

29. 1976

# Ford mantle on Kansas' Dole

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — Kansas Sen. Bob Dole is President Gerald Ford's choice for the Republican vice presidential nomination.

Dole, 53, is a native of Russell. He has been a Kansas senator since 1968, following 4 terms as First District Congressman.

The announcement came Thursday morning, following a long convention night in which Ford won a hard-fought campaign over former California Gov. Ronald Reagan.

In a long-promised show of unity immediately after his victory, Ford traveled to Reagan's hotel for a brief private conference and the two men then met with reporters in the former California governor's headquarters.

Reagan reaffirmed his refusal to accept the vice presidential spot on a Ford ticket, but hedged when asked if he would accept a convention draft.

Outside the hotel, a group of Reagan supporters boomed and hissed Ford and

More convention stories, pictures on Pgs. 2, 12 and 18

waved Reagan signs, chanting "we want Reagan."

Thursday night, on the final evening of one of the stormiest GOP conventions in years, the more than 4,500 delegates and alternates ratify his final choice and Ford, 63, accepts the nomination for election as president in his own right.

The President was nominated on a roll call vote of 1,187 to 1,070. West Virginia put Ford over the top at 12:29 a.m. CDT, after 46 minutes of balloting.

The 100-member Texas delegation

went unanimously for Reagan, and loudly demonstrated its sentiments on the floor. But the moment the President clinched the nomination, the Texans lowered their Reagan signs and hoisted Ford placards.

Once the roll call was completed, the weary delegates shouted their approval of a motion to give him the nomination by acclamation. The convention then adjourned until 6:30 p.m. CDT Thursday.

"It's been long and tough, but it was great!" Ford exclaimed, shaking his shoulders and accepting the congratulations of political advisers and White House staffers crowding his \$350-a-day, rooftop suite at the Crown Center Hotel.

Witnessing his moment of victory on television after eight tortuous months of campaigning, the President leaned back, smiled and said: "I hope nobody demands a recount."

Reagan saw his 10-month campaign go down the drain in seclusion in his Alameda Plaza Hotel headquarters 25

blocks away. Then, more than an hour later, he confronted reporters.

Raucous floor demonstrations by Reagan backers repeatedly interrupted the pre-balloting business, and continued despite three renditions of "God Bless America" and convention chairman John J. Rhodes' persistent gaveling for order.

The Reaganites' zany, colorful show (Continued on Page 2)

## Convention schedule

- 6:30 p.m. — Call to order. Opening ceremonies.
- 7 p.m. — Nominations for vice president of the United States.
- 7:25 p.m. — Roll call.
- 8 p.m. — Vice presidential nominee acceptance speech.
- 8:15 p.m. — Presidential nominee acceptance speech.
- 8:35 p.m. — Adjournment.



Sen. Bob Dole

Salina April 8-19-76

-S.F. EXAMINER ☆☆ Thurs., Aug. 19 1976

# Ford picks Sen. Dole; Reagan backs ticket

## Brief bid for draft squelched

Examiner News Services

KANSAS CITY — President Ford chose Sen. Robert J. Dole of Kansas today as his running mate, calling him a worthy campaigner and vowing "we'll be out there battling" to win the White House.

Ford pressed for Republican unity, noting that the Dole selection carried the endorsement of Ronald Reagan, his vanquished challenger for the Republican presidential nomination.

The choice was sent to the Republican National Convention, due to convene tonight to complete the ticket. Ratification was virtually certain, although there was no guarantee against an effort by diehard Reagan supporters to install their man on the ticket.

However, Reagan said if his name is proposed for vice presidential nomination, he will withdraw it.

The President's decision to tap Dole — a surprise choice until the last minute — appeared to have squelched a budding draft-Reagan move. Rep. Lou Frey of Florida, who had tried to engineer the draft, conceded that the movement was dead.

The calculated advance leaks about Ford's vice presidential thinking — on which the President himself never would comment — left Dole's name off the list of purported finalists. And Ford preserved his surprise until the hour before he announced it.

Dole, a breezy, wisecracking politician who prefers to be called Bob, recalled that Ford came to Kansas to help him win his Senate seat. "I say this to indicate the value of his help and also to show you can catch up after you're behind," he said.

Ford introduced the smiling Dole at his Crown Center Hotel headquarters, calling him "my running mate for victory in 1976."

"Bob Dole has been a team player," Ford said. "Bob Dole's philosophy and mine coincide almost identically. Bob Dole is a good campaigner. Bob Dole will help to heal any divisiveness within the party."

Said Dole: "I'm not certain what I can add to the ticket, but I will work hard and do the best I can..."

The President aimed right down the Republican middle in choosing Dole, once his House colleague, now a senator whose philosophy is hard to classify. He might be called a conservative-moderate.

Ford made a unity show of his vice presidential announcement, summoning to the platform Reagan's campaign chairman as well as Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and Ford convention floor manager, Sen. Robert Griffin of Michigan.

Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada, the Reagan chairman, said he was delighted with the choice. Griffin called Laxalt "a great leader of the opposition." Rockefeller said the nation is fortunate to have "a chance to select these two leaders of the Republican ticket."

One of the first congratulatory calls received by Ford was from Jimmy Carter, his Democratic opponent.

In a telephone conversation from his home in Plains, Ga., Carter told Ford he wasn't surprised that Republicans appeared to be uniting behind Ford.

Carter first tried to call Ford at

8:31 a.m., after he heard the President's son, Jack, say in a television interview that his father was awake and at work.

But when Carter called he was told Ford would have to call him back. Two hours later, Ford returned the call and, according to Carter, said, "I was in the sack."

A White House spokesman said Ford thanked Carter for calling. "Aren't you kind," he quoted the President as telling his rival. "Give my best to your family."

Ford had been up late. Within an hour after the balloting that gave him the nomination, Ford sped across the city to meet with Reagan in the former California governor's hotel suite. Later, standing side by side, they met with reporters, congratulated each other on their campaigns and then Reagan pledged to work for Ford's election.

Ford said Reagan's campaign proved "beneficial" to the Republican party. Reagan responded that the President had his full support.

Reagan, very subdued, added, "We both had agreed once the fight was over, we're on the same side, and will pull together."

Ford said he and Reagan have nearly identical philosophies, and Reagan agreed. Asked why the

campaign had been so thorny for the President, Ford responded that the challenger is "probably the most effective campaigner in the United States today."

Ford's sometimes sputtering efforts to hold off Reagan finally succeeded shortly after midnight today, when the West Virginia delegation cast 20 votes for him. That presented him with five more than the 1,130 ballots needed for the nomination, clinching the tightest race for the GOP nomination since 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower defeated Robert Taft.

While Ford had decisively won a test the night before over a proposed change in the rules, no one was sure that he would take the nomination until most of the states had voted.

Ford supporters in Kemper Arena, which had rocked with raucous demonstrations by partisans of both candidates throughout the evening, exploded once again when the deciding vote was announced.

Though the final margin turned out to be comfortable for the President — 1187 to 1070 — the outcome was in question until Pennsylvania cast 93 of its 103 votes for Ford.

The Pennsylvania tally put

Ford four votes over the 1000 mark and, more important, confirmed that the selection of liberal Pennsylvania Sen. Richard Schweiker had not paid dividends in those regions where it was intended to have the greatest impact.

Before the Schweiker announcement, Reagan had expected to net at least 15 votes in the Keystone state, and he had anticipated that adding Schweiker to the team would at least double that number.

He had also hoped that Pennsylvania would lure away Ford votes in New York, New Jersey and Ohio.

Instead, Ford ran very strong in all those states, while Reagan lost support among his conservative southern delegations, most notably Mississippi, because of Schweiker. After the Pennsylvania vote was announced, one delegate said, "The whole northeastern vote was a slap in the face for Dick."

Lengthy demonstrations for both candidates preceded the voting, but at that stage probably only succeeded in relegating the balloting to after prime time on television in the eastern time zones.

Few surprises occurred during the roll call. Ford gained an almost equal share of the previously uncommitted votes, Mississippi, which had been expected to observe the unit rule to vote as a bloc, finally split its vote. Even so, Ford only got his majority in the 20-to-8 split in West Virginia, just before the last two states were called — Wisconsin and Wyoming.

As the Ford delegates cheered in victory, the Reagan delegates for the most part sat motionless in disappointment. Then they began to pack their placards and hurried out to the waiting buses.

William French Smith, a California delegate — one of the 167 solidly loyal Reagan votes — called the convention a "classic example of democracy at work."

Smith, formerly of the U.C. Board of Regents, and Reagan's personal lawyer, said he believed that Ford could win in California this fall.

"There's bound to be a little bitterness, but that's typical of any battle," Smith said.

Jimmy Carter, the Democratic candidate, said in Plains, Ga., that Ford would be a "formidable opponent" and that Republicans would quickly reunite despite the divisions brought by the campaign.

The battle began in February, when Ford narrowly defeated Reagan 51 to 48 per cent in New Hampshire, where both had labored hard to win. The margin was less than 2,000 votes out of almost 110,000. Nevertheless, it adversely affected Reagan's strategy of defeating Ford in early primaries and forcing him to pull out.

A week after New Hampshire, Ford easily defeated Reagan in Massachusetts. And on March 9, the President again trimmed the Californian in Florida by a 53-47 per cent margin. The loss, by 36,000 votes, left the Californian's campaign in shambles.

Thereafter, Reagan began a "sunbelt strategy" concentrating on the South and Southwest. His defeat in Illinois March 16, his native state, reinforced his new direction. Illinois gave Ford a 59 to 40 per cent victory and it seemed that Reagan's challenge had been overcome.

But the following week, Reagan's campaign was reborn with a 52 to 46 per cent victory in North Carolina. Ford won decisively in April in Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania. But on May 1, Reagan surprised Ford with a major victory, aided by Democratic cross-over voting in Texas.