

47. 1976

TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL 8-20-76

Keys, Freeman see Dole as benefit

By GENE SMITH
Federal Affairs Writer
Partisans in both camps see the Bob Dole vice presidential candidacy as a plus for their side in the contest for the 2nd Congressional District seat this fall.

Beneficial effect, because I think it'll get out more of the Republican vote," declared Freeman. "I think it's a very positive move — one that was totally unexpected."

Freeman also predicted the Democrats may revise their strategy as a result of the presence of the Kansas on the national GOP ticket.

Rep. Martha Keys, D-Kan., and GOP challenger Ross Freeman, a Topeka attorney, said they expect benefits from President Ford's surprise move in selecting Dole of Russell as his Republican running mate this fall.

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Russell welcomes its favorite son

By TOM CARLIN
The Capital-Journal Staff
RUSSELL — The people began gathering under the great shade trees in front of the Russell County courthouse early this morning to take part in this town's big day — a hometown boy was bringing the President of the United States to lunch.

President Ford and his vice presidential running mate, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., who was born here 53 years ago, arrived by helicopter at noon. They were greeted by applause from about 2,000 persons, according to law enforcement officials, at the Russell Airport.

Russell, the party went by helicopter which permitted the group's arrival here 10 minutes earlier than if it had covered the last leg by car.

Everett Dumler, a member of the Russell Chamber of Commerce, said the courthouse site was picked because Dole served four terms there as Russell County attorney before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1960.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Kerbs, Russell, had set up lawn chairs for a front row view of the activities.

Mrs. Kerbs said she laughed at her husband when he voiced the opinion that Dole had a chance to be selected as Ford's running mate.

Both Keys and former Democrat 2nd District Congressman Bill Roy pointed out that Dole failed to carry the district two years ago during Roy's narrow loss to Dole. By Roy, who almost ousted the incumbent, recalled Dole lost the 2nd District — which includes Topeka — by a margin of some 14,000 or 15,000 votes and said that proves Dole is "hardly a folk hero" in the area.

The two then motored with their families to the heart of this city of 6,000 for a barbecue and rally after which the Ford delegation was to fly to Tall City.

The GOP standard-bearers left Kansas City, site of the Republican National Convention, at 10:50 a.m. — 30 minutes behind schedule.

The welcoming crowd seemed to be evenly mixed with Russell townspeople and tourists who had been traveling along Interstate 70, which runs along the south edge of the city, and decided to stop and get in on the excitement.

The natives were easy to spot because of their proud smiles.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bender was sitting next to Mrs. Kerbs and she remembered that "Bob lived down the block when he got out of the hospital (after a three-year stay recovering from World War II injuries). He set up a law practice when he was able to. I certainly never thought he would get this far."

Dumler said local supermarkets donated food for the barbecue to feed the President's party and "as many spectators as we can."

A White House team arrived in Russell at 8:30 p.m. Thursday and directed the preparations, which included banks of telephones set up on picnic tables for the press.

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Senator told of selection at 10:30 a.m.

By ROGER MYERS
Staff Writer
KANSAS CITY — Sen. Bob Dole's ability as a tough and effective campaigner surfaced as the dominant reason why President Gerald Ford selected the junior U.S. Senator from Kansas to be his running mate.

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Dole endorsed by convention

By KEN PETERSON
Staff Writer
KANSAS CITY — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas received the second highest honor a political party can bestow Thursday night when the Republican Party nominated him for vice president of the United States.

Dole was declared the vice presidential nominee at 8:30 p.m. by Republican National Convention Chairman John Rhodes of Arizona, a congressman and native of Council Grove, Kan.

Upon motion of Rhodes, the convention a few minutes later unanimously declared Dole the vice presidential nominee. Dole entered Kemper Arena accompanied by an escort committee that included the state's four Republican congressmen.

Gov. Robert F. Bennett, chairman of the state delegation, announced the vote, proclaiming it a proud moment for the "sovereign state of Kansas," a state known as the most Republican in the nation and also for its rugged individualism.

Cheney said President Ford called Dole at 10:30 a.m. Thursday and asked him to serve on the ticket. The President announced his choice at a press conference approximately 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Sen. James B. Pearson of Kansas introduced Dole to the convention. Dole's address largely listed the accomplishments of President Ford, who delivered his acceptance speech about 11 p.m.

But Dole also urged the party to unite for the upcoming campaign, one of the reasons Ford probably selected the Kansas junior senator as his running mate.

Cheney said the President believes strongly that he should make a recommendation to the convention on the person he wants as his running mate, in about the same way Ford feels he should take definitive action on legislation that comes to him for signature.

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