

41. 1976

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Sunny, warm today; mild tonight. Sunny, warmer tomorrow. Temperature range: today 61-83; Thursday 62-75. Details on page D17.

VOL. CXXV, No. 43,308

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1976

25 cents beyond 10-mile area from New York City, except Long Island, higher in air delivery areas.

20 CENTS

FORD PICKS SENATOR DOLE AS RUNNING MATE; SAYS HE WANTS DEBATE, AND CARTER AGREES



President Ford and his running mate, Senator Robert J. Dole, acknowledging the cheers of delegates at the convention last night.

A Tough Infighter Robert Joseph Dole

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 19—Robert Joseph Dole of Kansas, President Ford's choice for the Vice-Presidential nomination tonight, was the pleaser of the pleases and the defender of the defense. He was a one-man Dole Patrol, a fiery jack-in-the-box on the Senate floor and a strong partisan supporter of Richard M. Nixon's Supreme Court appointments, Vietnam initiatives and, eventually, his Watergate defense.

Although best known for his bulldog and sometimes slashing partisanship, Mr. Dole has spent some of his keener wit on himself and his allies. He loved one newspaperman's line that "If you liked Richard Nixon, you'll love Bob Dole."

Continued on Page A11, Col. 7

Dole Choice Conformed To the Wishes of Reagan

By CHARLES MOHR

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 19—In selecting Senator Robert J. Dole of Kansas today as his Vice-Presidential running mate, President Ford made a decision that conformed to the wishes of Ronald Reagan and brought to the ticket an aggressive and articulate political infighter.

The President had not permitted Mr. Reagan a "veto" on the selection, White House sources said. But the choice of Mr. Dole and its endorsement by Mr. Reagan would assist the President in his attempt to pacify and reunite a party divided after an emotional and often heated seven-month Presidential nomination campaign.

Continued on Page A11, Col. 1

CALL TO NATION

President Vows Fight 'With a Total Will' to Win Election

By R. W. APPLE JR.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 19—President Ford surprised his fellow Republicans today by selecting Senator Robert J. Dole of Kansas as his running mate, then pledged to fight "with a total will to win a great victory."

Text of Ford speech, page A10; excerpts from Dole's, A11.

ican National Convention. "This nation is secure. This nation is on the march to full economic recovery and a better quality of life for all Americans."

In a tacit acknowledgment of his underdog status, Mr. Ford said he was "ready to debate the real issues face to face" on television with Jimmy Carter, his Democratic rival. The crowd in the hall roared its approval of the challenge, inserted at the last minute into the President's prepared text.

Debates Would Be First

Mr. Carter promptly agreed, calling for a discussion of "the choices facing the American people." Thus Mr. Ford's proposal—delivered, like the rest of his speech, with unusual verve—appeared likely to lead to the first television debates in history between an incumbent President and a challenger. [Page A14.]

The President was interrupted 59 times by applause, and at the end, in another bold stroke, he bid for the unity he needs for victory in November. He beckoned to the man he defeated last night, Ronald Reagan, to join him on the platform to address the delegates and the nation.

Reagan Urges Unity

Mr. Reagan did so. He praised the party platform, which his ideas had influenced, as "a banner of bold, unmistakable colors"—the phrase he had used to describe his own candidacy. And he urged Republicans to go forth united, to prove "there is no substitute for victory."

The 2,259 delegates, assembled in Kemper Arena, ratified their nominee's selection of Mr. Dole, a 53-year-old conservative known for aggressive partisanship and a savage wit. A movement by some Southerners to draft Mr. Reagan fizzled earlier, and there was no organized opposition to the Kansas.

Continued on Page A11, Col. 1

Ford Picks Dole as His Running Mate and, in Acceptance Speech, Offers to Debate Carter, Who Agrees

Continued From Page A1, Col. 6

Mr. Ford appeared to have achieved at least superficial party harmony. Deciding upon Mr. Dole after a 1:30 A.M. meeting with Mr. Reagan and a series of conferences with advisers that lasted most of the night, the President satisfied his need for a zealous campaigner and for help in the Farm Belt.

Continued on Page A11, Col. 6

Mr. Ford's acceptance speech followed and it contained a neo-populist passage that sounded startlingly like some of the anti-elitist rhetoric employed by Mr. Carter.

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