

3B, 1976

# And Now Our No. 2 Man, Bob Dole! (Bob Dole?)

KC TIMES 8-20-76

By Harry Jones, Jr.  
A member of the staff

Final scribbles from a notebook about the news media as they pack their bags, pay their hotel and motel bills and wing higher and you, snoring while in flight, probably for lack of enough sleep all week.

It must have been disconcerting to President Gerald Ford, so used to seeing even the most trite rhetoric about flag or country cheered wildly at the convention, to see the unenthusiastic scattering of applause that greeted his announcement at Crown Center yesterday as to who would be his running mate.

At least 600 persons had packed the room in which he made the announcement, but probably 400 of them were members of the media, virtually none of whom found it in their hearts or within the groundrules of their professed neutrality to signify either pleasure or disdain for the President's choice.

And so when he revealed his choice, with Sen. Bob Dole standing on the platform with him, smiling, only about a fifth of the crowd applauded. They rest just stared ahead, or concentrated on their camera work or what they were penning into their notebooks. It was eerie to behold.

Late in the no-questions-please press conference, Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller was introduced. The applause was again thin, but far more sustained than it had been for Ford, Dole or anyone else that morning. One newsmen was observed clapping his hands for Rocky until the reporter sitting next to him turned toward him and stared him down with a "that's unprofessional" scowl.

Ron Nessen, presidential press secretary, had announced shortly after 11 a.m. that the President would pick his Veep at 11:30 instead of noon, as had been previously announced. As a result, nearly every one intending to cover the announcement was in his place by 11:30. This resulted in a half-hour of expectant waiting by those inside the room and much gnashing of teeth in the offices of afternoon newspapers all over the country as they held their next editions until the announcement was made.

That half-hour went something like this (as viewed first from a standing, then sitting-on-the-floor position to the far right of the podium):

Pad-and-pencil journalists are filling the chairs in the front. Most of the TV and still photographers

are on a raised platform behind them. Maybe 100, probably more, cameras can be seen either on tripods or hanging from necks.

David Broder and Jules Witcover, two of the Washington Post "heavies," walk in together looking kind of Poetish and sit down on the floor. I'm standing in a good position with no obstructions in front of me until a TV guy with a large, portable camera and football player shoulders moves in front of me unceremoniously. I move to the left, then the right. "Excuse me," says a pushy female pad-and-pencil as she bulls her way in front of me and stands beside the big guy with the camera.

Instead of objecting, as I should have, I scribble. "Cameras use their sex to block view," contenting myself with the knowledge that I can at least retelate the next day in print.

A Secret Service man walks up to another Secret Service man and whispers into his ear at some length. When he pulls away his eyes dart about checking at least a dozen persons out in the matter of no more than two seconds. All Secret Service men's eyes dart

around like that, it seems.

Another cameraman, with shoulders even bigger than the first one's, crowds in next to me, then in front of me as though his network had assigned him that particular position a month ago with full clearance from the Secret Service, FBI and U.S. Army. I decide to move and sit down on the floor. If Witcover and Broder can do it, so can I.

People within earshot are making weak jokes about whom Ford will pick.

"It was going to be Ruckelshaus, but the headline writers revolted, so now it's going to be Dole," said someone prophetically.

Someone else suggests it will be Spiro Agnew.

Nessen, superlax, announces the President and his running mate have just left the President's hotel room and are on their way with their "spouses," a word that provokes a little laughter for those who are fantasizing his choice might be a woman. Then Nessen says there will be no question-and-answer session after the announcement.

"Are we here just as an audience?" one of the newsmen in the pad-and-pencil section demands.

"I thought you were here to find out who the nominee would be," replies Nessen, confident he has just one-upped his antagonist.

"Well, I'm not going to stay under those circumstances," snorts Witcover, pretending to start to rise. He is only joking.

A camerawoman with an Eastern accent is discussing Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee and Senator Dole as the two most likely choices.

"But Dole's from Kansas," she says.

"Tennessee isn't much better," says the cameraman standing next to her.

"I guess, but Kansas."

Two men in a separate conversation are still trying to make funny guesses. One suggests it will be Henry Kissinger and another says may it will be Solzhentzsyn.

"How about Schweiker?" adds another guy and finally someone laughs.

Nessen switches on a television set in the front of the room. Cronkite is talking about the impending announcement back in Kemper. Nessen switches to Channel 4 and an NBC floor man ("What's his name?") "I can't remember. I've seen him before." is saying something in the room we are all in. Look on by the podium and there he is. Gosh.

It is high noon and Secret Service guys are beginning to stir from their darty-sweat parade rests and you suddenly feel like the audience of "Let's Make A Deal," the game show that features a big curtain and when the curtain is raised the contestant learns whether she has just won a 1976 Cadillac or a broken down fronting board. And the curtain parts and...

There he is, President of the United States of America, And with him...

"Well I'll be damned," says the camerawoman who doesn't like Kansas.

Ford talks. Dole talks. A couple of senators who had fought against each other until early this morning talk about sweetness and light. Suddenly you are aware of what sounds like an army of little kids with toy crickets only it is the 100 or so photographers taking picture after picture, click click click, as all these great personages talk. Rocky talks. Click click. The Ford children come forward. Click click. Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Dole step forward and join their husbands. Click click. And it's over.

"So it's the gesant against the pineapple," someone says and the guy next to him laughs.

Friday, August 20, 1976  
The Kansas City Times

## Takes on Democrats

# Veep Choice a Fighter From Way Back

Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas has always been a backroom brawler for the Republican party and can get into a verbal fight with a Democrat on a moment's notice.

President Gerald Ford's choice as running mate is a capable public speaker and a tireless campaigner. He clearly showed his political ambitions when he went after and won election as the Republican national chairman in 1971.

Sen. Barry Goldwater of (R-Ariz.) once said admiringly of the junior senator from Kansas: "He's the first man we've had around here (the Capitol) in a long time who will grab the other side by the hair and drag them down the hill."

He had been a slowly rising star ever since he was first elected to Congress in 1960. Few political observers counted the 53-year-old native of Russell, Kan., among those who are usually mentioned as ones destined to hold such a high elective office.

But his term as party chairman brought him national exposure and he was able to survive Watergate. He became an articulate spokesman for the G.O.P. during the trials, pitching for fairness but keeping his distance from President Nixon.

His close 1974 senate campaign against Bill Roy, a Topeka physician, drew the national press to Kansas. The New York Times Magazine ran a feature story asking "Will It Play in Empire?" The television cameras followed.

As usual, Dole jumped in with the abandon of a street-fighter. At one point he even borrowed a line from Watergate to accuse his opponent of playing "dirty tricks."

It was a dynamic victory, as he came from behind in the public opinion polls.

He returned to his role as a spokesman for the G.O.P. interests and regularly defended President Ford, a friend from their days in the House.

But he also pulled some surprises, notably joining up with Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) to sponsor a bill aimed at food stamp reform. In a column he wrote for the Washington Post, Dole noted that his bill had been labeled as relatively liberal, but that in fact it was conservative in terms of sound welfare policy and the most responsive to reform goals. The measure has passed the Senate and the House is considering a separate bill.

Dole's Senate committee work reflects the majority of his constituents' interests. He is the ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee and a member of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. He used his position to articulate the thinking of the folks back home and his popularity has climbed because of it.

With the Republican convention coming here, the senator was pegged for more national attention. President Ford picked Dole for the job of temporary chairman.

Dole wanted to be vice-president and his Kansas backers urged Ford to consider him, but few really gave him a chance. There were many others on the President's list with bigger credentials, bigger constituencies and more national appeal.

Dole is considered one of the true craftsmen in politics. Little is known about the private Bob Dole. In 1972 Dole and his first wife, Phyllis Dole, were divorced and in 1975 he married Mary Elizabeth Hanford, a member of the Federal Trade Commission. People who know Dole say his first wife did not share his political ambitions, while the current Mrs. Dole does. He has a daughter, Robin, from his first marriage.

The vice-presidential nominee's right arm is crippled from a battle injury he suffered in Italy in World War II. He has been an advocate for aid to the handicapped and the Kansas Disabled American Veterans once named him the "outstanding Kansan to overcome a handicap."

## Strong on Agriculture

# Bond Happy With Dole

By Charles W. Hucker  
Staff Political Writer

Gov. Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, himself an early possibility for the Republican vice-presidential nomination, expressed pleasure with the selection Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas as President Gerald Ford's running mate.

Bond, giving no indication of disappointment about being passed over, said that the naming of Dole "is good news for many Missourians who have come to know Bob Dole over the last few years and who have respected his strong stands for this country and particularly for agriculture."

The 37-year-old Missouri governor said Dole has campaigned for the Republican ticket in Missouri and "we have the highest respect and admiration for him."

Bond was informed by a member of the White House staff Aug. 6 that he was under consideration and was asked to submit information about his health and finances.

That material was delivered to the White House last week by John C. Craft, a Kansas City lawyer who is a close political advisor to Bond.

The governor left the Downtown Holiday Inn, where the Missouri delegation is staying, for a speaking engagement in Lee's Summit before Ford announced his choice of Dole.

On his way out Bond quipped to an aide, "If the President calls, take a message."

Partisans of Ronald Reagan in Missouri were pleased with the selection of Dole.

"I can be very enthusiastic about the ticket with Bob Dole on it," commented Miss Lydia Miller, the new Jackson County Republican chairman and Reagan's 5th District co-ordinator.

Other favorable comment came from Thomas E. Curtis, chairman of the Missouri delegation and a Reagan supporter, and John Powell, Reagan's chairman in Missouri, who called Dole "a good choice."

Rep. Gene Taylor (R-Mo.), described Dole as "a strong advocate of conservative causes in the Senate," and said "the conservatives recognize that Bob Dole is a conservative."

Dole particularly will benefit the Republican ticket in the farm belt, Taylor added.

KC TIMES 8-20-76

## Convention View

# Bob Dole Will Help Ford's Bid

By James W. Scott

Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas has the flashing eyes and lean good looks of a bullfighter. As the Republican vice-presidential candidate he can be expected to sink swords into Democrats. They will howl.

Dole always has been a tough fighter; he knows how to hurt and he is effective. In contrast to the President's good-guy demeanor, Bob Dole is known as an aggressive attacker who riles his opponents and makes them lose their cool.

When he was on the platform last night with the President, it wasn't hard to see the continuing Truman-Ford parallel and the apparent White House hope that 1976 will be 1960 all over again. Ford is far behind in the polls, as was Truman. In 1948 Truman chose an orator and fighter from the Senate, Alben W. Barkley, who came from Kentucky, a generally Democratic border state not unlike Missouri. Dole was a surprise to nearly everybody because Kansas is almost assuredly a Republican state, small in population, and in the Middle West as is Michigan. So what advantage does Dole bring?

He is from the wheat country of west-central Kansas. He can talk to farmers and he will be heavily in agricultural regions. It has finally sunk in among Ford's advisers that farmers are still mad about the grain embargo. They saw it as a big city-labor union plot, foisted off on the nation by George Meany. Last night the President said, "We will never use the bounty of America's farmers as a pawn in international diplomacy." He then exclaimed, "No more embargoes!" But in the arena, that last sentence was drowned out in the gathering applause. Bob Dole will make certain that the message gets through in the agricultural states this fall. It might be recalled that in 1949 Harry Truman lost the old South and some of the big industrial states. But he talked about price supports in a reassuring manner, and he got a lot of farm votes in states that were supposed to go Republican.

Bob Dole just managed to keep his Senate seat in 1974 against a strong Democratic challenge from a relative political newcomer, Dr. Bill Roy of Topeka. Dole got 403,983 votes and Roy got 390,451. There are bitter Kansas Democrats who will say that Dole's references to the abortion issue were nasty, and that these tactics saved him. But Democrats cannot deny Dole's darkly handsome appeal and sharp wit. They will compare him to a tricky Gary Cooper who kicks sand in an enemy's eyes and then draws.

When he was chairman of the Republican National Committee, Dole made no attempt to conceal his dislike of the treatment the White House extended to Congress. He declined to read speeches sent to Capitol Hill and he could give Charles Colson back as good as Colson delivered. Dole considered the White House arrogance to be stupid politics.

Traditionally a President tries to maintain something of a high-toned campaign level. He is busy with the affairs of state and likes to strike a pose above common political brawling. Sometimes his vice-presidential candidate gets down in the dust for him. On the final night of the Democratic convention it was Frits Mondale, not Jimmy Carter, who spoke of scandal and presidential pardons. Carter spoke of love.

Now Gerald Ford and Bob Dole will be plotting their campaign. If the Kansas senator is assigned the role of fighter, he will undoubtedly accept it joyously and wield the sword, laying on with the utmost zeal. Along the way he will soothe farmers and describe the wickedness of Democrats with enthusiasm. The friends of Ronald Reagan hardly can complain about Bob Dole's political philosophy. And if the Ford-Dole team still seems unlikely, so was the duet that Harry Truman and Alben Barkley played 28 years ago.