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Ford picks Kansas' Sen. Robert Dole

But are Kansans thrilled?



ROBERT DOLE enjoys a laugh with President Ford during a news conference in which Ford announced Dole as his choice for running mate. Dole's wife, Mary Elizabeth, joined her husband at the press conference.

Dole accepts nomination

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — Sen. Robert Dole accepted the GOP vice presidential nomination Thursday night by assuring Republicans the party had not been split by the bitter battle waged between President Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Dole, the dark, intense Kansan who was chosen only a few hours earlier as Ford's running mate, called upon Republicans not to be "deterred or discouraged by those who interpret the long and hard-fought primary campaign as a sign of division in Republican ranks."

"And let us recall that hard fought battles have never hurt our party," he said in the acceptance speech he prepared for delivery to the full convention.

"It was just such a contest in 1952 that gave us Dwight Eisenhower, and he gave us eight years of peace and prosperity. President Ford will do the same."

Dole sought in his speech to shift all blame for the nation's woes away from Ford and onto the shoulders of the Democratic majority in Congress.

"Until we break the stranglehold of the party of big government over the Congress of the United States, we are going to have more federal spending, more federal control over our private lives, and more empty promises that leave our people disillusioned and frustrated," he said.

He described Ford as "the great and good man who leads this nation today," who has helped build world peace and shown the nation the way back to a healthy economy.

"He has suffered abuse, he has endured accusations about his concern for the jobless, he has borne with patience those who have questioned his compassion for the poor, and he has put this economy back on the road to good health," Dole said.

"And he is succeeding, my friends, because he has placed his faith in the American people, and not in the discredited gimmicks of government."

Dole said some people felt in the wake of the Vietnam war that the nation's will "was so sorely tried" that it could not "wage peace in the world." But Ford, he said, "understood that a free people are never too tired to defend their freedom."

Even with Bob Dole's record, he might not have been chosen as President Ford's running mate without the effective selling job done by Gov. Robert Bennett and Dave Owen, Midwest coordinator for Gerald Ford. Governor Bennett and Mr. Owen worked all Wednesday night contacting state delegations and top national Republican leaders.

Because he is a tenacious campaigner, Democrats here in Kansas, will have to work that much harder because of Senator Dole. He probably will be used to take on the Democrat nominee Jimmy Carter as President Ford looks busy running the nation.

However, his help, in our opinion, will not be enough to keep Jimmy Carter from carrying Kansas and winning the election.

ROBERT DOLE'S mother, right, Mrs. Dorian Dole, and Dole's daughter, Robin, receive the applause of the Kansas delegation lead by Gov. Robert Bennett in Kansas City Thursday after Ford had picked Dole for his running mate.



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Town waits for Dole's return

Presidential visit for Russell

By Bob Yoho
RUSSELL — There are no banners proclaiming Russell as Bob Dole's home here, possibly because of the surprise news Thursday.

Thursday Dole was selected as Ford's choice as running-mate. The only outward signs indicating the news is U.S. flags and welcome flags bordering main street in anticipation of the visit of President Ford and Dole, Friday at Russell.

Other signs in town are the marquee in front of the Monte Carlo motel proudly proclaiming: "Welcome — hometown of Bob," and down the road at the Country Squire Motel, the marquee read: "Welcome home Bob Dole."

Most of the "banners" are in the hearts and minds of Russell residents. They remember a boy who grew up in their midst and who had leadership qualities; a boy who rose above overwhelming odds to get where he is today.

"He pulled himself up by his bootstraps," said Mrs. Alice Mills, who was Dole's Junior high school principal and math teacher.

"He was one of the best workers and he had stick-to-it-iveness."

She remembers Dole as the boy who made it to school when other students couldn't make it because of high snow drifts. She also remembers him as being well behaved and most agreeable.

"I remember the stinkers who came to my office and Bob wasn't one of them."

She last saw Dole recently at nearby Luray during a town celebration. Later he called her and said if he could do anything for her to let her know.

"I took a raincheck but I'm going to ask him how to raise the price of wheat," she said.

By Roger Verdon
Reactions to Senator Robert Dole's selection as President Gerald Ford's running mate in the November election were mixed Thursday as the news began to trickle through Kansas.

Most Republicans The News interviewed in a random telephone survey were in favor of Dole's nomination but Kansas Democrats were not swayed by having a favorite son on the Republican ticket.

One indication of the Republican Party's attempt at unity came from Mrs. Joe Cople, the wife of a wheat farmer from Meade.

Mrs. Cople said "My family (Republican) is not in favor of Dole. Things are getting worse. He hasn't done as much as I thought he would for farming."

Mrs. Cople indicated that she thought Senator Howard Baker, of Tennessee would make a better candidate.

"The way the farm situation is now it would be awfully hard to vote for him (Dole)."

But Mrs. Cople was making those comments before she realized that Dole had been picked as the President's selection for running mate. When she was informed, Mrs. Cople said, "Well, if he's with Ford I'll vote for Ford. I'm a Ford woman."

Lois Purdy, a 57-year-old secretary from Great Bend, couldn't make a commitment to Dole. An independent voter who voted for Dole in the past, she said his selection "is a great honor for Kansas. I think he's a very capable individual. I think he's taken very good care of the agricultural interests in the state."

But Democratic reaction to Dole's contributions to agriculture was different.

Mrs. Elmo Weathers, a retired legal secretary from Great Bend, said, "I don't like it. I don't think Dole's accomplished anything while he's been in office. He hasn't helped the farmer that I know of. If he has helped the farmer, I don't know what he's done."

Mrs. Weathers said she was a registered Democrat married to a wheat farmer.

In Hays, Mrs. Mike Hamontree, a Democrat, said she has never voted for Dole but said his selection "might influence me" in the

election. Her main reaction was about Dole's effect on the State. "It would be great for Kansas. It might put us on the map."

Some Kansans hadn't con sidered Dole as having a chance as the Republican choice.

Lewis Burr, a retired farmer from Sublette, felt "Baker was a real good man. He seemed to do so well on the Watergate case." But Burr thought Dole would add to the farmer's chances in the future. "He'll be in there to raise prices rather than see them go down."

Burr added that he would have rather seen Ronald Reagan as the President's running mate, since Reagan had a "better chance of holding the party together and winning in November."

Harrison Ravenscrast, an employe of Ford's Bookstore in Liberal was surprised at the President's choice.

But Ravenscrast, a Democrat, said it didn't make much difference to him anyway. "He's a do-nothing job. Fifty three year-old Ravenscrast said it would be "Jimmy Carter all the way," for him in November.

Donald Unruh, a farmer from Modoc, doesn't plan to vote for Dole because he doesn't vote — period.

"I don't vote myself, but if I did, I probably would vote for Dole," he said, adding that the newly-named Republican nominee has done a "good job" for Kansas farmers.

Unruh is a Republican — that is — when he votes.

The youngest response came from 10-year-old Douglas Graham of Minneola. Douglas said he had heard about the nomination of "The Governor of Kansas, Bob Dole. I think it is," on the radio.

But the news wasn't anywhere near as exciting as the convention itself, especially, Douglas said, "when the phone got pulled out," referring to a Utah delegate ripping out the New York delegation's telephone Tuesday night.

But if Douglas was old enough, Senator Bob Dole wouldn't have his vote anyway. "I would vote for Mr. Carter, he'd be a good president."

Douglas added that he liked peanuts.

Intercepted Letter
GERALD FORD
ROBERT DOLE
Russell
Held for arrival
Dear Jerry and Bob,
Carter supporter down the street commented that both Dole and Ford are four letter words.
Yours,
Hutch

gc DAILY UNION 8-20-76

OPINION

Dole's selection honor for state

All Kansans can be proud that Sen. Bob Dole has been selected as the Republican vice presidential candidate.

Some may disagree with his party affiliation but it is indeed an honor for the state's junior senator to be selected for this position.

Most Kansans will say they were surprised by Senator Dole's selection but we know the many attributes he possesses and will bring to the campaign, so looking back after the initial shock, it is not surprising that he was named by the president.

A native of Russell, he will add that important common sense touch, which Kansans seem to possess, to the national ticket.

A former Republican national chairman, he is well known for his sense of humor which will serve him well in the upcoming battle.

Senator Dole was selected because he will bring much to the party and to the campaign. Obviously, he was not selected because Kansas gave him a large majority of votes in his win of two years ago. But, he has a proven record as a winner — never losing an election from the time he first entered politics in 1951.

He has proven he can come

Hutchinson 8-20-76