is actively involved in policymaking, as Hillary Rodham Clinton has been.

He said his wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, who has served as secretary of Labor and of Transportation, would want to continue in public service but would do "more traditional first lady efforts." She now heads the Red Cross.

Dole said he would formally announce his presidential bid around April 14.



Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole smiles as he points to a gag campaign button with his image and that of talk show host David Letterman that says "Dole & Dumber" during the "Late Show with David Letterman" Friday night.

Dole tells Letterman crowd he's running

Kansas senator
holds his own with
late-night host

Letterman pressed: "This is official, you are running?"

"I'll make my, what you call a formal announcement in early April of this year," the Senate majority leader replied. "This was an informal announcement."

Letterman offered the senator a campaign button with Dole's and his photos and the slogan "Dole and Dumber."

"I might say you were not my first choice," quipped Dole.

Dole and Letterman, each with reputations of expressing an acerbic wit on occasions, traded several quips with each other.

Asked how he gets along with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Dole replied:

"Newt's doing a great job ... He's the only speaker we've ever had named Newt. We've never had a president named Bob either."

And Dole said term limits are becoming popular. Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who came to Congress in 1948 and is 92 years old, "told me the other day he only wanted to run one or two more times," Dole said.

Dole also offered a list of the best ways to cut the budget.

Noting that when Vice President Al Gore was on the show last year he had a Top 10 list — a regular Letterman feature — Dole offered only a Top 7, saying that Republicans "are cutting everything 30 percent."

Dole's money-saving list:

7. Stop paying Clinton speechwriters by the word.

6. Get Letterman to pay his speeding tickets.

5. Serve canned hams at all White House state dinners.

4. Save government ink by replacing long William Jefferson Clinton signature with 66 percent shorter Bob Dole signature.

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