

35, 1976

Kansan Wasting No Time in Planning Strategy

By Ray Morgan
Kansas City Star Staff
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It was 10:31 a.m. yesterday when the telephone rang in Room 727 of the Rainsworth Maclellan Hotel before Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas knew for certain that President Gerald Ford wanted him to be his candidate for vice-president on the Republican ticket.

The call was put through on an emergency basis to the room where Dole had been waiting, hoping that on an outside chance he might be called.

"This is the President, Bob," Ford said.

"Nice to hear from you, Mr. President," Dole said and laughed. "Do you have anything in mind—I hope."

"Bob, I'd like to have you on the ticket as vice president," Ford said.

"I can't believe it," Dole said.

Ford said he would send a wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hanford Commission.

Then began the hectic frantic pace.

On the elevator Dole ran into a reporter and said: "I'm going to the Crown Center Hotel to talk to the President. I think it's about the vice presidency."

Dole and his wife were driven to the Crown Center and taken up to the 18th floor where Ford was waiting.

The President, who had served eight years in the U.S. House with Dole, greeted the senator and his wife warmly and said he was greatly pleased "this whole thing is working out."

With the President when Dole and his wife arrived were Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, who was floor campaign manager for Ronald Reagan, and Sen. Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, who was floor campaign manager for Ford.

After the preliminary greetings on the Crown Center presidential floor, Dole and Ford chatted about how far they had come since the days when they were in the U.S. House. "We were fighters then and we're still fighters," Ford said.

Downstairs in the White House press room there was still incredulity that Dole actually was the choice. There was another slight pause as the group waited for three of the Ford children, Susan, Steven and Michael, to arrive.

"Well, I guess we better get going," Ford said. "They've been waiting."

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G.O.P. Nominates Dole as Veep

He's Hero In Russell

By John A. Dvorak
Kansas City Star Staff

Russell, Kan., — Like the winds of a western Kansas blizzard the announcement that the home-town hero, Bob Dole, had won the vice-presidential sweepstakes swept through the quiet, tree-shaded streets here yesterday.

The 5,371 persons of Russell, where Dole was born and learned his early political lessons, began hearing the news not long after the senator and his wife were told in Kansas City.

A Bartlesville, Okla., radio station picked up the report from its network and immediately relayed the announcement to its sister station here, KNSL.

"The word started to spread pretty fast," said Everett Janner, director of the Russell Chamber of Commerce.

Toanspeople admit they were shocked at President Gerald Ford's selection, but they seemed to be taking it with a mixture of pride and happiness.

By afternoon they began realizing their new-found fame carries some responsibility, too, and then the next news flash came—Dole will be coming here today, not only for a brief visit with old friends, but also to honor President Ford's 50th birthday.

Mayor Roger Williams is in Kansas City because his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, is an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention. Dole's two close relatives here, his mother, Mrs. Blina Dole, and his brother, Kenneth Dole, also were in Kansas City. Dole's two sisters live in Fort Morgan, Colo., and Derby, Kan., so the number of family members coming into town, lining up news interviews with the senator's old friends in a basement room at the Russell State Bank. Avis and Herr have you to discover Russell, so men and women were recruited to drive to Memorial Airport and pick up reporters, the television network, ABC, sent its camera crew in a twin-engine jet.

Visitors were handed in cups of Russell and copies of old biographies of Dole which someone wisely had hung on to from the senator's last campaign.

Planning for the initial Dole-Ford campaign excursion began at the Ramada Inn on the south edge of town last night, when Dole and other local businessmen met with an advance team of Republicans.

Bolt Hopper, who runs the Ford automobile dealership here, joined the effort and made his seven Mercury and 29 Fords available to the Chamber of Commerce or whoever else needs transportation.

"They can have them all," Hopper said, motioning to his new car lot.

Hopper came here three years ago from Albuquerque and fondly remembers that Dole sent him a letter of welcome.

"He wrote me and said he hoped I'd like Russell," Hopper said. "I still have the letter at the house."

The lawyer, who twice lost election races to Dole in the 1950s said he was

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First Team President and Mrs. Gerald Ford yesterday joined Sen. and Mrs. Bob Dole of Kansas yesterday at the Crown Center Hotel when Ford announced Dole as his choice for a running mate on the 1976 Republican ticket. (Staff photo by Ayres Lecher, Jr.)

Team Sent Into Battle

By Henry Clay Gaud
Kansas City Star Staff

Sen. Bob Dole, a rural Kansan who has climbed steadily in national politics, was nominated for vice president of the United States last night as the choice of President Gerald Ford.

Dole's nomination at the final session of the Republican National Convention in Kemper Arena set the stage for the 1976 G.O.P. ticket to come before its party for a rousing send-off to do battle with the Democratic standard-bearers.

The convention, assembling 20 hours after Ronald Reagan lost the presidential nomination on a close roll call vote, was in a slightly cantankerous mood during the early minutes. A few cheers were audible when Dr. Henry Kissinger, secretary of state, was introduced along with other cabinet members and a few more were heard when Vice President Nelson Rockefeller went forward to place Dole's name in nomination.

The split within the party was reflected by the nomination of Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina, one of the party's most conservative elective officials, by Rep. Robert E. Bauman of Maryland. Helms's name and Bauman's speech were warmly received although it was preplanned that Helms would withdraw.

Helms said in withdrawing that the G.O.P. has an excellent platform to take to the people and that "if we don't make it on principle, we're not going to make it at all."

Rockefeller, in nominating Dole, said the Kansan has the ability to serve as President if need be, but the vice-president's speech emphasized Dole's tough campaign style.

Rockefeller quoted the famous admonition of Harry Truman, "If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."

"The man of whom I speak can take the heat," Rockefeller said. "He can not only take it, believe me, he can really 'Dole' it out."

The lackluster nominating speech was greeted by a demonstration lasting only a few minutes, even though the supporters of the Ford-Dole ticket were ready with hundreds of blue and white signs bearing the names of Ford and Dole.

Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, Reagan's campaign manager, who seconded Dole's nomination, got a warmer reception than Rockefeller. Part of the crowd shouted the traditional chant of Reagan backers, "Viva," to which other Reagan supporters responded, "Oh."

Rockefeller praised Ford and Reagan for getting together early yesterday morning after Ford's victory.

"When we came here," he said, "it was my hope—and I believe the hope of most Americans—that out of this convention would come a reunited, reinvigorated Republican party, a party determined to meet the nation's problems with new solutions grounded on historic American principles."

"A giant step was taken in that

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Carter Views Selection of Dole As Conceding South to Him

By Lynne Olson
Associated Press Staff

Macon, Ga.—Jimmy Carter said yesterday that President Gerald Ford by choosing Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas as his running mate may have decided to forfeit the South to Carter in the election.

"It would be very difficult for the Republicans to challenge me successfully in the South, and it may be that President Ford just decided not to try," Carter said after hearing that Ford had picked Dole.

The Democratic presidential nominee added that Ford may have reached "the logical conclusion to try and concentrate his efforts elsewhere else."

Earlier reports said Ford was considering former Texas Gov. John Connally or Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee as his running mate in an effort to counter Carter's southern strength.

Carter termed Dole "an excellent choice."

The Democratic presidential nominee was attending a picnic sponsored by Capricorn Records at a park in Macon.

Phi Walden, president of the record company and an early supporter of Carter, staged several Carter fundraising concerts featuring the Almanac Brothers Band during the primary campaign.

Carter, who pairs a news conference this morning to give his reaction to the Republican convention refused to reply to Dole's refutation of him during a 10-minute speech.

"I'm sure he'll spell out his own position in the campaign," Carter said.

The nominee told one of his supporters at the picnic that he had just read an analysis saying that "Ford thought

himself in danger of losing his Midwestern support base."

"Maybe someone from Kansas could reach that one group of states on which to build an organization," Carter said.

Earlier Rex Graman, a Carter aide, said the former Georgia governor had talked to Ford for about three minutes yesterday morning.

Graman said Carter was told by the President that "a lot of harmony has been developing" among Republicans despite the fight between Ford and Ronald Reagan for the nomination.

According to Graman, Carter told Ford: "I anticipated that."

Basking in unusually balmy weather, the candidate, dressed in a navy knit shirt and checked slacks, strolled through the park shaking hands with the crowd, mostly young

people, and stopping briefly to eat fried chicken and cole slaw.

One of the guests at the picnic was Andy Warhol, pop artist, who occasionally snapped pictures of Carter with a miniature camera.

Carter aides said Warhol was to take a picture of Carter at his home in Plains today. Two hundred copies of the picture will be sold for \$2,000 each. Proceeds will go to the Democratic National Committee.

Thought for Today

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