

28, 1976

Page 6 — The Russell Daily News, Thursday, August 19, 1976



NATIONAL COMMANDER Harry G. Wiles, St. John, Kan., completed a week long session of congressional appointments in 1975 during his initial visits to Capitol Hill in pursuit of The American

Legion's legislative goals. He is shown here with Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas and running mate of President Gerald Ford.

When Going Gets Rough They Call on Bob Dole

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—When the Republicans need a tough political fighter who can take it as well as dish it out, they call on Bob Dole.

A tough campaigner is just what President Ford needs facing an uphill fight against Democrat Jimmy Carter and again Dole was called into help, this time as Ford's running mate.

With a tight smile, the Kansas senator can deliver a caustic argument on the Senate floor or a

Ford—

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television time before Ford could savor victory at last.

In Plains, Ga., before Ford's nomination, Democratic nominee Carter predicted the President will make a "formidable opponent" and that the GOP will become reunited "very quickly" after Kansas City. But Carter expressed confidence he could sweep the South even if Ford had Baker for a running mate.

Ford's big breakthrough came when the convention Tuesday night rejected, 1,180 to 1,069 with 10 abstentions, a high-stakes Reagan bid to force the President to disclose his vice presidential preference in advance of the nomination balloting.

Gloom was evident in Southern delegations, where Reagan was especially popular, over prospects for Ford's campaign this fall.

There were vague, scattered rumblings that hard-core conservatives both within and outside the Reagan camp might start a third-party movement.

But Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., their unofficial leader, said he might consider a third-party alternative in the future, but that such a move at this time would only weaken the GOP and help Carter.

"I'm only interested in the two-party system," Helms said. "Having participated in the system, I think it would smack of immorality for me to pick up my marbles and go home just because I didn't get my own way."

But Richard Viguerie, a powerful fund-raiser for conservative causes and publisher of Conservative Digest in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, wasn't waiting. He and other activists were planning a meeting of conservatives in Chicago next week to create a political coalition, get on the ballots of about 40 states and kill Ford's chances of victory in November.

Viguerie, who said the Republican party "stands for nothing," was considered a likely candidate for the third party's vice presidential nomination. The party's potential presidential candidate was rumored to be former Gov. Lester Maddox of Georgia.

biting joke to a crowd back home. The joke often is aimed at himself.

With the experience of two years as GOP national chairman, Dole, 53, perhaps was the natural choice for temporary chairman for the 1976 Republican National Convention at Kansas City, bordering his home state, and those same qualities undoubtedly were a factor in President Ford's selection of a running mate.

Well known in Washington, and with strong agricultural ties, Dole had been mentioned before as one who could shore up weak spots in the campaign against Carter.

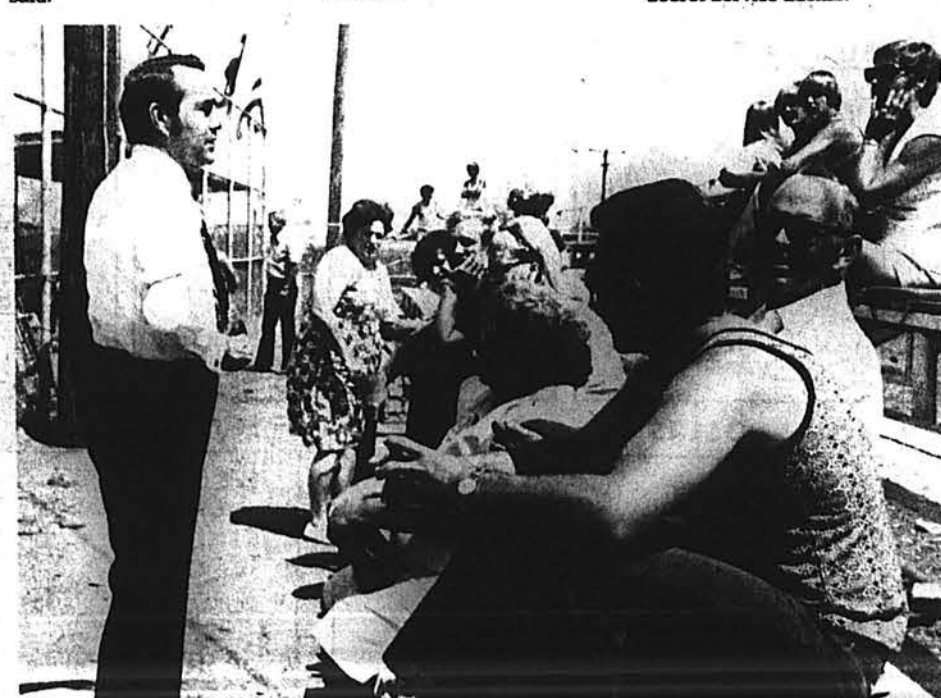
Before the selection, Dole said he thought his chances were remote, but asked if he would accept, he said, "I think anybody would want to be vice president."

Dole also has avoided enemies among the defeated supporters of Ronald Reagan. Despite the fact he was a Ford delegate to the convention, the conservative sen-

'Can't Believe It'

"I can hardly believe it, it is so great," Mrs. Carl Friesen, Russell, said early Thursday afternoon. The aunt of U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, watched his nomination for vice-president over television in her home during the late morning.

"He's still a little old hometown boy to me, and I am glad for him and proud of him," Mrs. Friesen said.



SEN. BOB DOLE, vice-presidential nominee selected by President Gerald Ford, is shown

baseball fans in his hometown Russell during the 1974 State Babe Ruth baseball tournament.

ator refrained from attacking Reagan.

Even when he spoke in Ford's behalf at the Kansas state Republican convention—following an appearance by Reagan—Dole's tone was conciliatory. He said both were fine men he could play nicely with and that the party must unite behind whatever candidate is selected.

One of his stronger statements about Reagan on that occasion indicated the former California governor was criticizing Ford for problems born of a Democrat-controlled Congress.

Dole's Sister Sends

Greetings to Russell

Special greeting to Russell area people were sent shortly after noon today by Mrs. Tom Steele, Derby, sister of U.S. Sen. Bob Dole.

"We are all very excited," Norma Jean Steele said. The first indication they had of the impending appointment was Thursday morning when it was learned that Dole, Ann Armstrong, Sen. Baker and another were having breakfast with President Gerald Ford.

"We don't know Bob's plans right now, but he will keep Russell people informed as soon as he can," Mrs. Steele said.

In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Steele, Dole's family in Kansas City for the announcement at noon were his daughter, Robin; mother, Mrs. Blina Dole, Russell; and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dole, Russell.

"I think he (Reagan) is making a mistake in who runs that show," Dole told the Kansasans. The senator was warned by several people—including his wife, Federal Trade Commissioner Elizabeth Hanford Dole—to stay away from the state convention. Kansas Republicans said if he got embroiled in the national party fight it could bring him as much trouble at home as his earlier involvement in the national GOP.

Dole's close identification with Richard Nixon and the fact he headed the national party at the time of the Watergate break-in are considered major reasons Dole nearly lost his Senate seat in 1974.

As one Capitol Hill observer quipped, "If you like Dick Nixon, you'll love Bob Dole." Dole defeated former Rep. William Roy, D-Kan., by 13,532 votes of 794,437 votes cast in 1974.

But in spite of the warnings, Dole got involved this year. "Well, I think most of you voted for me for Congress because I didn't stay away from a good contest," he told the Kansas state convention.

The manager of Jaccard's Jewelry in Crown Center said he was ready to hit the panic button when three men in business suits walked in and stood waiting, their eyes furtively surveying the area. "I walked over and asked one if I could help him. He said, 'No, but that little girl over there would like some.'" The little girl was Susan Ford; the men were Secret Service agents.

News Media Flocks to Russell

The news media of the United States rushed to Russell today within only hours of the announcement by President Gerald R. Ford in Kansas City, Mo., of the selection of Russell's native son, U.S. Sen. Robert J. Dole, as his Republican selection for Vice President. Dole was named just before noon.

The announcement surprised the people of the community, as well as the nation, as it was unexpected. Many local residents had watched the Republican National Convention on television until 2:30 a.m. today, but had not expected Dole to be picked for the No. 2 spot.

Here to learn about Dole and his hometown and state and the reactions of people of the community about his selection were members of the staffs of the three major television networks, NBC, CBS and ABC, members of Channel 12, Wichita, KAYS-TV and Radio from Hays, and The Wichita Eagle & Beacon.

The ABC crew was the first to land at the Russell Municipal Airport. Included in the ABC group were Roger Peterson, correspondent from Washington, D.C., Dave Green, producer from

Chicago, Sid Dobish, cameraman from New York City, Jack Gray, soundman, and Dick Scanlin, electrician.

The ABC crew, who arrived at 1:02 p.m. in a Cessna Citation jet, had earlier been dispatched to Tennessee to visit people in the hometown community of U.S. Sen. Howard Baker. Baker, who gave the keynote speech Tuesday night at the convention, was a favorite to be picked by Ford for the No. 2 spot on the party's ticket.

The ABC crew had the jump on the other major television networks, as one of their men, Bob Clark, a Washington correspondent, had broken the story of Dole's selection. Baker two years ago also broke the story when former President Richard M. Nixon selected Gerald R. Ford, then majority leader in the House of Representatives, to become Vice President after the resignation of Spiro Agnew of Maryland.

Within minutes after the arrival here of the ABC crew, staffers from CBS also arrived in the community to learn more about Dole for presentation tonight in the homes of television viewers.

The CBS people were flown here in a Beech Baron jet owned by Jet Kansas City. Richard Abernathy of Stanley, Kan., was the pilot, and Dave Lichter, Shawnee Mission, was the co-pilot.

Members of the CBS crew were Chris Kelly, Los Angeles, Calif., correspondent, and Bruce Powell, Chicago, Ill., soundman. Another soundman accompanied the group, but his name was unobtainable.

The National Broadcasting Company was represented by Brian Ross, New York City, correspondent, Al Chambers, Hong Kong, China, field producer, Craig White, New York City, photographer, and Nick Maher, soundman.

The NBC crew arrived in a Beechcraft. Representing The Wichita Eagle & Beacon were Robert Ames, pilot and photographer, and Tim Kidd, reporter. The Eagle-Beacon staff was in a Cessna 182 rented from Yingling Aircraft, Wichita.

Representing KAKE Television of Wichita were Cindy Martin, reporter, and Norm Rehms, photographer.

Lance Ross, Hays, represented KAYS-TV and Radio from Hays. The Russell Radio Station was represented by Don Wozila, news director, and The Russell Daily News and The Russell Record were represented by Allan D. Evans, general manager, and Richard B. Powell, photographer.

Members of the national television networks and the Wichita newspaper, after their arrival, visited with leaders of the community and inspected Dole's hometown. They took pictures of the Dole family residence at 11th and Maple Sts. and Dole's former residence on N. Lincoln St., and shots of community life here.

They also attended an interview conducted at the Community Room of The Russell State Bank where they taped responses of local citizens and their reactions to Dole's selection.

Among others interviewed in the community were City Manager Jim Boyd, Dean S. Banker, George Gaster, Wilmer R. Shaffer and Cy Denning. Also interviewed were relatives of Dole's, Malcolm and Bernie Marshall, second cousins, and Barbara Schmitt, Gorman, a first cousin.

Bennett Casts Kansas Votes

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—In announcing the Kansas vote Wednesday at the Republican National Convention, Gov. Robert Bennett echoed the sentiment of his welcoming speech—unity and respect to both sides.

"The sovereign state of Kansas, the most Republican state in the union, is proud to cast four votes for a great Republican campaigner, Governor Reagan, and 30 votes for a great Republican President, President Ford," Bennett announced said.

Bennett, a Ford delegate, said he was pleased with the performance of the delegation and the cooperation between the Ford and Reagan forces.

Bennett said the vigor displayed in floor demonstrations for both candidates would be an asset to the party in November.

However, Martena Newcomb of Leawood, head of the four-member Reagan contingent, said many Kansas Reagan supporters would sit out the general election.

"Also I know Democrats of Kansas who offered to help Gov. Reagan, now will vote Carter," she said.

Republicans by the hundreds have trooped to the Independence, Mo., to see memorabilia of

the Democratic-Harry S. Truman.

"All I can say is why the hell wasn't he a Republican," said Vern Jackson of Penn Hills, Pa.

Restaurant owners in the Kansas City area are having mixed feelings about the GOP convention. There's a "tremendous business" at the Golden Ox, whose owner, Harold Thompson, reported serving 500 to 600 Kansas City strip steaks per day, nearly double the normal amount. But at the Gold Buffet, another antiparty known eatery, manager Marjorie Meyer said, "We are having no response from convention people at all."

Protesters, who prior to Wednesday had few run-ins with police, were reporting increased tensions as the Republicans gathered to pick their presidential nominee. "Police have suddenly become very uncooperative," a spokesman for the Yippies said in a call to UPI. "Police seem to be out consciously trying to start a riot."

The Rev. James Leffingwell delivered the invocation Wednesday night at the nominating session of the GOP convention. Leffingwell is the executive secretary of the Intercity Church Agency of Kansas City.

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Reagan met also with the Missouri delegation and still expressed confidence that he could win. "Not meaning any disrespect to my opponent and those who support him," Reagan said, "I would not be a candidate, I would Soles."

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GOP Convention

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—Area highlights and sidelights from the Republican National Convention.

How do Republicans from New York, where the Democrats held their national convention, feel about Kansas City? "Macy's here is smaller," said Mrs. Barbara Goodman, "and more modern."

And after seeing the Crown Center complex, her daughter, Claire, 19, said, "I don't think New York has anything like it."

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not be asking for your support if I did not believe with all my heart that I offer the best opportunity for victory in the November election." However, there were no delegate switches.

Former Missouri Congressman Thomas Curtis, was warmly praised by Reagan Wednesday. "Tom Curtis, I want to tell you if you don't know it already, I think the platform the Republican Party has today, as compared to the original draft prepared by the national committee, a platform every Republican should be proud of and one that says unmistakably what it should be and Tom Curtis gets a great deal of the credit for those changes," said Reagan.

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AT A RECENT VISIT to Russell, are, from left, Mrs. Doris McCobb and Sen. Bob Dole is shown chatting with Mrs. Betty Laubman, Russell county clerk. Mrs. D. R. Dole. Pictured with Dole