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Ford Selects Dole For No. 2 Spot



PRESIDENT FORD

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — President Ford followed up his hard-won presidential nomination over Ronald Reagan Thursday by choosing Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas as his running mate against Jimmy Carter.

At a news conference at his Crown Center Hotel headquarters, and with Dole standing alongside, the President said, "It's a very great occasion for me. I'm really thrilled with the opportunity of having Bob Dole as my running mate."

Ford's announcement came less than seven hours before the final session of the Republican National Convention which must ratify the selection, and after he discussed the subject with Reagan during a party unity meeting in the wee hours Thursday morning.

Reagan said afterward that Ford did not offer him the vice presidential spot.

The selection of Dole, 53, a former GOP national chairman, came as several convention delegations which

backed Reagan's presidential bid sought to launch a movement to draft him for the No. 2 spot on the ticket.

Reagan reiterated after seeing Ford that he was not interested in running for vice president. In the street outside, Reagan supporters booed and hissed Ford, chanting "we want Reagan" and "write in Reagan."

There had been little mention of Dole over the long weeks of Ford's deliberation on a running mate. The name, figuring most in speculation during convention week had been that of Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee.

UPI initially learned that Dole was the man, from Connecticut state party chairman Frederick K. Biebel.

The Kansas is known for his quick wit and biting debate on the Senate floor. He served two years in the party chairmanship.

The 31st national GOP conclave winds up Thursday night with the more than 4,500 delegates and alternates voting on the Dole selection

and Ford, 63, accepting the party's endorsement to run for the presidency in his own right.

The President was nominated on a roll call vote of 1,187 to 1,070. West Virginia put Ford over the top at 1:29 a.m. EDT, after 46 minutes of balloting.

Once the roll call was completed, the weary delegates shouted their approval of a motion to give him the nomination by acclamation. The convention then adjourned until 7:30 p.m. EDT Thursday.

"It's been long and tough, but it was great!" Ford exclaimed, accepting the congratulations of political advisers and White House staffers crowding his \$350-a-day, rooftop suite at the Crown Center Hotel.

Witnessing his moment of victory on television after eight tortuous months of campaigning, the President leaned back, smiled and said: "I hope nobody demands a recount."

Reagan saw his 10-month

campaign go down the drain in seclusion in his Alameda Plaza Hotel headquarters 25 blocks away.

The Reaganites' zany, colorful show of support delayed the scheduled mid-evening start of the nomination roll call for more than three hours. It was well past midnight and the end of prime television time before Ford could savor victory at last.

In Plains, Ga., before Ford's nomination, Democratic nominee Carter predicted the President will make a "formidable opponent" and that the GOP will become reunited "very quickly" after Kansas City.

But Carter expressed confidence he could sweep the South even if Ford had Baker for a running mate.

Ford's big breakthrough came when the convention Tuesday night rejected, 1,180 to 1,069 with 10 abstentions, a high-stakes Reagan bid to force the President to disclose his vice presidential preference in advance of the nomination balloting.



SENATOR DOLE

Russell Folks Excited

By SCOTT SEIRER

Of The News Staff

The news that Sen. Bob Dole has been chosen to campaign with President Ford has surprised the folks back home in Russell and left his family in a state of confusion at Kansas City.

"I think it's the greatest thing that ever happened to us," said a noticeably excited Everett Dumler, manager of the Russell Chamber of Commerce.

Dole's family, including his mother, Mrs. Dorian Dole, and his brother, Kenneth, both of Russell, watched the televised announcement from their room at the Holiday Inn near the old airport.

"We're pretty elated," Kenneth Dole, an oil executive, said. "I guess we're in a state of shock."

And he added, "we had planned to bring Bob with us. That will no doubt be changed."

Kenneth said he's been surprised at the attention paid his family by members of the press who have followed the family throughout Kansas City. "What are we? VIPs?" he asked rhetorically.

"They all think we know something," he said of the newsmen. "They all want a scoop on something. I've never had a scoop in my life."

Meanwhile at Russell, townspeople greeted the news with surprise and excitement.

"We're all tickled to death," said Dick Shields, an independent oil driller.

"We're just starting to get the impact," said C of C

Manager Dumler. "We thought Bob was up there (in national politics) pretty high ... but we didn't know just how strong he was."

Dumler said local rumors indicated Dole, whose name was barely mentioned by the Ford camp earlier, would be passed up in order to give the ticket a southern balance.

"We all felt they needed something to offset the southern vote," he explained, "but on the other hand the farm vote is important too."

Dumler said "there's no question" Ford had a problem with farmers because of earlier embargo decisions.

Even Dumler's wife, a devoted Democrat, is thrilled with the Ford-Dole ticket. She promises to support their campaign.

Dumler said Russell unquestionably stands to benefit from Ford's selection. The publicity, he said, will be of greatest value but the economy could be indirectly benefited.

The Daily News was unable to contact Russell Mayor Roger Williams who is attending the Republican convention with his wife.

City Manager Jim Boyd said Ford's selection is "quite an honor for this area ... but of course (Ford and Dole) have a long way to go to get elected."

And, he added, "we had planned to bring Bob with us. That will no doubt be changed."

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Dole Able To Dish And Take

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — 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 was called in to help, this time as Ford's running mate.

With a tight smile, 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, and those same qualities undoubtedly were a factor in President Ford's selection of a running mate.

Well known in Washington, and with strong agricultural ties, Dole had been mentioned before 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 also has avoided enemies among the defeated supporters of Ronald Reagan. Despite the fact he was a Ford delegate to the convention, the conservative senator refrained from attacking Reagan.

Even when he spoke in Ford's behalf at the Kansas state 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 whatever candidate is selected.

State Republicans Look Toward Future

OLATHE (HNS) — Kansas Republicans already are looking at who might become their next U.S. Senator if Sen. Robert Dole is elected vice president in November.

The two most frequently mentioned possibilities are that Gov. Robert Bennett will resign and let Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith appoint him to the post, or that Dole's 1974 campaign chairman, Dave Owen, Olathe, might get the nod.

Bennett, who will have the power to decide Dole's successor if the Senator moves to the vice presidency, was not available for comment by press time.

"A lot of ifs have to happen," said Smith, but he acknowledged that a resignation in anticipation of the appointment would not be unprecedented.

"I think we've got a campaign to win first. That's the job to do now."

But Smith said, "there would be all kinds of options in addition to Bennett or Owen."

"The choice will be strictly up to the Governor," Owen said. "I have thought about it (serving in the Senate) from time to time."

Owen said he believes Dole "should have some input into who is selected, since he was elected to the position."

Rural Kansans, however, see drawbacks to the ap-

pointment of either Bennett or Owen. Both are from Johnson County, as is the state's junior Senator, James Pearson.

Although Owen's closeness to Dole may help ease any anti-Johnson County feeling connected to him, Kansas from points west of Johnson County are expected to lobby for the appointment of someone from outside the wealthy Kansas City suburban county.

No potential candidates names were discussed in the first moments after the announcement of Dole's selection, however.

Joy, tears for Kansans

By Dean Hinneen

OLATHE — Laughter, tears of joy and some surprise marked the Kansas delegation's reaction to the naming of Sen. Robert Dole's R-Russell selection as Gerald Ford's running mate.

"It's the greatest thing that's happened at this convention — for Kansas and the country," said Calvin James, Jewell, GOP 1st District chairman.

James, who up until Wednesday was an uncommitted delegate, talked with President Ford on Monday. The subject of Dole as a vice president came up in that discussion.

For Joe Hill, RFD 4, the Dole selection was a pleasant surprise.

"I told a radio reporter this morning I thought it would be Howard Baker," he said.

Hill, a wheat farmer, said the selection of Dole will bring Midwestern farmers back into the Ford camp.

Hill wasn't the only surprised Republican, however. Dave Owen, Dole's 1974 Senate campaign chairman, didn't learn of Dole's selection until moments before the official announcement shortly after noon.

"The Senator and I were talking up until about a quarter of 11 and he didn't know then. We both thought it was Howard Baker," he said.

Owen, who was host for a barbecue for the Kansas delegation, was grinning from ear to ear as he accepted congratulations while greeting the delegation.

"I can't believe it," Owen said as he shook hands with excited Kansas Republicans. Owen said he does not yet know what his role will be in the national campaign, "but I will do whatever the Senator asks me to."

The selection of Dole is expected to boost the chances of Kansas Republicans seeking lower offices in the November election.

Damon Weber, Caldwell, GOP candidate for state treasurer, said he was "so excited about the announcement I hadn't stopped to think of it," but, he said, the coat-tail effect obviously would be a boost to his cam-

aign against incumbent Joan Finney.

Gene Eastin, Dodge City, a member of Rep. Keith Sebelius' staff, said Dole "will be a great help to the Ford ticket."

And Eastin and Weber both agree that Dole can bring Ronald Reagan supporters back into the party's mainstream.

Some Reagan supporters weren't so sure.

"As far as Kansas is concerned, people are upset with Dole," said Betty Hanicke, a Reagan delegate from Westwood.

She said the vice president-designate had been "talking out of both sides of his mouth on ERA."

Mrs. Hanicke said she would have preferred Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee as the vice presidential candidate.

Another Reagan delegate, George Miles, said the selection of Dole was "a hell of a lot better than a lot of possibilities."

But neither Miles nor Mrs. Hanicke planned to vote for Dole for vice president.

Miles said he would let his alternate handle his delegates duties Thursday night, but would instruct the alternate to vote for Dole.

Mrs. Hanicke abstained in a poll of the Kansas delegation at a Thursday afternoon caucus, and was expected to repeat that vote on the floor Thursday night.

Gerald Wood, an alternate delegate who supports Reagan, said he was "thrilled to death" by the selection of Dole.

"He will make a strong addition to Ford ticket," Wood said.

Because of Ford's announcement, the Dole family plans are uncertain. "We had planned to return home tomorrow," Kenneth said, "we're working people."

And he added, "we had planned to bring Bob with us. That will no doubt be changed."

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