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TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL 8-20-76

Keys, Freeman see Dole as benefit

By GENE SMITH
Federal Affairs Writer

Partisans in both camps see the Bob Dole vice presidential candidacy as a plus for their side in the contest for the 2nd Congressional District seat this fall.

Rep. Martha Keys, D-Kan., and GOP challenger Ross Freeman, a Topeka attorney, said they expect benefits from President Ford's surprise move in selecting Dole as his Republican running mate this fall.

"I think it's going to have a very

beneficial effect, because I think it'll get out more of the Republican vote," declared Freeman. "I think it's a very positive move — one that was totally unexpected."

Freeman also predicted the Democrats may revise their strategy as a result of the presence of the Kansas on the national GOP ticket.

"Early on, they were saying that Carter was going to come into Kansas and I wouldn't be surprised if they change that, because there would be other places where he would (now)

have a greater impact. I would think," he said.

The Republican challenger, making his first bid for political office, said the only negative he can think of is that "we had a lot of people who worked for Dole two years ago who were active in our campaign and I would assume that now they'll spend part of their time working on behalf of the senator."

Keys was equally positive, declaring, "I don't think it changes my race at all. Perhaps it will help a bit since my political philosophy and Dole's are

poles apart and it will just give me more opportunity to point those out."

Noting Dole had sponsored several measures which she called "narrow, special interest legislation" designed

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

(Continued from Page 1)

to benefit only a few, she said she in turn serves on the House Tax Committee, where "I vote against that kind of privilege. So, I see it as perhaps even an advantage for me."

Both Keys and former Democrat 2nd District Congressman Bill Roy pointed out that Dole failed to carry the district two years ago during Roy's narrow loss to Dole. Dr. Roy, who almost ousted the incumbent, recalled Dole lost the 2nd District — which includes Topeka — by a margin of some 14,000 or 15,000 votes and said that proves Dole is "hardly a folk hero" in the area.

"I think in all probability it will increase the enthusiasm for Martha's reelection on the part of some Democrats that haven't previously entered actively into the campaign," Roy concluded.

Bonnie McAfee, Freeman's campaign chairman, said "We really haven't even talked about it yet, we've got so many things going on."

But, she added, she also expects Dole's selection to help in getting Republicans to the polls and add interest to an otherwise routine state campaign and "this may compensate for that lack of statewide interest."

Other Republicans were scrambling around Kansas and were hard to reach.

An official in the Keys camp, who declined the use of his name, conceded that "right now it has a lot of visibility and we're interested in it, but I'm not overwhelmed. It probably does strengthen the Ford ticket somewhat in Kansas, only because he's a local boy, not because he adds any strength nationally."

TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL 8-20-76

Russell welcomes its favorite son

By TOM CARLIN
The Capital-Journal Staff Writer

RUSSELL — The people began gathering under the great shade trees in front of the Russell County courthouse early this morning to take part in this town's big day — a hometown boy was bringing the President of the United States to lunch.

President Ford and his vice presidential running mate, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., who was born here 53 years ago, arrived by helicopter at noon. They were greeted by applause from about 2,000 persons, according to law enforcement officials, at the Russell Airport.

The two then motored with their fam-

ilies to the heart of this city of 6,000 for a barbecue and rally after which the Ford delegation was to fly to Vail Colo.

Ford and Dole were the central figures in a reception and barbecue which were hurriedly put together in an all-night effort by local Republicans and the Russell Chamber of Commerce.

The GOP standard-bearers left Kansas City, site of the Republican National Convention, at 10:50 a.m. — 50 minutes behind schedule.

Air Force one landed at Salina, but instead of a 90-minute motorcade to

Russell, the party went by helicopter which permitted the group's arrival here 10 minutes earlier than if it had covered the last leg by car.

Everett Dummer, a member of the Russell Chamber of Commerce, said the courthouse site was picked because Dole served four terms there as Russell County attorney before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1960.

The welcoming crowd seemed to be evenly mixed with Russell townspeople and tourists who had been traveling

along Interstate 70, which runs along the south edge of the city, and decided to stop and get in on the excitement.

The natives were easy to spot because of their proud smiles.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Kerbs, Russell, had set up lawn chairs for a front row view of the activities.

Mrs. Kerbs, 75, confided that "We were Democrats, but the first time Bob went to Washington, we changed parties just to get him in. By the time he got in we were so ashamed of the Democrats we never did go back."

Mrs. Kerbs said she laughed at her husband when he voiced the opinion that Dole had a chance to be selected as Ford's running mate.

"I almost fell out of my chair when they announced it," she said.

Mrs. Henry Bender was sitting next to Mrs. Kerbs and she remembered that "Bob lived down the block when he got out of the hospital (after a three-year stay recovering from World War II injuries). He set up a law practice

(Continued from Page 1)

when he was able. I certainly never thought he would get this far."

Dummer said local supermarkets donated food for the barbecue to feed the President's party and "as many spectators as we can."

A White House team arrived in Russell at 8:30 p.m. Thursday and directed the preparations, which included banks of telephones set up on picnic tables for the press.

The Russell High School Band was mobilized to provide music, even though school classes don't begin here until next week.

Betty Laubhan, Russell County clerk, said townspeople began arriving at the courthouse lawn about 8 a.m.

She said Secret Service personnel had occupied two offices in the courthouse as a command post and "ran wires everywhere" during the course of preparations.

TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL 8-20-76

Senator told of selection at 10:30 a.m.

By ROGER MYERS
Staff Writer

KANSAS CITY — Sen. Bob Dole's ability as a tough and effective campaigner surfaced as the dominant reason why President Gerald Ford selected the junior U.S. Senator from Kansas to be his running mate.

Dick Cheney, the White House chief of staff, told reporters at an afternoon briefing here Thursday that Dole's speaking ability, his reputation as a hard campaigner, and his 15 years experience in Congress and his link with the farm belt all were factors in the decision to pick him for No. 2 on the GOP national ticket.

The White House chief of staff denied Dole's selection was any "concession" to conservative Ronald Reagan, whom Ford defeated here Wednesday for the Republican presidential nomination.

But Dole had worked hard to maintain rapport with the Reagan camp even though he was a Ford delegate to the convention, and his acceptability to Reagan forces also was a key factor in his selection.

Cheney also confirmed Thursday that Dole knew barely an hour in advance of the announcement by Ford that he would be the vice presidential nominee.

Cheney said President Ford called Dole at 10:30 a.m. Thursday and asked him to serve on the ticket. The President announced his choice at a press conference approximately 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

The President apparently made up his mind on Dole after an early-morning meeting with key advisers. Cheney said the group convened about 3:15 a.m. and adjourned approximately 5 a.m. Thursday. It reconvened about 9:35 a.m. Thursday and the White House chief of staff said it was obvious at the 9:35 a.m. meeting the President was moving towards Dole as his vice presidential choice during that session.

The meeting broke up around 10 a.m. Thursday, Cheney said, and Dole had remained near a telephone in his Radisson-Muehlebach hotel suite here to receive a call from the President.

"I didn't expect the call, but wanted to be prepared in case it came," Speakers quoted Dole as saying.

Dole's selection as the vice presidential nomination came up so quickly that he had to be brought from his hotel to Ford's headquarters at the Crown Center in a rented American Motors Co. Pacer automobile. The car was driven by a White House advance man named Mike Urcanarso, who apparently just happened to be on duty at the time.

It all happened so quickly, Speakers said, Dole did not pick up his Secret Service guard detail until after he ar-

rived at the President's hotel and was formally offered the vice presidential nomination.

Ford said, "I am really thrilled with the opportunity of having Bob Dole as my running mate," in announcing his choice at a packed press conference in the Crown Center here Thursday evening.

"Bob Dole, of course, had an outstanding record in the military service in World War II. Bob Dole has been a team player. Bob Dole's philosophy and mine coincide identically. Bob Dole is a good campaigner. Bob Dole will help to heal any divisiveness within the party."

Cheney refused to say where Dole ranked on the President's list of potential vice presidential running mates. The White House chief of staff said the list of potential candidates numbered approximately 24, and that Ford "mentally" pared down the list through a process of several weeks.

The White House chief of staff also refused to discuss what specific reasons ruled out other candidates for the

vice presidential nomination with Ford.

He specifically declined to comment on whether reports that the wife of Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., formerly had a drinking problem had taken him out of the running for vice president.

Cheney said geographic balance for the ticket was considered by the group, but added "The general feeling clearly was that it was not a factor which was outweighed by other factors." The White House chief of staff did not elaborate.

Dole, along with all the others who were considered as Ford running mates, were asked to submit financial and medical background information, plus fill out a lengthy questionnaire which delved into the personal history of the candidates.

Cheney said the information that Dole submitted will be made available later.

The White House chief of staff said proposals that Ford's vice presidential running mate be left to the convention were considered "courteously."

"Here at home there are still those who believe more in government than in people," Dole said. "We have, for example, a Congress which lurches along in search for more and more ways to gain control, not merely over the way we live, but over the purposes for which we live — which ought to be left to the decisions of the hearts and minds of each single individual."

The President can continue to meet the highest expectations and excite the

(Continued from Page 1)

highest aspirations of America, Dole said.

"I believe that the promise of America is not old nor shall it be fulfilled, through the oppressive restraints of government."

Dole promised the convention he would work to assure four more years of Republican White House leadership. He touched briefly on Vietnam and the economy.

"President Ford understood that a

from voting. The state had three other Reagan delegates.

Gov. Robert F. Bennett, chairman of the state delegation, announced the vote, proclaiming it a proud moment for the "sovereign state of Kansas," a state known as the most Republican in the nation and also for its rugged individualism.

Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller nominated Dole for the No. 2 spot.

When Dole appeared on the podium, a jubilant Kansas delegation — they had been urged by Bennett earlier not to hold back their enthusiasm — held pineapples in the air, took off their gray Stetson hats and waved at Dole. Dole smiled and returned their wave.

Rockefeller, in his nominating speech for Dole, said the party needs to choose first and foremost a person who can serve as president if the president could no longer serve.

"Second, a person who is devoted to the principles of this Republican Party and, not only the fundamental principles of our American system of government but also the principles of our unique enterprise system, our personal liberties and our individual economic freedom," Rockefeller said.

Rockefeller said Dole did not forget the sacrifices of others, including Viet-

nam prisoners of war and the families of missing in action. He described Dole as a "person of compassion," and said Dole knows the driving force of America can be found in the common people.

"He has that quality of candor, of openness of forthrightness, so needed in our times in the executive post of our government, in the legislative processes and in our political candidates and campaigns."

"He is able, articulate, courageous and decisive."

At one point, the vice presidential balloting was interrupted when Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, entered the arena. After a 10-minute demonstration, the balloting continued.

In his opening remarks, Dole said he heard newscasters saying his name was not a household word.

"It is a four-letter word you can get used to," Dole told the convention.

Dole served as temporary convention chairman Monday and Tuesday and helped guide the convention through a crucial rules test that eventually was a factor in Ford's victory over Reagan. Dole addressed the convention earlier in the week but told the convention Thursday night, "I didn't plan on coming back this evening but I'm very glad to be here."

free people are never too tired to defend their freedom," he said. "And so where our rights and interests have been threatened, he has responded — and upon the evidence of America's will to stand fast for what it believes, a structure of peace is being erected in the world."

Those who oppose Ford's economic policies are not concerned that he will

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

after Ford moved first to the vice presidency then on to the White House oval office after Richard Nixon resigned in August, 1974.

Dole said during the press conference Thursday in which his selection was announced "I have known President Ford at a time when I could call him Jerry."

"He has been in many places in Kansas in my behalf, and I remember in 1974 when the going was tough and I was trying to be re-elected."

"One of the President's stops, I think the President's last stop — was in Wichita, Kan., in the rain. He came there to help me and I won by a very narrow margin after trailing some 12 points in the polls."

"I say that to indicate his great help and also the fact that you can catch up if you are behind." The remark generated laughter and was a reference to current public opinion surveys which generally show Republicans about 30 percentage points behind the Democratic ticket of Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

Dole and Ford became acquainted when both served as members in the U.S. House of Representatives during the early 1960s, have remained friends

Topeka Daily Capital
Friday, August 20, 1976 5

Dole endorsed by convention

By KEN PETERSON
Staff Writer

KANSAS CITY — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas received the second highest honor a political party can bestow Thursday night when the Republican Party nominated him for vice president of the United States.

Dole was declared the vice presidential nominee at 9:30 p.m. by Republican National Convention Chairman John Rhodes of Arizona, a congressman and native of Council Grove, Kan.

Upon motion of Rhodes, the convention a few minutes later unanimously declared Dole the vice presidential nominee. Dole entered Kemper Arena accompanied by an escort committee that included the state's four Republican congressmen.

Sen. James B. Pearson of Kansas introduced Dole to the convention.

Dole's address largely listed the accomplishments of President Ford, who delivered his acceptance speech about 11 p.m.

But Dole also urged the party to unite for the upcoming campaign, one of the reasons Ford probably selected the Kansas junior senator as his running mate.

"Let us not be deterred or discomfited by those who interpret the long and hard-fought primary campaign as a sign of division in Republican ranks," he said. "Let us rather take pride in the knowledge that the battle was honorably waged and honorably won. Let us rather take pride in the fact that we have two such men as President Ford and Gov. Reagan to contend for this nation's leadership."

The President has begun to build peace, renew prosperity and restore confidence in the basic institution of America, he said.

tail but are desperate because' he is succeeding, Dole said.

"And he is succeeding, my friends, because he has placed his faith in the American people, and not in the discredited gimmicks of government."

Republicans have to free the free enterprise system, Dole said. "Until we get government out of the business sector, we are going to have difficulty finding jobs that are real and productive."

"Until we break the stranglehold of the party of big government over the Congress of the United States, we are going to have more federal spending, more federal control over our private lives and more empty promises that leave our people disillusioned and frustrated."

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, and his 21-year-old daughter, Robin, entered the arena before Dole's speech. They were accompanied by President Ford's children, Susan, Jack and Steve. They sat in an area reserved for the President's family.

Dole's official delegate count for the nomination was 1,921 — 850 more than necessary to secure the nomination.

Kansas cast 33 of its 34 votes for Dole. Mrs. Betty Hanicke of Westwood, a delegate for Ronald Reagan, abstained

in trouble with western Kansas farmers unhappy with a decision last year to clamp an embargo on shipment of some grain to Russia.

The White House hopes that Dole could help heal any wounds left from the bitter struggle between Ford and Reagan for the nomination was demonstrated by the appearance of Reagan campaign manager, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., on the press center stage with Ford and Dole.

Laxalt told the reporters, "I might say that I couldn't be more delighted that to hear the news this morning about Dole's selection."

"In my judgment, he is going to make a tremendous candidate."

"He is sound philosophically. And he is going to bring to the campaign, I think, a delightful sense of humor which we are going to need in the next eight weeks."

Dole and Ford became acquainted when both served as members in the U.S. House of Representatives during the early 1960s, have remained friends

Cheney said the President believes strongly that he should make a recommendation to the convention on the person he wants as his running mate, in about the same way Ford feels he should take definitive action on legislation that comes to him for signature.

Cheney noted several times during the briefing that Reagan had repeatedly asserted he would not accept the vice presidential nomination and that he has given his blessing to Dole.

The White House chief of staff refused to say specifically whether Ford had offered Reagan the vice presidency during a meeting the two held in Reagan's headquarters hotel following the balloting Wednesday night.

He reiterated any discussion between the two presidential contenders was strictly private.

Cheney said Dole's "strong background and knowledge of agriculture" was an asset "to him in Ford's deliberations over who should be his running mate."

The White House chief of staff acknowledged the Ford administration is

in trouble with western Kansas farmers unhappy with a decision last year to clamp an embargo on shipment of some grain to Russia.

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