

# READY To Go



Kelly Presnell/Salina Journal  
The Doles make a brief inspection of the plane that the senator will use in his whirlwind announcement tour when he announces his candidacy for the presidency.

## Dole returns to home state to launch his bid for the White House

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
The Salina Journal

TOPEKA — Bob Dole stopped beside the airplane parked near the terminal at Forbes Field Sunday and gave a thumbs up sign to the dozens of journalists gathered behind a barrier of yellow tape.

In large white letters against a blue background were the words "Dole for President." Written on the nose of the plane was more identification, "The Leader's Ship," a reference to Dole's job as majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

The brief snapshot was all Dole, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, offered to the general public this windy, overcast day as he arrived in the state capital.

### Dole's day

Sen. Bob Dole will enter the GOP race for president today.

- A prayer breakfast is planned this morning at the Downtown Ramada Inn. It's open to Republicans who bought tickets last week. Dole's wife, Elizabeth, will give a speech.

- Dole will kick off his campaign at 9:30 a.m. at the Kansas Expo Centre in Topeka.

- Later, he'll fly to New Hampshire to campaign.

dozens of tables inside the Regency Room stood ready for an early morning prayer breakfast.

Elizabeth Dole is to speak at the breakfast, and an aide said Bob Dole may say a few words, also. Outside the Regency Room, someone had hung a banner, "North Carolinians for Dole."

And on the Ramada marquee near the street was another sign to welcome the "next president of the United States — Senator Dole."

Smaller Dole signs were tacked to several office buildings near the Capitol.

"I've never shaken hands with him or had a cup of coffee with him," Harold Humiston of Topeka said shortly before Dole arrived at Forbes. "But when you have something like this on your doorstep, you might as well come out and see it."

Some say this campaign is different from Dole's two previous attempts for the nomination in 1980



Louise Zipf/Salina Journal  
Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, arrive at the Forbes Field Terminal in Topeka on Sunday afternoon. The senator will launch his presidential bid today.

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#### Dole to return this week to hometown

and 1988. There is a feel, an excitement that was lacking before.

In a news release issued on the eve of his announcement, Ken Ciboski, an associate professor of political science at Wichita State University, said Dole's chances for the nomination "are quite good" at this point.

"The only person I see stopping Dole is Colin Powell," he said, referring to the retired U.S. Army general and former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Dole has a lot of IOUs from this past political campaign, and his stomping for fellow Republicans will probably pay off in a race for his party's nomination."

Humiston said he simply wants

to see a Kansas boy make good.

"If I get a chance, I'm going to walk up to him and say, 'Hi, Mr. President,'"

Humiston wasn't successful — at least Sunday. Dole quickly left the airport for a \$1,000-a-couple fund-raiser at Washburn University, where he graduated in 1952 with a law degree.

But Humiston's chance could come today.

Dole will be in Topeka until 11 a.m. Then, "The Leader's Ship" — which at one time was used by the New York Yankees, according to a Dole campaign worker — will carry him around the nation to New Hampshire and eight other states. The candidate will return Thursday night to his hometown of Russell. A "welcome home" community pancake breakfast is planned at 10 a.m. Friday at the Russell VFW building.

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Associated Press  
Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth arrived Sunday in Topeka, where Dole will announce his bid for the Republican presidential nomination today.

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overwhelmed his words and generated some snickers, too. Count on this: You won't catch Bob Dole announcing in a flannel shirt.

"I'm assuming that Bob Dole's (announcement) will be well-done, just because he's the front-runner and he's done it all before," Kamber said.

Still, even an old hand can't control everything. In 1988, Dole formally announced his candidacy in Russell, an event that was memorable for its warm and enthusiastic hometown crowd — and a bitter and relentless Kansas wind.

"We were all bundled up and the wind was blowing down Main Street about 40 miles an hour, and I think Sen. Kassebaum and I were in an open display of hugging to keep warm," quipped Rep. Pat Roberts, a Dodge City Republican. "It was real-

ly cold. So we're very hopeful that the weather will improve, and I think the prospects (for Dole) certainly have been springlike."

Today's announcement was scheduled to take place outside on the steps of the Statehouse, but late Sunday the Dole camp decided to move the announcement inside because of a weather forecast calling for rain and strong winds today. The event was moved to the Landon Arena at the Kansas Expo Centre.

This morning Roberts will be back in Dole's cheering section, along with the rest of the all-Republican Kansas delegation in Washington. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum is scheduled to make an introduction, as is Gov. Bill Graves.

For Kassebaum, the occasion will carry a special fondness. In 1936, her father, then-Gov. Alf Landon, accepted the Republican nomination for president on the steps of the Statehouse in Topeka.

"In those days, by tradition a can-

didate did not go the convention — Dad did not go to the convention — so a delegation came from the convention to notify him that he'd been nominated," Kassebaum said.

"I was 4 years old, and it was at night and it was past my bedtime, so I don't think I was even there," she said. "I've never seen any pictures that showed us there, and I am sure that my mother would have felt we should be in bed. Probably Dad did, too."

Now, she laughs, she'll get another chance at the same spot. She's amazed how often she hears about that day almost 60 years ago. "People I meet around the state remember, still," she said. "They say it was so exciting, they took the train to Topeka, there was a huge notification parade during the day, and then the speech at night. And how they remembered. It was just such a big event. Of course it was the Depression then, and this was real entertainment."

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THE WICHITA EAGLE

Monday, April 10, 1995

## Dole bid launches today in Topeka

### GOP front-runner begins third quest

By Tom Webb  
Eagle Washington bureau

TOPEKA — There will be brass bands and balloons, camera crews and cheering crowds as Kansas Republicans gather today to launch Sen. Bob Dole's third quest for the White House.

Coming almost exactly 50 years after Dole's severe injuries in World War II, the event promises both solemn remembrance and campaign razzmatazz.

Dole, 71, has run for president twice before, in 1980 and again in 1988. But this time he's the acknowledged front-runner, and his campaign staff is looking to showcase his experience and his drawing power.

"You name it, we've got every dignitary in the state and out of the state coming in for this," said Kelley Gannon, a Dole campaign staffer in Topeka. Also attending: more than 100 media people, three high school bands and a couple of thousand Kansas Republicans who will cheer in all the right places.

Dole has been saying for some time that he's going to run. So what's the point of a formal announcement?

"Publicity," said William Schneider, a political analyst for CNN. "Will anybody be surprised that Bob Dole is running for president? No. But every network will carry a story about it, and every network will run biographies of Sen. Dole, and they'll all discuss it. He's the best known of the candidates... but he wants the publicity to freshen his image, especially after the last two times."

Dole is scheduled to give a 20-minute speech at 9:30 a.m., and by tradition he'll stress his themes for the upcoming campaign. But with the first presidential primary still 10 months away, the event isn't really focused on an impending vote.

"It's a staged event, clearly, and what you're trying to do is maximize the (media) coverage," said Victor Kamber, a public relations specialist in Washington. "To some degree, it allows candidates their first chance at trying to create some kind of impression. What you hope doesn't happen is what happened to Lamar Alexander."

When Alexander recently announced for president, he wore a red flannel shirt, a bit of attire that

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