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KANSAS BUDGET

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Salina, Kansas

Tuesday, April 11, 1995

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"Common sense and uncommon sensitivity. That's the Kansas way."

OFF AND RUNNING

Dole's bid official for presidency

Taxes can be cut, budget balanced, GOP leader says

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
The Salina Journal

TOPEKA — Lincoln farmer Art Howell had written the words on the palm of his hand in ink: education, housing, energy and commerce.

All departments of the United States government. All gone, if Kansas Sen. Bob Dole has his way.

It was music to the ears of Howell, a believer in states' rights who this past year lost a bid for the Kansas House.

"I like that. I think all of those things will be there, just at the local level," he said.

Monday, before a crowd of about 5,000, Dole returned to the town where he served as a state representative more than four decades ago to officially launch his third bid for the Republican nomination for president.

Taking several pages from the party's Contract With America, the 71-year-old Dole embraced the conservative agenda of lower taxes, smaller government and a balanced budget — an issue he hit especially hard in his failed 1988 race for the nomination. It also was in 1988 that Dole refused to take a "no new taxes" pledge.

This time around he said it was possible to cut taxes and balance the budget.

"Middle class families are forced to send too much of their hard-earned tax money to Washington. We should provide a tax credit for children and remove the marriage penalty to strengthen our families. And we should cut the capital gains tax to stimulate economic growth, create new jobs and expand opportunity for all our people."

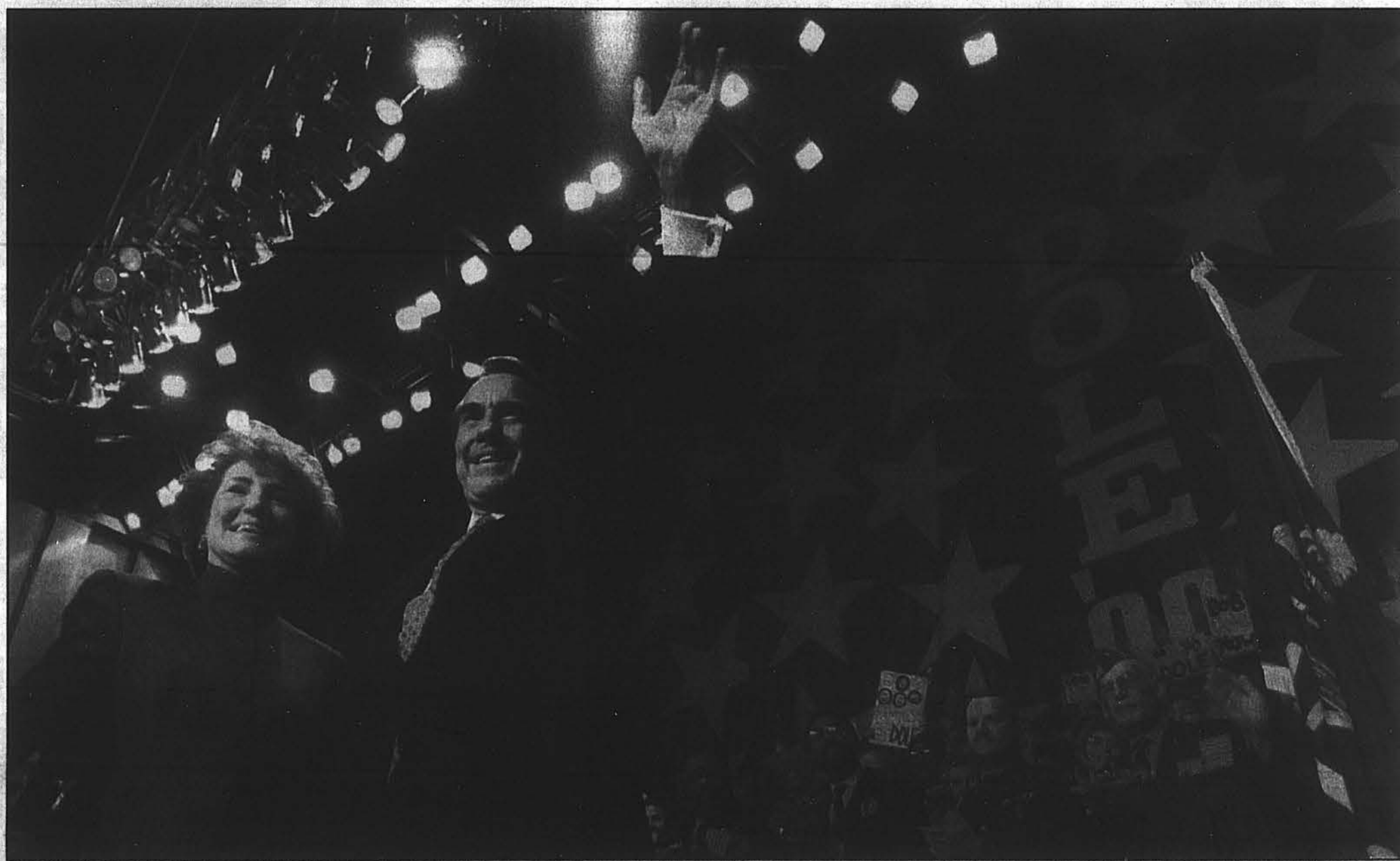
Dole said his mandate as president "would be to rein in the federal government in order to set free the spirit of the American people; to reconnect our government in Washington with the common sense values of our citizens; and to reassert American interests wherever and whenever they are challenged around the world."

He said America must have leaders who are proud of its citizens and values.

"We need leaders who will summon from each of us the best of our character, who will call us as a nation to our full potential. I want to be president so I can do this for America."

Dole's announcement, which kicked off a grueling, week-long

► See DECLARATION, Page 8



Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth Dole, greet the crowd following his formal announcement that he's seeking the Republican nomination for president. Dole made his bid for the presidency official Monday at the Kansas Expo Centre in Topeka.

Family, military background draw fans

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
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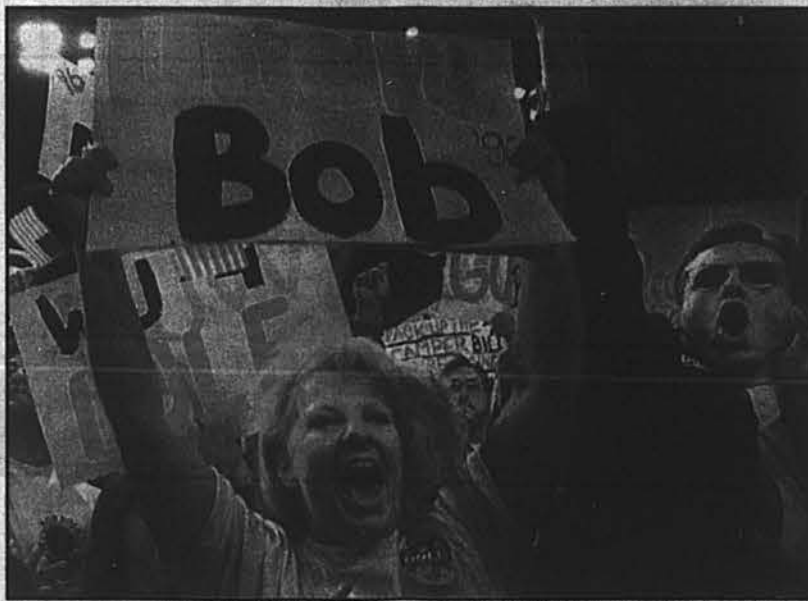
TOPEKA — Larry and Tish Rogers were with Bob Dole in 1988. They're with him again in 1996.

The couple, former Russell residents who now live in Topeka, at one time owned the Russell drug store where the young Dole pumped sodas. They also helped organize his 1987 presidential announcement ceremony in Russell.

Monday, they stood behind a table in the lobby of Topeka's Downtown Ramada and sold small gold pins shaped like pineapples. In Dole's early races for public office, supporters served Dole pineapple juice as a name recognition gimmick.

In fact, following his loss to Dole in 1960 for the U.S. House of Representatives, the late Keith Sebelius of Norton joked: "Bob, you drowned me in pineapple juice."

The basket with the pins was almost empty as Dole supporters walked past the Rogerses' table into an early-morning prayer breakfast.



Dole backer Trista Beadles leads a group of Washburn University students in cheers for the senator during the kickoff of Dole's campaign.

"He seems more relaxed, better organized," Larry Rogers said of Dole. "I think he's giving very much of a presidential image."

The mood was upbeat in Topeka as Dole, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, and his daughter, Robin, made it official that he will

seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1996.

About the only glitch in the day's activities was the weather. Late Sunday, the site of the announcement rally was changed from the south steps of the Capitol to the Kansas Expo Centre because of a forecast for bad weather.

Dole staffers and volunteers worked through most of the night to move banners, platforms and other items. The decision turned out to be a good one, however, as a hard, steady rain fell on the city most of the morning.

"April in Kansas," hummed a network television cameraman.

Members of the Russell High School Bronco Band drove through a hailstorm to perform at the announcement. Two other buses also carried hometown supporters.

The day started early with the prayer breakfast. Elizabeth Dole spoke to the more than 1,000 guests about the importance of Christianity to her and her husband.

Earlier, during the invocation, the Rev. Leo Barbee Jr., pastor of Lawrence's Victory Bible Church,

said he would pray for Dole to continue his stand against abortion, the only time the potentially divisive issue was raised publicly during the day.

Both the prayer breakfast and the announcement rally attracted many longtime Dole friends and others who had never met the senator.

Cliff Campbell of Beloit, who retired from the Kansas Legislature in 1988, snapped photographs before the prayer breakfast.

"I just felt obligated to come down here. It may be the opportunity of a lifetime," Campbell said.

David McHam, who lives near Wichita, had similar thoughts. He was selling "Bob Dole for President" hats near Tish and Larry Rogers. The hats were \$5 apiece and McHam's grandson, Andrew Hart of Augusta, was helping with the money, which went to the Butler County Republican Committee.

"We came down here to make sure Bob Dole made it official," McHam said.

► See DOLE, Page 8