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# The Hutchinson News

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## Main St. Russell swells with pride

By Bob Yoho

RUSSELL — Dole Country welcomed President Ford Friday with a rousing greeting delivered by about 10,000 voices, mostly those of Kansas.

The cheering throng lined a four-block motorcade route which ran south down Main street. Lines of persons, some from out-of-state who drove off I-70 when they heard the word Ford and Dole were in town, lined the sidewalks. The crowd became more grouped near the Russell County Courthouse and was nearly packed on the courthouse grounds where Ford and Dole spoke.

of a barbecue where hot dogs, potato chips and relish plates were set up for the dignitaries and townspeople. After the speeches, Ford and Dole waded down some Kansas cooked hot dogs, mingled a few minutes with folks and were off in a little over an hour after arriving about 11:55 a.m. by helicopter.

Ford was enroute to Vail, Colo., and Dole was returning to Washington after a brief stopover at Salina. Air Force One landed at Salina for the Russell visit.

American flags, an enterprising flag concessionaire sold for 50 cents a piece.

There were no signs for Democratic contenders Jimmy Carter and Minnesota Sen. Walter Mondale. This was Dole Country as the signs proclaimed.

Walt Dummer, a lifetime Russell resident, said, "I heard a friend of mine

say, 'I couldn't find a Democrat this morning — not one.'

But there were three protest-type signs, said to have been hoisted by 'upland New Yorkers.' The signs read "Bob and Jerry," "Fight Inflation" and "Stop the B-1 Bomber."

This was not the first time a president had visited Russell.

Teddy Roosevelt came through here in 1905 on a whistle stop," said Mrs. Herman Langholz. She said her father might have seen Roosevelt at that time. And now she was seeing President Ford.

A friend of the Dole family, Mrs. Langholz remembered how Dole helped when the husband of her daughter, Mrs. Ruth Karst, became missing in action during the Vietnam War. After six years, the missing pilot was declared dead, she said.

After the motorcade reached the courthouse, Ford delighted the waiting crowd across the street by walking over and shaking hands. Eager hands pushed forward to at least touch the famous hand — the hand of the President.

As the crowd surged forward, Ford gently chided, "Don't push. Don't push." Only a smattering of the crowd were lucky. Others anticipating the handshake were disappointed as he moved another direction.

"If we would have stayed over there, we would have got to shake hands with him," one young father was heard to say after he and his small family moved to the other side of the crowd. A woman, who was just satisfied with seeing President Ford in the flesh, emotionally exclaimed, "Oh my God."

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Ford and Dole also shook hands and talked with veterans who formed a color guard for the visiting dignitaries.

Joining Ford and Dole and Mrs. Dole on the platform were Gov. and Mrs. Robert Bennett; Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith; Sen. James Pearson of Prairie Village; Rep. Keith Sebelius of Norton; Dole's mother, Mrs. Bina Dole, and his daughter, Robin.

Nancy Lane, president of the Russell City Council, in her welcoming speech said, "We have proclaimed today as 'Bob Dole Day.' We are all very proud."

Later, Dole in his speech said, "We may even convert Nancy to a Republican before we leave here." Miss Lane is a Democrat.

Speaking to the crowd, Russell's favorite son said he remembered the help of townspeople when he first started into his burgeoning political career after surviving severe wounds during World War II.

"If I've had any success, it's because of the people here. When I needed help... tears halted his words and he wept for several seconds. The understanding crowd responded with a cheer.

Ford told the boisterous audience that when he called Dole to be his running mate, he asked for a "concession."

"He said, 'Will you come to Russell, Kansas tomorrow?' And I said, 'Yes,' Ford said.

Dole added, "We're starting our campaign in the heartland of America and that's why we're here today."

Dole said when Ford called him to ask him to be on the GOP presidential ticket, "I thought about it one second and said, 'Yes.'"

Dole said he "saw everybody's list but the President's" and "my name wasn't on most of them."

"I never believed I would be in this position...I really don't believe it yet today. It was a surprise," he said.

Ford said he chose Dole as his running mate because, "We have to bring Washington, D.C., and the local government together. Dole understands the problems of local communities."

"Bob is the kind of person who has personal contact with people."

President promises no more embargoes

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## Dole-Ford campaign starts in Russell

By Dean Hinnen

RUSSELL — There were a few persons in this community of 5,900 in "the heartland of America" who weren't on the Russell County Courthouse lawn Friday morning to greet their favorite son and vice presidential nominee, Sen. Bob Dole.

But those few who held down the forts at what few businesses remained open were more than replaced by thousands of Kansans who swarmed into Russell to see Dole and President Gerald Ford launch their presidential campaign.

The President received a roar of approval from the rural crowd when he reiterated a statement made in his acceptance speech that this administration will have no embargoes period.

Many farmers in Russell County and throughout Kansas have been angered by the Ford administration's embargo on wheat shipment last year, including Morris Krug, who along with his brother raises more than 2,000 acres of wheat annually.

Krug, who personally prepared a barbecue hot dog for Ford, and all the other

farmers, appear to have forgiven Ford now that he has named Dole to the ticket.

Dole, whose political career began as a state representative elected while a student at Washburn Law School, served for eight years as Russell County attorney.

His triumphant return to the courthouse lawn as a vice presidential nominee was called, "the biggest thing that's ever happened to Russell," by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Dole, attributed much of his success in politics to his Russell upbringing. "It shows you can come from a small town in America — you don't need all the wealth and material things to succeed — if I've succeeded," Dole said.

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Dole said the trip to Russell was one of the first decisions the Ford-Dole team made.

"The President told me (Thursday morning) when he tabbed Dole for the job we weren't going to start the campaign next week, we were going to start it tomorrow. He said we would start it in the heartland of America and that's why we are here today. I told him I knew a little place that

would qualify and that's why we're in Russell today."

Dole, who spoke first, introduced Ford as "one of us."

Ford, brought cheers from the crowd as he listed popular Kansas Republicans with whom he had worked during his career in Washington. He mentioned former Gov. Alf Landon, former Sens. Frank Carlson and Harry Darby, the late Rep. Wint Smith and incumbent Rep. Keith Sebelius and Sens. James Pearson and Dole.

He talked about Kansas as a leading wheat and cattle state and resolved applause when he talked about the state's oil production in this

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## Ford, Dole Cheered On Emotional Visit

By Ray Morgan

Russell, Kan.—President Gerald Ford pledged he would increase the exemptions for personal income tax and inheritance tax and ruled out any new grain embargoes at an emotional homecoming here yesterday for Sen. Bob Dole, his running mate.

More than 6,000 persons cheered Senator Dole and President Ford loudly and frequently during their appearances on a flag-draped platform under shade trees on the lawn of the Russell County courthouse.

At one point Dole sobbed with emotion as he thanked the people of Russell, the town where he grew up, for the help they gave him when he was recovering from severe battle injuries suffered in World War II.

It was difficult for the senator to regain his composure, and he covered his face with his hands for several seconds while Ford, Gov. Robert F. Bennett, Sen. James B. Pearson, other

Kansas dignitaries and the crowd applauded out of compassion.

When he recovered Dole said, "I just want to say thank you." The president launched into one of his quips by saying, "This is the first time a President has been here since Teddy Roosevelt spoke from the platform of a train at the station."

One person applauded and Dole said, "Oh, he must have been there." In an obvious feeling of camaraderie and good humor, Ford and Dole basked in the friendliness of thousands of outstretched hands as they plunged into the crowd on the courthouse lawn.

In his remarks President Ford said he would fight to increase the personal income tax exemption for all Americans from \$750 to \$1,000, as he said Sen. Dole had attempted to do unsuccessfully in the Congress, and would raise the personal inheritance tax exemption from \$80,000 to "at least \$150,000."

The crowd roared its applause. "This administration will never make the production of hard-working

American farmers a pawn in world relations," Ford said. "There will be no embargoes by this administration."

The President said he selected Dole as his running mate for several reasons but that one of the most compelling was that Dole is from Kansas.

I have made many appearances in Kansas in campaigns and I have come to realize that you produce great leaders in Kansas," Ford said.

"You can go down the list from the great Dwight D. Eisenhower to Alf Landon, to the beloved Frank Carlson and Harry Darby."

"Doggone it, you just produce great people here in Kansas and that's why Bob Dole is on the ticket."

The President also said he selected Dole because he had served in several areas of government and that the experience would be valuable "in our attempts to place more reliance on state and local governments and less on the federal government."

Senator Dole served as a county attorney.

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torney or prosecutor here in this courthouse and he came to know the problems of local governments," Ford said. "Bob Dole also served in the state legislature and he came to know well the problems of state government. With his years in the Congress, he has been able to use his experience in his work with the federal government."

"Ford drew a laugh from the crowd when he said that Senator Dole paused briefly when he asked him to serve as his running mate."

"I told him he'd better not hesitate too long," Ford said. "Then he told me he just wanted one commitment before he would accept, that I would come here to Russell with him today."

In his remarks Dole said he told the President as they drove through the crowded main street, "This is just a

typical Friday afternoon crowd in Russell."

"I worked in this courthouse for several years and I never saw this many people here at one time and I don't think there's been this many people here in the years since I worked here. I told the President that the crowd was so big because I have so many relatives."

"I told him this was just the relatives and the crowd was over on the other side of the courthouse."

Dole said he was glad to be a member of the Republican ticket and that he and Ford were going to work to win in November against Jimmy Carter and his running mate, Sen. Walter Mondale of Minnesota.

"Jerry Ford is a friend of Kansas," Dole said. "He has been in Dodge City, Great Bend and many other places over the years."

Dole said he would continue to try to work in whatever way Ford felt he could be of help in the campaign.

After Ford and Dole finished speaking they moved into the crowd to shake hands and munched on hotdogs, potato chips and assorted relishes off paper plates.

After the picnic Dole and Ford moved to the President's limousine and stood together with upraised arms in the open-top car while it moved through crowds.

Don Gardner, president of the chamber of commerce, presided at the ceremonies at which Ford and Dole spoke, while Mrs. Nancy Lane, president of the city council, welcomed the two.

After Mrs. Lane spoke, Dole told the crowd, "Maybe I can convert her to being a Republican."

Just before the President and Dole arrived, Andy Sterns of the White

House staff told the crowd: "We can't thank you enough for being here and all you have done. It's an absolute miracle that you could have got all this arranged in less than 18 hours. We're just not used to doing things this way."

An impromptu band composed of Russell High School students played for the occasion, and a color guard from the Russell American Legion post stood at attention in the middle of the broad street as the motorcade came to a halt at the courthouse.

Ford and Dole arrived aboard Air Force One at Salina Municipal Airport and flew from Salina to Russell aboard a White House helicopter.

After the ceremonies the two returned to Salina aboard the helicopter. The President flew to Vail, Colo., for a vacation, and Dole went back to Washington where he will appear tomorrow on the CBS program, Face the Nation.

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## No Doubts in Russell About Visit—'It Was Great'

By John A. Dvorak

Russell, Kan.—It was, in Mayor Roger W. Williams' words, "the greatest thing that could happen."

"When do you have a favorite son nominated for vice-president?" Williams asked. "When do you get a President to come to a town of 5,000 persons?"

For Russell, where Sen. Bob Dole was born and reared, all that happened in less than 30 hours.

But city officials and businessmen shrugged off their surprise and with only an evening and morning to plan, they tossed a political picnic that would be the envy of any presidential campaign.

No one knows how many persons packed into the courthouse square just south of the downtown at noon yesterday to see President Gerald Ford and Dole, his running mate. The city manager, G.J. Boyd, after conferring with police and Secret Service agents, estimated 10,000 persons swarmed around the courthouse.

That may be high but it was a crowd that Russell will never forget. Nor is it likely that Russell will ever see such an array of Republican dignitaries again. Besides Ford and Dole there was Sen. James Pearson, Gov. Robert F. Bennett, Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith and Rep. Keith Sebelius.

Ford, wearing a sunflower lapel pin, spared no effort to thank the crowd for turning out.

After raising off-the-cuff speech Ford left the stage, which was under a grove of shade trees near the courthouse, and with Dole at his side began greeting the flesh, Lyndon Johnson style.

He grabbed hand after hand, then shifted direction and plunged into another part of the crowd. Once Ford paused to eat a hot dog with Dole. The two went up and down Main Street, which was lined with well-wishers for blocks.

Finally, with time running out on their 90-minute visit, Ford and Dole, standing through the roof of the President's long black limousine, drove through Russell and waved to cheering throngs.

Not everyone was able to join in the hot dog and potato chip picnic. It was impossible to feed that many. But no one seemed to mind.

Mayor Williams nearly missed one of the big moments in his town's history. Williams was thought to be in Kansas City Thursday when word came of the Ford-Dole visit. But he was in Washington, preparing to drive home with his son, Peter, a college student there.

The two heard of the visit about 5:30 p.m. Thursday near Columbus, Ohio. A good airline connection home was unavailable, so they drove all night, finally reaching Topeka yesterday morning. They left their car, hastily chartered an airplane, and landed at Russell Municipal Airport moments after Ford's green and white helicopter touched down. Williams found a ride, rushed downtown, and arrived at the courthouse just as Ford was being introduced. The President greeted Williams with a warm handshake and a big smile.

Another mayor also had trouble getting here. Mayor Lawrence Ochs of Colorado Springs was reared in Russell and when he heard about the rally he, too, chartered a plane. The craft was not permitted to land here, so it landed in Hays, about 35 miles west. Ochs then made a hurried car trip to courthouse square.

"It's been a big, big day, that's for sure," said Everett L. Dummer, manager of the chamber of commerce and a key member of the hastily assembled group of businessmen and city officials who planned yesterday's event.

Dell Klema, who runs an I.G.A. grocery, was asked to supply food for the rally. He spent yesterday morning running up pickles, hot dogs, buns,

relish, potato chips and napkins. Lunch for about 1,200 was provided, he said. The chamber of commerce will pick up the tab, estimated to run several hundred dollars.

Miss Mollie Krug, president of the Russell County Republican Women, organized its cooks and about a dozen charcoal grills. Temporary outdoor kitchens were set up on the courthouse lawn amid the spectators.

Don King and Tom Fowler, music teachers at Russell High School, phoned student band members and managed to assemble a pop band.

"They practiced 'Hail to the Chief' this morning," one man said.

Security was tight at the airport. Dole and Ford left and boarded their helicopter at least 100 feet from the few spectators allowed on the grounds.

But in town Russell residents were allowed maximum access to the President.

Secret Service agents ringed the stage where the President and Dole sat, but they spoke in full view of thousands. A few children even climbed trees and sat on roofs to get a better view. Later the President ordered his prearranged motorcade route altered so the line of cars could drive past the home of Dole's mother, Mrs. Bina Dole, and drop her off.

Dozens of signs and flags greeted Ford and Dole. Hand-painted elephant-shaped placards with the words "Ford-Dole" were prominently displayed.

The crowd was orderly and enthusiastic and there were no boons for the President. There were two signs, however, that Ford and Dole must have seen. One said "Fight Inflation" and the other read "Stop B-1 Bomber."

A hand-lettered sign in the chamber of commerce window said: "Welcome Home, Bob." In smaller type below it went on: "Glad you could come along, Jerry."