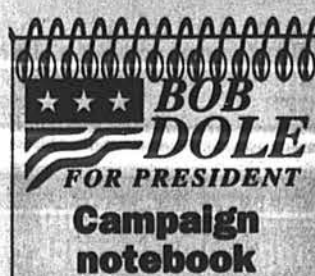


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DOLE ANNOUNCEMENT



Campaign notebook

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The multistate Dole kickoff extravaganza will cover 10,000 miles and nine states in five days. After the Topeka rally, which was carried on local broadcasts, networks and internationally on Cable News Network, the entourage went to Exeter, N.H. New Hampshire is the key battleground state that holds the first GOP primary in February 1996. The Monday festivities concluded in New York City with a fund-raiser.

Throughout his campaign, Dole is planning stops in big states like Florida, Texas and New York, Southern states like North Carolina and South Carolina and Western states like Colorado. Sprinkled amid the speeches and rallies are several fund-raisers, from which campaign workers said Dole hopes net up to \$1.75 million.

Political moves — The decision to move the Topeka rally indoors was made between 7 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday by Dole. Although campaign planners would have preferred a warm, sunny day, "I think everyone was just thrilled with turnout," according to a campaign spokesman.

Large blue-and-gold banners draped from the south facade of the Capitol during the weekend in preparation for the Dole rally were moved late Sunday to Landon Arena at the Kansas Expocentre.

One large banner proclaimed "Dole '96." The others were the same blue banners with big gold stars that adorned the Capitol when Bill Graves, another Republican, was sworn in as governor on Jan. 9. They carry 34 stars, denoting Kansas' admission to the Union as the 34th state.

Prayerful messages — Republican state chairman David Miller of Eudora made certain the community prayer breakfast that preceded Dole's formal announcement had an unmistakable anti-abortion flavor.

The Rev. Leo Barbee Jr., pastor of Victory Bible Church in Lawrence, urged Dole not to stray from his anti-abortion position, and the Rev. Thomas Moffatt, pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Christian Church in Topeka, is a field representative of Kansans for Life, the state's largest anti-abortion organization.

The state GOP sponsored the prayer breakfast, and Miller, who took over as state chairman in January, is staunchly anti-abortion.

A healthy tan — Dole, as usual, looked fit and tan for the kickoff of his campaign. A campaign worker said the Doles had spent several days at their Florida home resting up — and getting tan — for the announcement tour.

Topeka's weather, which had been a summerlike 84 and sunny on Saturday, turned cool and overcast on Sunday. Dole said Sunday he left 80-degree weather in Florida to fly to Topeka.

He was in good spirits Sunday evening as he arrived at a fund-raiser at Washburn, but sported a badly bloodshot right eye, which he said was the result of a broken blood vessel. "I get it every couple of years," he said.

Support from home — For previous presidential races, Dole usually first announced in his hometown of Russell. This time, Russell came to him in Topeka.

The 70-member Russell High School Bronco Band left home at 2:30 a.m. for a 180-mile trek through a driving hailstorm to be part of the show.

They participated in the rally with bands from Topeka High School and Washburn Rural High School.

— From staff and wire reports

Elizabeth Dole launches campaign with prayer

By ROGER MYERS
The Capital-Journal

It started with a prayer — Bob Dole's third quest for the presidency.

In a community prayer breakfast Monday at the Ramada Inn Downtown, more than 1,000 supporters and well-wishers of the Kansas senior senator heard Elizabeth Hanford Dole tell how she had shifted the focus of her life from a busy and spectacular career to a life with God as the center.

"When I was young, I had a very active church life," she said.

"But as you move through life, something becomes a barrier to total commitment to the Lord. It could be money, power or prestige.

"In my case, my career became of paramount importance. I worked very hard to excel, to achieve. I was really competing against myself, not others.

"My goal was to do my very best, which is all fine and well. I was blessed with a beautiful marriage and a challenging career.

"And yet, only gradually, over many years did I realize what was missing. My life was threatened with spiritual starvation."

Dole's husband, who attended the prayer breakfast, formally embarked on his campaign for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination later in the day with an official announcement of his candidacy at the Kansas Expocentre.

Dole, a former member of the Federal Trade Commission, secretary of transportation under former President Ronald Reagan, secretary of labor under former President George Bush and now president of the American Red Cross, spoke about 20 minutes with a polished, easy delivery that was sprinkled with some of the same sort of witticisms that have marked her husband's speeches.

Telling the story of Esther, and the perilous task she undertook to save the Jews of Persia from destruction, Dole told about a banquet the king of Persia had when he picked Esther as his queen.

"At the banquet for his queen, the king went so far as to lower all the taxes," Dole said, prompting applause and laughter about one of the issues her husband is expected to raise during his campaign.

She also got laughs when she told about the search the king made of all the provinces in his kingdom, looking for the



Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, sang "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" during the Kansas Republican Party's prayer breakfast at the Ramada Inn Downtown Monday morning.

prettiest woman — "a sort of Miss Persia pageant," Dole said.

The prayer breakfast was sponsored by the Republican State Committee and cost \$8 a person.

The atmosphere at the prayer breakfast was distinctly anti-abortion. The Rev. Leo Barbee Jr., pastor of the Victory Bible Church in Lawrence, said during his invocation he hoped Dole wouldn't waver from his strong pro-life stance when it came to the abortion issue.

The state's top Republican officials turned out for the prayer breakfast, and Dole's formal announcement at the

Expocentre.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, Gov. Bill Graves and his wife, Linda, three of the state's four GOP congressmen, Pat Roberts of the 1st District, Sam Brownback of the 2nd District and Todd Tiahrt of the 4th District, plus Senate President Bud Burke of Olathe and House Speaker Tim Shallenburger of Baxter Springs all attended the events.

Dole began her talk by recalling "a time over 20 years ago, in a church just across from the White House, setting aside a special time before taking our wedding vows.

"We knelt in prayer, took communion

and pledged a lifelong commitment to each other, and to God.

"We still believe in beginning each new journey life brings with a prayer."

And she concluded her talk with remarks — perhaps with her husband in mind.

"The world is ripe and ready, I believe, for a man willing to recognize, who are not immune from the predicaments of the day, men and women who are willing to accept the privilege of serving and who are ready to see that the providence of God may have brought them to such a time as this."

Dole: 'I am a candidate'

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Aided by a thin clear TelePrompTer peeking up from the podium at his right, Dole went into his reasons for running and projected themes familiar from his senatorial campaigns: less government, more local and state power, and reaffirmation of families.

"The life jacket of one generation can be the straightjacket of the next," he said, and charged that the federal government — of which he has been an employee since 1960 — has become "too large, too remote and too undemocratic."

As president, Dole said he would restore the 10th Amendment, which guarantees power of the states. He vowed to pass a balanced budget amendment despite its recent death in the Senate.

He said the federal government could live without the departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Energy and Commerce. Collectively those departments spend \$74 billion annually and employ 74,000 workers.

Dole reiterated his support for school choice through vouchers for private and parochial schools and noted the death of HUD would "get the government out of the landlord business."

He questioned why the federal government is "in the culture business" through funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

And Dole firmly stated, "Affirmative



— Jeff Davis/The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole visited with well-wishers after announcing his candidacy Monday at the Kansas Expocentre.

action is out of control," aligning himself with the conservative GOP stance against affirmative action despite a record in favor of civil rights.

"We should have a colorblind society," he said.

Dole said his proposals would be the first step to "lower, fairer, flatter and simpler" government so "ordinary peo-

ple like you and me can fill out a tax form without a lawyer or accountant."

Dole's self-description as an "ordinary person" is a key element to his campaign strategy. Despite 35 years in Washington, the noted deal maker plans to capitalize on his small-town roots when he ends his announcement tour in his hometown of Russell on Friday.

Big crowd cheers on native son

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The decision to move from the south steps of the Statehouse to the Expocentre was made by the senator Sunday night, said Liz Kirger, a volunteer with Dole's advance office.

Expocentre officials estimated the crowd at 5,000 people. Kirger said the advance team's estimate placed the crowd at between 9,000 and 10,000.

"He's carried a lot of water to the elephant," said June Cooper, Garnett. "It is our time."

Cooper, wearing a sequined red, white and blue jacket and a hat with a sunflower, said she was a national delegate at the Republican conventions that nominated Ronald Reagan and George Bush. She hopes to go back in 1996.

When asked whether she thought Dole's age was a detriment, Cooper responded: "Shoot no, he's just seasoned."

No one asked believed his age would be a problem in the election. In fact, almost no one asked thought there was a chance he wouldn't be president in another year and a half.

"I came to support the new president," said Ben Fulton, an 18-year-old senior at Washburn Rural High School. "He has the spirit and the issues and he's our man."

Mary and Eric Schuetz of Topeka brought their 6-year-old son, John, to the Expocentre.

"He's a champion of people with disabilities," said Mary Schuetz, as she sat in the stands. "He has a lot of good qualities."

Two busloads of Dole supporters came from Russell. Many of them were wearing hats supporting the Russell native. Even before Dole had left the arena — after thousands of balloons fell on the crowd on the Expocentre floor — a man from the Russell group started collecting the hats in a box.

No doubt the hats will be unboxed again Friday when Dole visits his hometown.

"Sure," Mary Ross from Russell said, when asked whether she had ever met Dole. "My daughter is married to his nephew."

The crowd did have some members who weren't Dole supporters.

In the southeast corner of the Expocentre, a handful of people held anti-Dole signs. "Pro-Choice, Pro-Child," "I'm pro-choice and I vote" and "Dole is no choice" were slogans included on the placards.

A less obvious non-Dole supporter was Kristin Runyon, who brought her 10-month-old son, Dalton.

"I'm a Democrat," Runyon whispered as she sat in the west stands.

Her family moved to Topeka a couple of months ago, she isn't working outside the home and the rally could have provided a glimpse at history.

"There's a very real possibility," Runyon said, talking a little louder, "he could be president next year."

On the campaign trail of



Bob DOLE

Excerpts from Dole's speech

"Whatever lessons I have applied in public life were first learned here as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives, and I'm very proud of that, too. These days I spend much of my time in another capitol. You see many things from atop the hill in Washington where I work — but you can see America from here."

"As a young man in a small town, my parents taught me to put trust in God, not government, and never confuse the two. Something else I learned — learned the hard way — (was) that while self-reliance is an essential part of the American character, so is the spirit of community that reaches out to those wounded in body or soul."

"And so, today, tempered by adversity, seasoned by experience, mindful of the world as it is, yet confident it can be made better, I have come home to Kansas with a grateful heart to declare that I am a candidate for the presidency of the United States."

"Our problems are not too difficult to handle. It's just that our leaders have grown too isolated from places like Topeka — embarrassed by the values here. They seem to have lost the idea that we are, and must remain, one nation under God. We are all bound by our heritage to a set of common values: hard work, integrity, responsibility..."

"My 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."