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Ford's choice of Dole may have affected farm policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford's choice of a farm-oriented senator as his vice president candidate on the Republican ticket may have had some impact on national policy.

What electoral impact it has had, of course, won't show until Nov. 2. Since Ford tapped Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., ranking GOP member of the Agriculture Committee, the administration has tripled import duties on sugar to protect U.S. sugar cane and sugar beet producers, imposed meat-import quotas for the first time in 12 years of having the authority and raised price-support production loan rates.

Sources at the agriculture department and within the Ford-Dole campaign attribute those decisions to Dole's influence. Dole had little influence at the White House from June, 1975 to this June because of his anti-administration approach to overhaul of the food-stamp program.

AFTER THE loan rates were increased, less than a month after Ford told wheat growers he wouldn't do it, the senator noted he had met with Ford three times on the subject. One of those meetings was a month ago, on a Saturday morning at the White House with then-Secretary Earl L. Butz, a session Dole later told reporters dealt with campaign strategy.

Butz had repeatedly stated publicly and privately no economic justification existed for raising the rates out of cycle with other elements of the farm and price-support programs.

The justifications for Wednesday's announcement came out of the White House Office of Management and Budget and aides to farm senators, who have been hearing from their country bankers and grain-farmer constituents. USDA economists did not seek to justify the move.

But what top officials expect to happen in the farm economy was still not clear Friday.

In the offices of some senator USDA officials consternation was a common expression. One blurted out, "You know, we are headed right back where we were" 10 years ago to large government-held grain stocks and controlled production.

"One aide close to the decision-making on the boosts in loan rates for wheat and feed-grain said, "We didn't know what the market would do."

Since convention, 3 changes have occurred agriculturally

After gaining before the announcement Wednesday, prices for those commodities took a dive Thursday. They dropped another three cents Friday.

THE PRINCIPAL argument for the increases was a decline this year in farm prices for the grains, forcing farmers to either sell at a loss or hold their wheat and corn under the old loan rates until the market picked up.

Holding them under loan gives producers cash for operating expenses until they can sell at a profitable price. The indications have been since mid-summer that many farmers were indeed holding their crops back.

Top advisers to the principals involved said Thursday they also were uncertain how much grain would go under loans.

Farmers now can get a \$2.25-a-bushel loan on wheat, for example, and hold it off the market by paying 7.5 per cent

interest and storage costs for up to a year. The government then would take possession and sell it at \$2.63, give it away to schools or foreign countries or keep storing it.

SOME KANSAS banks were loaning \$2 to \$3 a bushel this summer, at 10 per cent interest, but credit was tightening in rural areas and, as grain prices fell, bankers wanted less-risky security. More attractive USDA price-support loans should ease that crunch, USDA officials said.

As of Aug. 31, three months into the new wheat year and 11 months into the corn year, the government had 32.9 million bushels of wheat under loan at \$1.50 a bushel, a 140.4 per cent increase over a year before.

The amount of corn already under loan at \$1.25, instead of the new \$1.50, was up 395 per cent; sorghum, 405 per cent.

OMB estimated government outlays, because of the loan-rate increases, would be \$98 million. All would be repaid with interest and storage costs added or the saleable grain would come into USDA possession after a year.

If that were all new wheat loans, not just 75-cent-a-bushel additions to current loans, only 43 million bushels of wheat would be involved over the next 19 months — 1.54 per cent, or 6 days' worth, of the presently anticipated supply this year.

FARMERS WITH old-rate loans can renegotiate them under the new rates until the price goes up in the market. The remaining question Thursday was: when will the prices go up, so those loans can be redeemed?

Exports are still lagging because of generally good grain crops worldwide, but aides and officials interviewed suggested that's the main hope of supporters of the decision. A calmer African situation, allowing more exports there

would help the demand side, some said.

Although USDA is predicting a price softening, excess wheat supply next summer equivalent to almost four months' supply, wheat growers show no signs of cutting back production.

Ford campaign aides who have talked with farmers said long-run national economics aside, angry grain growers who normally vote Republican but were planning to "sit on their backs Nov. 2" now will go out and vote for Ford in appreciation.

The Hutchinson News

105th Year

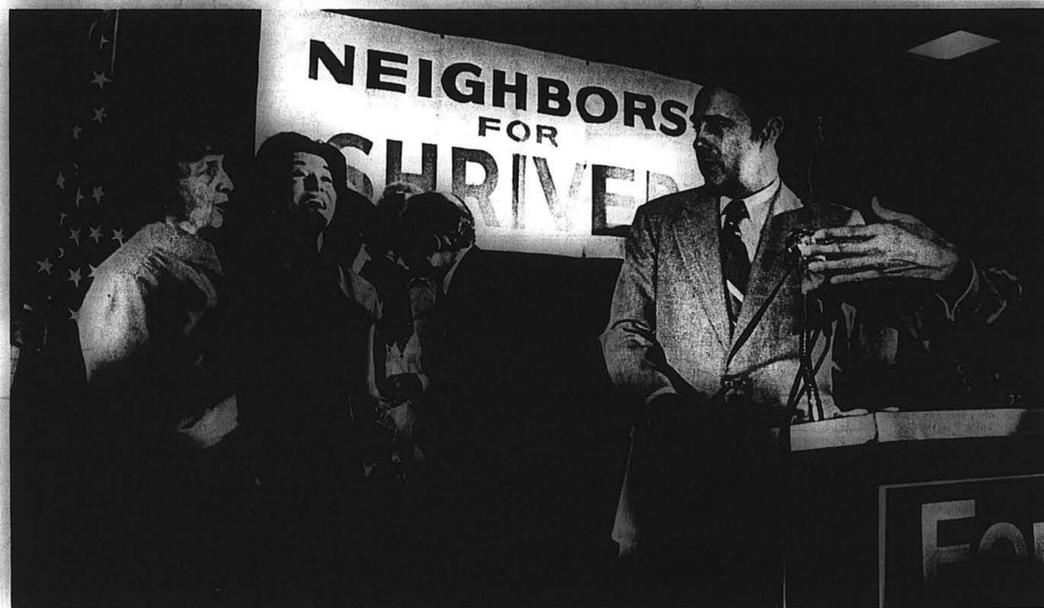
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78 Pages

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Bob Dole:

Home again

(Related story, pg. 3) LAWRENCE, Kan. (UPI) — Restless because of the time he spent preparing for his debate, Sen. Robert Dole returned to fulltime campaigning Saturday with a visit to his home state and a college football game.

The Republican vice presidential candidate went to the contest between the University of Oklahoma and the University of Kansas, where he was a student in the early 1940s.

He then planned to speak on behalf of GOP congressmen in Kansas City, Mo., and spend the night in the city where he was nominated President Ford's running mate two months ago.

"I'm just sort of resentful at having to give up a whole week of campaigning for the debate," Dole said after his nationally televised confrontation with Sen. Walter Mondale Friday night.

Dole neither claimed victory nor conceded defeat, telling reporters, "I woke up at 4:30 this morning and couldn't get back to sleep trying to remember all the

things I should have said and forgot to say."

Dole arrived on the KU campus under a bright sun and chill wind. He walked to the middle of the football field and flipped the coin. Kansas won the toss.

After the game, Dole was going to visit some campus receptions and his old fraternity house, Kappa Sigma.

At airport news conferences during the day Dole reviewed his historic moment in the national spotlight the night before.

"We felt good about the debate. It just seems to me that we have the momentum and I wasn't a bit nervous. I was calm about it but to say that I won might be presumptuous. I just feel good about it," he said.

Standing on the sidelines of the KU field before the ceremonial coin toss, Dole quipped to game officials, "On Wednesday I was kind of hoping Friday wouldn't come."

When he noticed a reporter standing behind him he smiled and did not expand on the statement.

NOW, SON — Bob Dole quips that his mother, Bina, can always cook him a meal when he stops at Russell.

HUTCH NEWS 10-17-76 Saturday: Dole day at KU

LAWRENCE (HNS) — Officially, Saturday was Homecoming on the University of Kansas campus. Unofficially, it was Bob Dole day.

For many, Dole's visit, on the heels of Friday night's vice presidential debate, was a Jayhawk victory at an otherwise disastrous homecoming. Dole, still nursing a sore throat, tossed the coin at opening ceremonies and then watched most of KU's 28-10 loss to Oklahoma. He missed the early minutes of the second half and didn't see the play on which quarterback Nolan Cromwell was injured.

Everywhere Dole went on the KU campus there were old friends to greet him. He visited with former classmates and other friends, shook hands with hundreds of Kansans and signed autographs for others. He also visited the fraternity house where he waited tables more than 30 years ago, and was honored at a reception in the KU Union.

From the moment his limousine arrived at Memorial Stadium until he left the campus more than four hours later, Dole was besieged by Kansans who either knew him or wanted to. He was relaxed and appeared to be en-



HOOPLA — Dole supporters from Hutchinson traveled to Wichita, showing signs of support.

joying both the game and the return to his old school. Although he campaigned for Rep. Garner Shriver in Wichita in the morning and put in a plug for Rep. Larry Winn at the KU reception, most of Saturday's activities were basically non-political — if anything a national candidate does can be non-political.

Everywhere he went he was congratulated for his performance in the Friday debate, but told Olathe attorney Gene Balloun,

"You're the debater, you should have been there. I've never debated in my life."

Balloun, who succeeded Dole as Russell County attorney in 1961 and then practiced law in Great Bend before moving to Olathe four years ago, laughed and changed the subject.

"We've known Bob Dole for a long time," said Balloun's wife, Pat. "We were at KU together and then were in Russell when he was there. We're just so pleased that he's doing such a great job. I think he is fulfilling a lifetime ambition — it's great to see somebody do that."

"Win or lose, Bob Dole is a successful person," Mrs. Balloun added.

She wasn't the only one to mention losing. Dole, who rarely talks about anything but winning when he's campaigning, joked about the subject in his appearance at Kappa Sigma fraternity.

The scrapbook, of the 1941-42 school year at KU, included a picture of Dole winning an intramural race and other highlights of the first of the two years he spent at KU. Dole is not a KU grad. He interrupted his education to join the Army and completed his degree requirements at Washburn University in Topeka.

But he said the Kappa Sigma influence had left its mark.

"If there's one thing I've learned, it's how to get along with people. I learned that right here at Kappa Sigma," Dole said.

But he also joked about the fraternity and his background. "I don't think I was ever in this room," he said, as he looked around the vast expanse of the first floor room. "They didn't let those of us from Western Kansas come down here."

Dole, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, also visited the Delta Delta Delta sorority house. Mrs. Dole was a Tri-Delt at Duke University. Dole and members of the national press who follow him

on the campaign trail, discussed the attractiveness of KU's Tri-Delts. That gave Dole both a new quip and a new target.

"Earlier we were over at the Tri-Delt house — where most of the newsmen stayed," Dole told the Kappa Sigs, who roared their approval.

Both Dole and his wife, first at the Union reception, then at the respective fraternity and sorority houses, encouraged student involvement in politics and praised those who already are involved.

At the reception, Dole reminisced about an appearance he made at KU while national chairman of the Republican party. "I was here defending the war in Southeast Asia. It was just my luck to come in after the invasion of Cambodia. I still have the tape of that," he said.

"But things have changed and the world has changed for the better — we're at peace now. And that's an important thing to remember," Dole added, slipping back into the role of a candidate.

"I hope you're all registered to vote," he told the Tri-Delts. "I won't tell you how to vote, just to vote — but try to remember those two four-letter words — Ford and Dole."

Mrs. Dole told both the Union crowd and the Tri-Delts that "today's young people are certainly a lot more sophisticated and knowledgeable than I was at your age. We've been on eight or nine college campuses and we haven't found any sign that young people are turned off to politics, like so many people say."

At the football game, Dole sat one row above KU Chancellor Archie Dykes. He spent half time in the Chancellor's reception room, not going out to campaign as he usually does.

A steady stream of politicians, educators and KU alumni filled through the small room, however, including Gov. Robert Bennett and his wife, Olivia; former Gov. Robert Docking; Glee Smith, chairman of the Board of Regents; Prudence Hutton, former Regents chairman; and John Conard, who will assume new duties as the Regents' executive officer next month.

After leaving KU, Dole went to Kansas City. He will campaign in Missouri on Sunday.

HUTCH NEWS 10-17-76 Roy: "It was vintage Dole"

By Dean Hinnen
Kansas Correspondent
TOPEKA (HNS) — It lacked the "spark" of a Senate campaign debate two years ago, but Sen. Bob Dole's performance Friday night in his vice presidential debate against Sen. Walter Mondale "was vintage Dole," according to Dr. Bill Roy.

Roy should know. He was the Democratic candidate for Dole's Senate seat in 1974 and battled Dole in a no-holds-barred debate at the Kansas State Fair.

"I thought Sen. Dole, as far as his debating style and manner, did a very good job. As far as content, it was vintage Dole, defending positions very well and often defending them by attacking the position of the other person. He didn't mention a single positive thing," Roy said in a telephone interview from Albuquerque, N.M.

"Dole did very well. He did a better job than I thought he was capable of doing," Roy continued.

"I found Dole more entertaining, but Mondale, I thought, did a tremendous job on the issues — I think he laid out what this campaign is about," said the former Congressman who barely lost to Dole in 1974.

Roy said the debate lacked some of the spark of the Fairgrounds debate, but attributed that to the format.

"I think the format we had at the Kansas State Fair has to be about the most exciting format there is. The opportunity to ask questions of the other candidate tends to make the sparks fly," Roy said.