

50. 1976

Clear, Warm  
State: Hi 90s, Lo 60s.  
Okla.: Hi 94, Lo 58.  
Details on Page 6A

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## Dole's Name Gradually Emerged, Gained Favor

By LOVE MILLER JR.  
Knight News Service  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Like the selections of Spiro Agnew in 1969 and Thomas Eagleton in 1972, the choice of Sen. Bob Dole as vice presidential nominee "just sort of developed" through an exhausting series of predawn and morning meetings here Thursday.

They gathered in the President's 18th-floor office in the Crown Center Hotel at 3:15 a.m. and trudged off to bed an hour and 45 minutes later, bleary-eyed still without any clear idea that the prize would go to Dole.

"Great political experts that we are — two of us were stumbling down the hall toward bed telling each other that it was sure to be (former Deputy Atty. Gen.) Bill Ruckelshaus," said one man who participated in the meetings.

But when the group convened at 9:30 a.m. Thursday after a few hours of sleep, Dole's name gradually came to dominate the discussions.

Finally, about 10:15 a.m. Ford himself told the group that he was in favor of Dole, and then went around the room pointing at each man present and asking for his advice.

"What it seemed to come down to was that Dole's name brought the most enthusiastic reaction from the widest range of party peo-

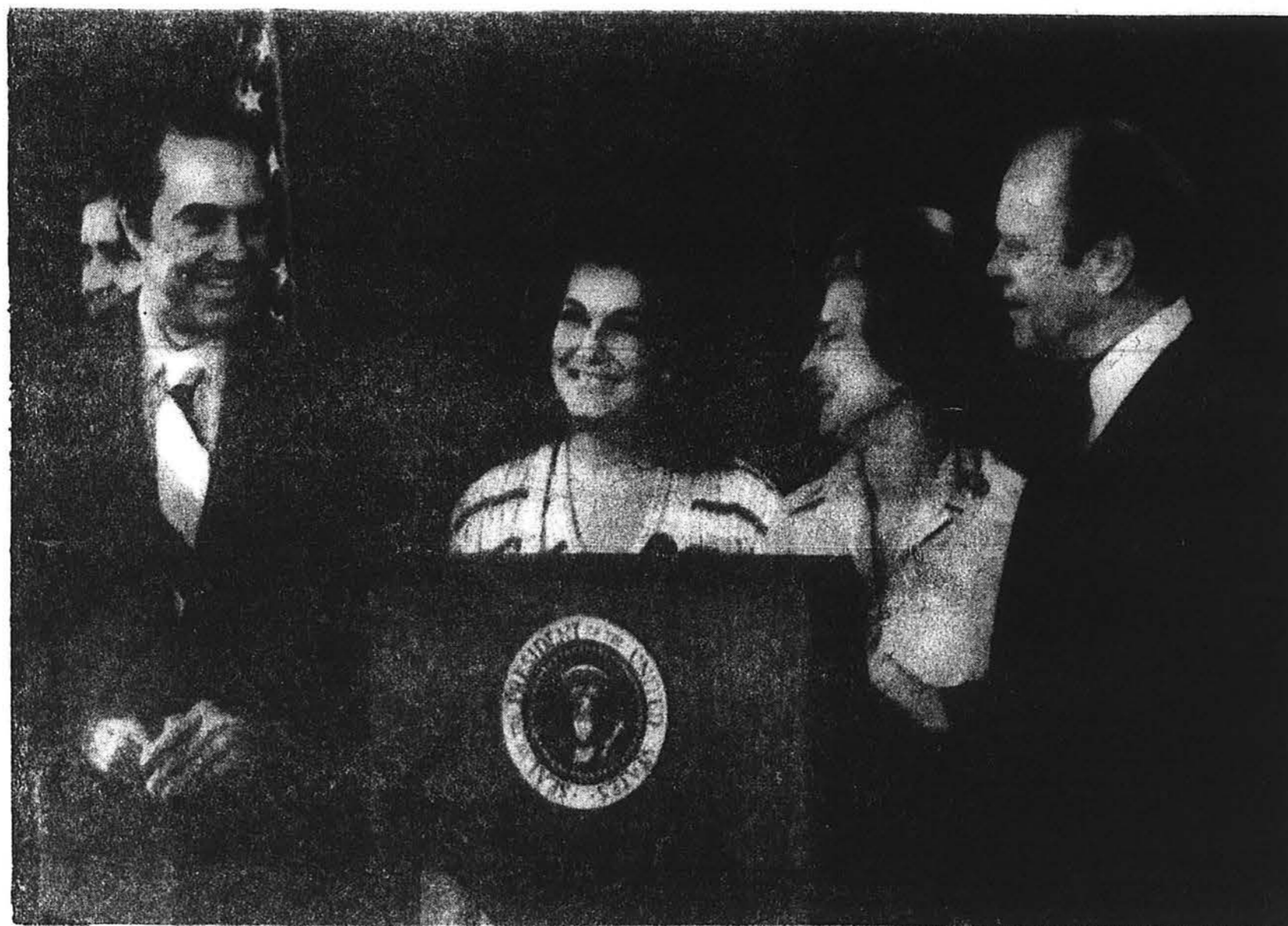
ple, that he was a good campaigner and that he would help us in the farm belt, where the President has a real problem," said another present at the meetings.

Because there was exhaustive White House screening of the public and personal affairs of the possible candidates ahead of time, the selection of Dole presumably will not prove as disastrous as the choice of Agnew by Richard Nixon and Eagleton by George McGovern. But despite the semblance of careful ad-

vance planning, the final decision was reached through rambling discussions in a roomful of men so exhausted that some of them interviewed only hours later were unable to remember details of the meetings. The group first gathered after Ford's return from his post-midnight pilgrimage to meet his vanquished challenger, Ronald Reagan, in Reagan's hotel, the Alameda Plaza.

(See ENTHUSIASM, 11A, Col. 3)

## Ford-Dole Team Vows to Wage Strong Fight for 'Every Vote'



President Ford and Sen. Dole face press with wives Betty, Elizabeth at Crown Center Hotel.

By WILLIAM MONTALBANO  
And DON BOHNING  
Knight News Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A victorious Gerald Ford picked conservative Kansas Sen. Bob Dole as his running mate Thursday, then told a wary convention he wouldn't concede Jimmy Carter a single vote in a single state.

"I come before you with a two-year record of performance without your mandate. I offer you a four-year pledge of greater performance with your mandate," Ford, in prepared remarks, told the closing session of the 31st Republican National Convention.

A cut-and-slash campaigner, the 53-year-old Dole became Ford's unexpected choice for vice president Thursday in the wake of the president's own victory over Ronald Reagan.

DOLE'S NAME was placed in nomination by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, the man he would succeed if Ford is elected in November.

The delegates approved Dole after the only other Republican nominated — Sen. Jesse Helms — withdrew. Dole received 1,921 of the 2,259 convention votes. Helms received 103 and 103 abstained. The other 132 votes were cast for persons whose names were not placed in nomination, including 27 for Reagan.

Only one of the 34 Kansas delegates — Mrs. Betty Hanicke of Westwood — refused to support the Kansas senator. She was one of four state Reagan delegates.

WITH HIS principal concern now to unite Republicans for the uphill campaign against Democrat Carter, Ford accepted his nomination with an appeal for four more years to complete "a job well begun but far from finished."

Ford noted the polls showed him far behind but asserted "the only polls that count are the polls the American people go to Nov. 2."

"And I predict right now that the American people are going to say that night, 'Jerry, you've done a good job. Keep right on doing it.'"

Ford said he had faced "many tough problems" since becoming president and "probably made some mistakes, but on balance, America and Americans have made an incredible comeback since August 1974."

Dole's candidacy got off to a leaden start when New York, which was supposed to nominate him, got its signals crossed at first and passed on the nominating roll call. After some parliamentary juggling, New York got another chance.

The convention greeted Rockefeller's nominating speech for Dole with crossed arms.

Rockefeller, who went along with Ford's choice, told the convention that Dole "can take the heat . . . he cannot

(See FORD, 11A, Col. 1)

### A Look Inside

The Doles — The senator, his family, his wife. Page 8A.

How the farmers view the candidate. Page 9A.

Dole the campaigner — a newsman's assessment. Page 9A.

Jerry Ford — from the House to the White House. Page 10A.

Reagan: 'The cause must go on.' Page 11A.

Tickets, tickets, who's got a ticket? Page 1D.

## Russell Thrust Into Limelight

By TIM KIDD  
Staff Writer

RUSSELL, Kan. — Flags waved in the streets and smiles beamed from ear to ear after word reached this central Kansas town that its native son Bob Dole had been chosen as President Ford's running mate.

Then, while the citizenry here remained in a flurry of excitement, came more news.

Bob Dole was coming home Friday, and he was bringing the President with him.

The 5,500 residents of this county seat are jubilant. They are saying proudly that Dole never lost a political race, from the time he ran for the Kansas House of Representatives in

1951, through the years he served as Russell County attorney, and during his congressional races of the 60s and 70s.

"He's not going to lose this one, either," said County Clerk Betty Laubhan.

Ford and Dole are scheduled to appear at a barbecue picnic in Russell today. Plans call for the President's plane to land at 10:30 a.m. in Salina, and for a motorcade to take the party the remaining 80 miles. It will be the first joint appearance of Ford and Dole outside Kansas City since the Republican National Convention adjourned Thursday night.

The President plans to leave Salina at 3 p.m. and travel to Colorado. Not everyone in Dole's hometown is

Republican, but party affiliation didn't appear too important to residents there Thursday. What was important was that a hometown boy was reaching for the pinnacle of American politics.

Lionel Thielen, a Russell farmer and rural letter carrier, voiced a common sentiment when he said, "It's a tremendous thing. For the state of Kansas, he's a great asset."

Although Thielen said he didn't agree with all of Dole's political views, he added, "Everybody in this town knows him, and I think basically that everybody likes him."

People on the streets and in stores and offices here spent much of the day talking about the news. For most, it had come as a shock.

Within hours of the announcement, townspeople were being questioned by representatives from newspapers and three television networks who had landed their planes on Russell's little runway at the edge of town.

"It's so exciting to be where the action is," said Mrs. Don Arnold, whose husband is president of the Russell Chamber of Commerce.

Until the Secret Service arrived Thursday afternoon, Russell was basically a quiet town with an economy dependent on oil and agriculture.

(See RUSSELL, 11A, Col. 1)