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Sen. Dole

Reputation for Toughness Started With WWII

BY WILLIAM VANCE
Knight News Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Five days before President Ford chose him for a running mate, Sen. Robert Joseph Dole suggested to reporters that the Republicans could use "a cage-rattler" on the ticket this year.

They've got that and more in this sharp-tongued Kansas whose slashing, combative style has earned him the reputation as the "Mr. Tough Guy" of the U.S. Senate.

At 53, Dole looks like a trim, well-scrubbed Humphrey Bogart who decided long ago that, in politics, nice guys don't win anything.

His biting attack on Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter in his speech as temporary chairman of the national convention here was typical Dole.

"The Democratic candidate for 1976 has shown that the arrogance of power is nothing compared to the power of arrogance," he said.

Dole's aggressiveness has drawn mixed reviews from his Republican colleagues.

Ohio's William Saxbe, a former senator and attorney general, once described Dole as "a hatchet man" who was so mean that "he couldn't sell beer on a troop ship."

But Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., says admiringly that Dole is "the first man we've had around here in a long time who will grab the other side by the hair and drag them down the hill."

Dole's reputation for toughness is at least partially a product of personal adversity.

In the closing days of World War II, Dole was leading an infantry platoon through the mountains of Northern Italy when he was severely wounded by machinegun bullets and mortar fragments.

His right shoulder shattered and his spine injured, Dole was totally paralyzed. It was 15 months before he recovered the use of his legs and left arm. During another two years in a series of Army hospitals, doctors restored everything but his crippled right arm and shoulder. Complications from the wounds also required the removal of his right kidney.

While hospitalized, Dole met and became fast friends with two other veterans who had suffered serious arm wounds — Phil Hart of Michigan and Dan Inouye of Hawaii — long before they were reunited as members of Congress.



Dole — He'll Carry the Battle to the Democrats



begin dealing openly with the public on Watergate allegations.

Soon after that, in January 1973, Nixon summoned Dole to his Camp David retreat and sent him back to Washington without the chairmanship.

Dole insisted his relationship with Nixon hadn't soured, and blamed his ouster on the White House palace guard. "A faceless, nameless few... the gutless wonders who seem to take personal satisfaction in trying to do somebody in."

But, with a tough reelection contest brewing, Dole began edging away from Nixon by late 1973. He became one of the first Senate Republicans to call for impeachment proceedings in an effort to get at the truth of Watergate. And, when asked if he wanted Nixon to campaign for him in Kansas, Dole mustered a tight grin and said, "I wouldn't mind if he flew over."

As it was, Dole barely survived the 1974 challenge of former Rep. William Roy, winning with less than 51 per cent of the vote.

A wiry six-foot-two, 175-pounder, Dole tried his hand at high school athletics in his hometown of Russell, Kans., but was not known as a star.

His high school basketball coach, Harold Edlert, once sized him up this way: "Not an outstanding player, but smart, always in the right place and good in the clutch."

Dole's war wounds left him unable to engage in any form of athletics. A member of his Senate staff says about the only exercise he gets now is dashing to and from hearings of his five committees — Agriculture, Budget, Finance, Post Office and Civil Service and Nutrition and Human Needs.

A non-smoker, Dole is inclined to move away from people who do. He drinks an occasional glass of wine, but shies away from Washington's cocktail circuit.

At the biggest Republican reception here during convention week, just a day before he was tapped for the vice presidential nomination, Dole refused a proffered cocktail to keep his left hand free for grasping the hands of others.

Dole wasn't aware then that he was still in the running, but he couldn't help thinking that history sometimes repeats itself.

The last time Republicans held their convention here, they nominated another Kansan, Charles Curtis, to be the vice presidential running mate for Herbert Hoover.

That was 46 years ago, and the ticket won in November.

It was in the hospital that Dole also met his first wife, Phyllis Holden, a physical therapist who helped the right-handed veteran learn to become a left-hander. She also helped him through law school at Washburn University by taking notes for him and writing examination answers as he dictated them to her.

Their marriage ended abruptly in divorce in 1972, after 24 years. Dole was married again last Dec. 6 to Federal Trade Commissioner Mary Elizabeth Hanford.

Dole began his political career at age 26, winning a seat in the Kansas legislature. He served four terms as prosecuting attorney in Russell County, Kans., before entering Congress in 1961.

He served in the House for eight years with Gerald Ford. Although Dole is more articulate and aggressive than Ford, they have some traits in common — unswerving loyalty to the Republican party, an even-tempered, personable manner and an easy smile.

Now midway through his second term in the Senate, Dole has compiled a decidedly conservative record. He has opposed busing, gun control, abortion and no-fault auto insurance. He supported the death penalty, the sup-

person transport and the Supreme Court nominations of Clement Haynsworth and G. Harrold Carswell.

Early in his Senate career, Dole emerged as a self-appointed sheriff patrolling the floor for the Nixon Administration. He became a megaphone for the White House, even to the point of delivering without question speeches written by White House aides. He lambasted administration foes with epithets devised by H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Nixon's top lieutenants.

Later, after the Watergate scandal exploded, Dole remarked: "I drew the line on some of the things people wanted me to say about Sen. Ted Kennedy... but I did say things about other Democrats I wish I hadn't."

Nixon rewarded Dole's loyalty by naming him national Republican chairman in 1971 to succeed Rogers C.B. Morton, now President Ford's campaign chairman.

Comparing Morton and Dole at the time, one White House aide observed: "Rog is a big old St. Bernard; Dole is a hungry Doberman Pinscher."

Dole remained a staunch defender of Nixon through the early stages of Watergate. But as the scandal deepened, he began urging the White House to stop stone-walling and

His Family

They're Dole's Commandos, Ready for Campaign

By BOB GETZ
Staff Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Look at it this way.

When President Ford chose Kansas Sen. Bob Dole Thursday, he didn't simply gain a running mate.

He gained a small, apparently powerful army which doesn't know what it is to lose a political battle: Sen. Dole's wife, Elizabeth; his daughter, Robin; his mother, Bina; his brother, Kenneth of Russell, Kan.; and his two sisters, Norma Steele of Derby, and Gloria Nelson of Ft. Morgan, Colo. Call them Dole's commandos. They were ready to unfurl the flag and go into action even before their initial excitement over Dole's selection had allowed them "to come back down to earth."

"I just graduated from VPI (Virginia Polytechnic Institute) and had been looking for a job," said Robin, a slim, attractive 21-year-old brunette, pausing, smiling and then saying, "Now I think I've found a job. Campaigning."

"We'll do whatever we have to do," said his brother, Kenneth. "I've always found time to campaign for Bob."

"Yes, I sure am going to go to work for Bob Dole," said his sister, Norma. "I think I'm going to need a leave of absence where I work."

And his mother, Bina? Watch out, Lillian Carter.

"I always campaign for him," said Mrs. Dole, who is 73 years old. "It's



Mother Bina Dole



Daughter Robin Dole



Brother Kenneth Dole



Sister Norma Steele

very exciting. He's been in politics a long time, and he's never lost an election. I think we can win this one, too."

Looking at her grandmother, Robin smiled and said, "She acts younger than I do."

You "You ought to see her campaign," Mrs. Steele said of her mother. "I can't keep up with her."

The family had to learn about Sen. Dole's selection with everyone else, over television, but prior to hearing the President's announcement Thursday, they had a feeling their man would be chosen.

While Senator and Mrs. Dole are staying in the Muehlebach Hotel downtown, the rest of the family is staying at the Holiday Inn with the Kansas delegation.

Their phones rang all morning. The media, trying to find out who would be chosen, wanted to know if they knew anything yet. Others who called mistakenly thought the senator was staying at the Holiday Inn.

"Even though I had an idea Bob might be chosen, I was still kinda shocked when the President announced it on television," Bina Dole said.

"We were glued to the set," Robin commented. "I don't feel I've come down to earth yet."

Sen. Dole phoned afterward and spoke briefly to each member of the family.

"I picked up the phone, thinking it was another reporter calling," Robin said. "And my father said, 'HELLO!'"

He didn't say much to anyone, being rushed, but the family knew by his voice he was excited.

"It was very obvious he was excited," Robin said.

The family certainly thinks Ford picked the right — and best — man.

"He's always been a special person because of his ability with people," Mrs. Steele said. "Since he first entered politics, I just knew there wouldn't be any stopping him."

All agreed, mentioning frequently how dedicated and hard-working the senator is. Whenever they made a comment of that nature, they got looks in their eyes that said, "And you don't know the half of it."

They talked about Bob Dole, the person behind the politician.

"When he was very young, he didn't seem to have any particular political inclination," Mrs. Dole said. "But, he was very serious-minded."

"He went into politics after he came back from the service, of course, and it was all right with me," she said. "And, towards the family, he's never changed."

"When he was young," said Kenneth, a year and a half younger, at 51, than the senator. "He was very serious. And he was an outstanding football and basketball player and an honor society student."

"As a politician, he always seems to have time for everybody," Kenneth said. "I wish there were more people like him in politics."

"I think Bob was a great choice," laughed Mrs. Steele, the most buoyant and outgoing of the "army." "He's a wonderful person, a good worker, and just what Ford needs."

Mrs. Steele was the only one of the four at the Holiday Inn who felt Dole's selection would change her life notably. The others didn't see their lives turning upside down.

While the family was sticking to a room, anxiously awaiting further word from the vice presidential nominee, Mrs. Steele's 11-year-old son, Robert (Joe) Steele, who is named after his Uncle Bob, phoned from Derby.

When his mother got on the line, he said, excitedly, "Oh, Mom! Uncle Bob is famous!"

HIS WIFE

She's a Southern Belle, a Graduate of Harvard

By MARIE RIDDER and LEE EGERSTROM
Of Our Washington Bureau

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — She is a southern belle who was one of the first women to graduate from Harvard Law School.

She progressed through a series of career successes — trustee of Duke University, councilman of Harvard Law School, a summer at Oxford, legal defender of the poor, consumer advocate — to one of the highest-ranking posts in the federal government held by a woman.

Thursday, Mary Elizabeth Hanford Dole became known to the world as the wife of the Republican nominee for vice president.

She may, as a result, have to resign her Federal Trade Commission post to avoid a conflict of interest in the campaign.

MRS. DOLE, a soft-spoken woman, is surely a contradiction of the stereotype of a proper Southern lady and the wife of a conservative politician.

In the decade since she graduated from Harvard Law School, she has practiced public service law, been a staff assistant for an assistant secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, been deputy director of the Office of Consumer Affairs and become the youngest member of the Federal Trade Commission.

Mrs. Dole, a bride of less than a year, can say with

assurance that she is prepared to be the wife of a vice president. "Without wanting to sound too pompous about it, I think I am in a position to be a constructive second lady," she says.

"I had this in mind all along. At Duke University I studied political science. At Harvard I got a master's degree in government and education before going on to law school. I studied English government one summer at Oxford."

"I am," she says, "proudest of being one of the first women to go to Harvard Law School. I was one of 25 women in a class of 650. We were very much in the minority. We have seen a lot of progress since then but we still have a long way to go in this area."

WHEN ASKED HOW she can make peace with a Republican platform that seeks a constitutional amendment against legalized abortion, she smiles.

"The President's wife has already made a clear statement about how she feels. I share her opinion that abortion should be a personal decision. I think my own career is a pretty good testimony to the fact I believe women should make their own lives."

"I am deeply involved in my job. I keep busy with anti-trust work and the 18 to 20 consumer protection statutes, particularly equal protection-fair credit reporting. This is the niche I have a special interest in. It is challenging work and doesn't leave much time for too many

diversions. We're involved in areas that really affect a person's pocket book." When you are wrapped up in work like that, she notes, it doesn't leave much time.

Mrs. Dole, 40, is tall and slim, her shoulder-length hair flipped at the ends. A friend says of her, "Sometimes you find yourself talking to that Harvard lawyer, that dedicated public servant, at other times to a charming, Southern belle, flirtatious and consciously a perfect example of what a Southern lady is supposed to be."

HER FATHER, a South Carolina jurist, may have been the person who encouraged her to break from the community pattern of early marriage and children.

She pursued a rigorous education. Even as a college student she had unusual summer jobs — as an intern with the United Nations and as a government intern in Washington.

"I have always been interested in the world, the world of politics," she says. "I am trying to find time to put our new home together. In the last eight months I've found this combination of a full-time job and a new house something of a challenge but I have just bought new lamp shades."

"Like everyone else who is newly married, getting your furniture moved in and making a new home is fun and exciting." Somewhat insistently, Mrs. Dole asserts that her life is not all high pressure politics. "I have fun, too, a domestic side of life. I am a very happy person."



MARY ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
... At their marriage in December 1975