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Tough Bob Dole survived Watergate

United Press International

KANSAS CITY — When the Republicans need a tough political fighter who can take it as well as dish it out, they call on Bob Dole.

A tough campaigner is just what President Ford needs facing an uphill fight against Democrat Jimmy Carter, and again Dole has been called into help, this time as Ford's running mate.

The Kansas senator can deliver a caustic argument on the Senate floor or a biting joke to a crowd back home. The joke often is aimed at himself.

With the experience of two years as GOP National Chairman, Dole, 53, perhaps was the natural choice for temporary chairman for the 1976 Republican National Convention at Kansas City, bordering his home state.

Well-known in Washington, and with strong agricultural ties, Dole had been mentioned as one who could shore up weak spots in the campaign against Carter.

Before the selection, Dole said he thought his chances were remote, but asked if he would accept, he said, "I think anybody would want to be vice president."

Dole nearly lost his senate seat in 1974 because of his close identification with Richard Nixon and the fact he headed the national party at the time of the Watergate break-in.

As one Capitol Hill observer quipped, "If you like Dick Nixon, you'll love Bob Dole."

Dole defeated former Rep. Wil-



Sen. Bob Dole

among the defeated supporters of Ronald Reagan. Despite the fact he was a Ford delegate, he refrained from attacking Reagan.

Even when he spoke in Ford's behalf at the Kansas Republican convention, following an appearance by Reagan, Dole's tone was conciliatory. He said both were fine men he could support and that the party must unite behind whichever candidate was selected.

One of his stronger statements about Reagan on that occasion indicated the former California governor was criticizing Ford for problems born of a Democrat-controlled Congress.

"I think he (Reagan) is making a mistake in who runs that show," Dole told the Kansans.

Dole was born July 22, 1923 at Russell, Kan., where he still has a home. He received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arizona and law degrees from

Washburn University in Topeka.

He served 5 1/2 years in the Army in World War II, including a stint as an infantry platoon leader in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. He twice was wounded and twice decorated for heroism.

He was hospitalized 30 months as a result of wounds that left him with a crippled right arm and hand. During his hospitalization he met his first wife, Phyllis. They were divorced in 1972. His present wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, is a member of the Federal Trade Commission.

Dole began his political career at 26, with election to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1951. He served four terms as Russell county attorney, 1953-1961.

In 1960, he was elected to the House and re-elected every two years until he won a Senate seat in November, 1968, succeeding retiring Republican Frank Carlson.

Carter to stump state

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Jimmy Carter will spend at least six days campaigning for president in California, and Gov. Brown will play an active role, says Carter's top man in the state.

Terry O'Connell also predicts that Brown supporters, who gave the first-term governor a 3-1 victory over Carter in the June 8 primary, will switch to Carter in November.

California, with 10 per cent of the nation's population, will get

"roughly 10 per cent" of Carter's time over the next two months, and "more than 10 per cent of his concern and effort," O'Connell said in a telephone interview.

He said he didn't know what the California budget would be.

He didn't spell out Brown's campaign role, but said it was at Carter's insistence that last Saturday, O'Connell's first day on the job, he flew from Georgia to Los Angeles for a three-hour meeting with Brown.

Dole: Leaders like him, others don't

United Press International

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Republican leaders hailed Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas as a forceful campaigner who will add energy and vigor to President Ford's campaign for the White House.

But some rank-and-file delegates had reservations about

Ford's choice of a running mate.

Sen. Hugh Scott, R-Pa., said "We regard him very highly. He is part of a truly national picture. We in Pennsylvania can find it very easy to support him. I don't think he is too conservative. I think the people of Pennsylvania and New York are

pleased with the selection."

Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, who had been the favorite, said he was disappointed that he had been passed over but thought Dole was a "excellent choice."

Former Texas Gov. John Connally, who had been mentioned as a possible running

mate, said "I think first he'll make a good candidate for vice president. He's a very attractive man, he has a tremendous amount of energy."

Treasury Secretary William Simon, another of those passed over, said "I am certainly very pleased and relieved. Dole will be an extraordinarily good campaigner."

on 1 Chicago Tribune, Friday, August 20, 1976

Obscure Dole a tough campaigner

By Aldo Beckman

Chicago Tribune Press Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—It was 9:30 a.m. Thursday, only four hours after the group had broken up their last session, and President Ford was getting them together again to finally pick a vice presidential running mate.

Seven names had been discussed earlier, at a two-hour meeting that started at 3:15 a.m.—shortly after Ford had won his party's presidential nomination. But by now, the focus was sharper.

There was some talk about Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.) and a little more discussion of the assets and liabilities of William Ruckelshaus. But, after 20 minutes, it was apparent that Ford had decided to choose Sen. Robert Dole (R., Kan.), unless someone had a good reason for him to reject Dole.

THERE WAS discussion about Dole's divorce from a marriage of more than two decades to a woman who had nursed him back to health from serious war wounds. Dole's marriage to a much younger woman also might taint Dole's candidacy, some suggested.

Four of the nine members of the discussion group had served with Dole in the Congress and they agreed that the first Mrs. Dole would not likely make it a point to embarrass her former husband, even though she had fought the divorce.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that Dole was the toughest campaigner and had the sharpest tongue of any of the finalists. The divorce was troublesome, indeed, but every one of the prospects had certain liabilities.

Finally, the President decided that Dole's assets far outweighed his single liability.

FORD'S CAMPAIGN strategists had long urged him to concentrate on Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois, and then try to sweep the plains states and the West Coast.

Dole fit that pattern perfectly, said Ford's top aides. Dole also was acceptable in the South, where the President had promised supporters he would not do to them what Ronald Reagan did—when Reagan picked as his choice for a running mate Sen. Richard Schweiker (R., Pa.), considered by Southern Republicans to be too liberal.

After setting on Dole one hour into his midmorning meeting, Ford telephoned the startled senator and revealed his decision.

Because of strong speculation in the press that Baker and Ruckelshaus were the final contenders, Dole had all but given up hope on getting the coveted spot.

FORD WAS so determined to keep his choice a secret that he did not reveal his thinking on the matter even to his family, according to informed sources.

Two of the nine men left the early morning meeting believing that Ruckelshaus would be picked and several others thought Baker would be the one to get the call.

John Connally, who press reports had suggested was ruled out a week ago, was among those seriously discussed early Thursday morning, according to informed sources.

Others included Reagan, Anne Armstrong, United States ambassador to Britain, and Secretary of Commerce Elliot Richardson.

Dole had been largely ignored in press speculation because of a belief that he had not done well in his address to the

nominating convention Monday night. A top aide to Ford, however, said he believed that Dole's speech was "the best-written speech of the convention."

FORD HAD BEEN discussing his running mate with Republican officials all week. And after he was nominated he summoned the nine men he wanted to consult while making the final decision.

Attending were Vice President Rockefeller, Melvin Laird and Bryce Harlow, two of Ford's old friends; Senators Robert Griffin (R., Mich.) and John Tower (R., Tex.); Stuart Spencer, deputy campaign director; White House aides Richard B. Cheney and John Marsh; and Robert Teeter, the pollster for the Ford Campaign Committee.

Baker's wife, Joy, who has had drinking problems in the past, was discussed by the group, but what probably hurt Baker more was the feeling that he wasn't as sharp and as tough a campaigner as is Dole.

"He's like the President," said one of the men at the meeting. "If the President attacks an opponent for 5 minutes in a speech, he feels bad about it for two days."

DOLE, KNOWN AS one of the most acid-tongued and sarcastic speakers in the Senate, doesn't have that problem.

There was concern that Mrs. Armstrong had never run for public office. And Ruckelshaus' failure to ever win a race beyond a congressional district was considered a liability.

Those at the meetings got the impression, according to several of them, that Ford never really considered Reagan, although he was discussed.

Aides to Ruckelshaus were so optimistic that he would be chosen that they flew to Kansas City Wednesday night.

But the call from the President never came.

THE APPOINTMENT was held so tightly that a Thursday morning discussion in the White House by senior staff members not here for the convention recessed with most believing Baker would be named.

Ford's concern about his lack of support among farmers was evident in the final meetings, according to those there. All agreed that Dole would help in the farm areas and would provide a biting attack against Jimmy Carter throughout the country.

After Ford telephoned Dole and invited him to join the ticket, he telephoned Connally to tell him. The only other call Ford placed was to Baker, a few minutes later.

Other aides at the meeting contacted the other finalists so that they would know Dole was the choice before it was announced publicly.

FRANK URSOMARCO, a White House advance man, was ordered to pick up Dole and his wife at their hotel, about 2 miles from where Ford was staying. He took a rented Pacer and drove the vice presidential candidate to see Ford at his Crown Center Hotel.

Chief of Staff Cheney briefed reporters on the process Ford followed in choosing Dole, but would not reveal details.

Asked if Reagan had been given veto power over the nominee, Cheney hesitated for several seconds before saying that Ford and Reagan had agreed not to discuss their private conversation in Reagan's hotel after Ford won the nomination early Thursday morning.

Several who attended the early morning vice presidential sessions with the President said a Reagan veto was never discussed.

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Ford and Dole seek Republican unity

By Jon Margolis and F. Richard Ciccone

Chicago Tribune Press Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Gerald R. Ford and Sen. Robert C. Dole led a thinly unified but gamely combative Republican Party Thursday night into an uphill struggle against Jimmy Carter and the Democrats.

With the President and his new running mate defending Ford's two-year record in their acceptance speeches, leaders of the party's rival factions joined them in a display of unity.

Among the rank-and-file delegates, though, some of the bitterness remained from the divisive nomination fight between Ford and Ronald Reagan.

WHEN VICE PRESIDENT Rockefeller rose to place Dole's name in nomination as Ford's running mate, a few boos could be heard, and some conservative southern delegates stayed in their seats, many of them flashing the "thumbs down" sign.

Despite these disquieting reminders, the President followed an upbeat tone in accepting the nomination for his first full term in the office he inherited when Richard M. Nixon resigned two years ago.

"This nation is sound," Ford said. "This nation is secure. This nation is on the march. This nation is ready to meet the challenges of the future."

THE PRESIDENT TOOK a few strides at the Democrats, saying that he "stood for all the people against the vote-buying, free-spending congressional majority."

He defended his 55 votes, and taking note of the supposed "anti-Washington" mood among the voters, the 54-year veteran of Congress said, "Washington is not the problem. The problem is that Democratic Congress is the problem."

Dole, in a speech prepared in the hours after his surprise selection by Ford Tuesday morning, took note of the party division by urging Republicans to "take pride in the knowledge that the battle was honorably waged—honorably won."

He recalled that the last tough intra-party fight in 1952 "gave us Dwight David Eisenhower, and he gave us 8 years of peace and prosperity."

DOLE PROVED an acceptable but not widely popular alternative to Reagan, whom conservatives wanted as Vice President. As a last-minute show of symbolic defiance, the conservatives nominated Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) as a momentary opponent for the Kansas senator.

But Helms withdrew quickly amid assurances from Reagan's campaign manager, Sen. Paul Laxalt (R., Nev.), that "the Ford-Dole ticket has the enthusiastic support of Gov. Reagan."

Earlier in the day, Reagan had declared his support of Ford's choice of Dole. And Reagan was on hand at the convention to cheer the new ticket.

Like the President, Dole defended the two years of the Ford administration. And Dole praised the man who chose him, and criticized the Democrats for relying on "the discredited gimmicks of government" instead of relying on the

CONVENTION '76

- The text of President Ford's acceptance speech is on page 10.
- A profile of Sen. Robert Dole and pictures of him at several points in his political career are on the back page.
- A profile of President Ford is on page 14, section 4.
- The behind-the-scenes story of how Sen. Dole was selected is on page 10.

business system to solve the woes of the economy.

DOLE'S PRO-FREE enterprise and antigovernment remarks could have been a preview of one of the basic themes the Republicans will pursue during the fall campaign.

There were reports early Thursday that staunch Reagan backers might try a crafty maneuver.

They would have the personal party, and also has the personal party, appeals to the Northern and Eastern factions.

KNOWN AS A TOUGH campaigner who came from far behind in the polls to grab a narrow victory in his 1974 Senate re-election, Dole has a glib and sharp wit that would make him a perfect foil to slash at the Democratic ticket during the campaign.

Ford said in announcing his selection of Dole: "I'm thrilled at the opportunity of having Bob Dole as my running mate. I've known him a number of years. He served with distinction in the Senate and had an outstanding record in military service. . . . His philosophy is almost identical to mine."

And the President touched on the keys to Dole's choice: "He is a team player. David Eisenhower, and he gave us 8 years of peace and prosperity."

RESIDES CONSULTING with Reagan, the President said he had consulted other party leaders and "all of them endorsed their support . . . their endorsement of Bob Dole."

Dole, dark-haired and youthful looking, immediately showed his wit, saying: "I didn't expect a call from the President this [Thursday] morning, but I'm glad we were in."

"I've known President Ford at a time, when I could call him, Jerry," said Dole, referring to their congressional days.

"I'm not certain what I can add to the ticket, but I will work hard to do what I can, not just for the GOP, but because I think the American people need President Ford for four more years."

Dole was accompanied by his wife. They were married last December.

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Dole's previous marriage ended in divorce.

IN SETTLING ON Dole, a fellow Midwesterner, Ford passed up choices that would have added more regional balance to the ticket but few of the other options would have brought the hope of a solidified GOP.

One would have been Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, who all week appeared to be the favorite.

Baker is at least on a par with Dole as far as party acceptance is concerned, and after his convention keynote speech Monday, he was applauded by moderates and liberals.

Baker has been in the running for the vice presidency almost since he first won election to the Senate in 1966, but this time he seemed to have the nomination within his grasp.

HE SAID HE had "struggles" early Thursday that the President was not going to pick him and described his feelings: "The tension is substantial. Another is disappointment . . . which you'd expect."

"Bob Dole is going to be a good hard campaigner. I would imagine the Democrats would have their hands full," John Connally, the former Texas governor who had been given a dark horse rating because of his links to the Nixon-Watergate era, said: "I don't know anybody he could've picked that would have pleased more people in the Republican Party."

"He's smart, witty, has a great sense of humor. I think he'll be a fierce campaigner."

DOLE WAS obliquely involved in the Watergate scandal too. As former Pres-

ident Nixon's choice for Republican national chairman in 1971 and 1972, Dole became an ardent and constant defender of Nixon. His stout support almost cost him re-election in 1972 but he fought an uphill battle and won by 13,000 votes out of 800,000 cast.

He obviously scored points with the President in his convention speech Monday. Dole, the temporary chairman, labeled Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter a "political quick-change artist."

The Reagan cause ended shortly after midnight Thursday when the West Virginia delegation put Ford past the 1,130 votes needed for the nomination.

The final tally was 1,187 to 1,070, a remarkably close loss for Reagan considering his long challenge was against an incumbent President.

BUT THE OUTCOME had been telegraphed Tuesday night when Ford won a crucial floor fight that showed he had the delegates in his corner.

The Wednesday night nomination speeches gave Reagan devotees their last chance to cheer, applaud, and blare through plastic horns, demonstrating several times once for nearly an hour—their support for their candidate.

"California, Here I Come," got more play than "Hail to Michigan," but the Ford people, confident in their victory, were gracious and let the whole thing go on until the Reaganites ran out of breath.

WHEN IT WAS over, the President went to Reagan's hotel for a 1:30 a.m. meeting and they met with newsmen at 2 a.m. Ford had pledged he would make the visit to talk about the vice presidency but declined to say whether he had offered it.

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