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Peter Lisagor

Selection of Dole Safe, Unimaginative

By Peter Lisagor
Service of the Chicago Daily News

Washington—The idea that President Ford would be brilliantly imaginative about his vice-presidential choice, breaking the conventional mold, was far-fetched. That he would name an Anne Armstrong or a Carla Hills or a swashbuckler with dubious baggage like John Connally or a good quality member of Congress like Illinois' John Anderson was a misreading of Jerry Ford's character and instincts.

Ford's political life, until circumstances tore him loose from his congressional moorings, centered on the House, its cloakroom camaraderie, its cozy trade-offs and light-hearted backscratching. This was Ford turf, and his ambition ran to being speaker of the House some day. If he ever fantasized about anything, it surely was not that he would be elevated to the Oval Office by a bizarre sequence of events.

Sen. Robert Dole, the Kansas wit and whipcracker, shared the Ford turf in the House for a time, and then moved on to the Senate. Like Ford, he was a party man first. His days as Republican national chairman during the Nixon years from 1971 to 1973, when

the White House treated him with a grudging tolerance on some occasions and outright suspicion and disdain on others, provided proof of his fidelity to the party.

That is the sort of thing Jerry Ford understands and appreciates, so when he looked around for a running mate, Dole fitted the concept of compatibility. Dole was a product of the House, comfortable as an ally, reasonably like-minded, neutral enough to appease the Reaganites. In retrospect, the 53-year-old Kansan was a plausible choice for Ford. He would cause no commotion, and that was important after the Reagan-Schweiker rhubarb. He was an old House buddy, with no taste for usurpation and a proven record of loyalty.

He added a little pizzazz to the Ford ticket, but not much. He can be a funny man, in a biting way, and maybe it was figured he could penetrate Jimmy Carter's suspected thin skin. When Barry Goldwater selected Rep. William Miller of Buffalo, an almost total unknown beyond his district, as his running mate in 1964, he explained that he did it because Miller "drives Lyndon Johnson up the wall." What happened was that he helped drive

L.B.J. toward one of the biggest landslide victories in history.

If Dole drives Carter up the wall, he may earn his spurs. But otherwise it is hard to see how a farm-belt senator will contribute to Ford's need to win votes in the industrial states of the North.

It is a proposition new to this era that running mates really matter in a general election. Ford may have accepted the reality of a running mate in his choice of Dole, reasoning Dole would do no harm. And Dole eliminates the fear in White House quarters that the President, a plain, unpretentious man who runs to dullness, will be overshadowed in any way.

It was thought that the President might choose a man who could inherit the leadership of the G.O.P. in 1980, a more driving and blatantly ambitious man than Dole. The Kansan doesn't seem the type who uses sharp elbows and grasping hands in pursuit of personal aims. For the party, anything may go, however.

Ford's choice of Dole says a good deal about the President. He remains an average fellow with an orthodox view of the presidential figure. He'll leave the daring play to other desperate men and take his chances with the

commonplace, the comfortable, the congenial.

He surprised many when he chose Nelson A. Rockefeller as his vice-president. But he needed a symbol of legitimacy and he turned, smartly, to the moderate wing of the party. All the talk that Rockefeller would be "a partner" may have been meant by Ford at the time, but it turned hollow when the White House, led by staff chief Donald Rumsfeld, began to shut out the vice-president and relegate him to the second-class status usually enjoyed by the No. 2 man.

Rockefeller understood the game and accepted it stoically. He had no other choice. Dole will have no problem, for he, too, understands. In the House cloakrooms, the deal is to play it safely and cautiously, to create no disturbances, and to recognize what is real and what is spurious.

Ford's choice of Dole honored tradition. He picked a man who can live with ease on the fringes of power, who won't get into his hair, and who will dutifully attend to the limited duties of the office without feeling frustrated by them. But to win in November is the problem—and Dole's potential contribution to its solution, at the moment, hard to fathom.

Dole's Ex-Wife Says He Plans to Be No. 1 On a G.O.P. Ticket

Sylvan Grove, Kan. (AP)—Senator Bob Dole is well on his way to the goal he set for himself years ago—the White House according to the Kansas Republican's ex-wife.

But Mrs. Lon Buzick, a staunch Ronald Reagan supporter, said she's more surprised that her ex-husband would accept President Gerald Ford's offer to be his running mate than the fact that the offer was made.

Mrs. Buzick commented from her home in this north central Kansas community just minutes after the President had introduced Dole as his choice for a running mate.

The Doles were divorced five years ago after 23 years of marriage. Last year Dole married Mary Elizabeth Hanford, who is on the Federal Trade Commission.

"He has always wanted this," Mrs. Buzick said of her former husband's run for the nation's second-highest office. "And he wants to be President. There's never been any question about it. He lays his plans well... he plans well ahead. I think that's why he's been successful so far."

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WHERE'S THE KEY? President Ford, Senator and Mrs. Robert J. Dole and Bina Dole, the Senator's mother, at her home in Russell, Kan. They were unable to enter until the Senator's wife found the key behind the front porch drain pipe.

Ford Joins Dole for Welcome in Hometown in Kansas

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

RUSSELL, Kan., Aug. 20

President Ford identified the Republican campaign ticket with Washington today as he county attorney. Even the day for a barbecue and what was quietly declared "Bob Dole Day."

Senator Dole, a 51-year-old native of Russell, broke into tears, as several thousand of his friends cheered him here, for doing so, in recalling an earlier homecoming, as a casualty of World War II.

"I never really believed I would be in this position," the Senator told a crowd outside the yellow limestone court-

house, where he once served as judge. He said he was surprised when the President called on the Senator's hometown as the party's nominee for Vice President. Mr. Dole said, "I don't really believe it today."

The Kansan said that he had suggested when the President telephoned him yesterday in Kansas City, Mo., to say he would like him to join the ticket and begin campaigning

today, that "I knew a little place that would qualify."

So they both came here and were greeted by bright sunshine and a warm welcome from a festive crowd gathered for a barbecue and what was quietly declared "Bob Dole Day."

The President, who inserted a challenge to Jimmy Carter, debate him when he accepted the Presidential nomination last night, seemed today to adopt the position of the Washington-

Carter has agreed to join. "Bob Dole was the guy" he wanted for Vice President, Mr. Ford said, because of his political career as a county, state and—for 16 years—a national politician.

He said that the Senator's knowledge of tax and agricultural matters gained over a lifetime in the middle West and service on two Senate committees dealing with those matters, would strengthen a ticket pledged to produce tax relief for middle-income families and

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Ford Accompanies Dole for Hometown Welcome

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which he cannot use, and a devotion to aiding the handicapped.

He noted in his remarks that the people of Russell "were always there when I needed help." He could not continue his remarks. The Senator stopped, tears streaming from his eyes, bowed his head and shuffled his feet on a small platform elevating him slightly above the crowd. The people cheered, sympathizing with him in his recollection, and President Ford stood to pay an additional 5,000, constituted roughly half the population of Russell County.

After the ceremony and handshaking, the President left for his vacation retreat in Vail, Colo., where he will spend about nine days relaxing and making final decisions for his fall campaign strategy.

Dean Banker, a local clothier, may have summed up the memory here of Mr. Dole when he said, "We remember when he caught the winning touchdown in the mud" in the big high school football game against arch rival Hays High School.

Senator Dole lingered awhile after the President departed, then returned to Washington.

Just before doing so, Senator Dole began to recall his return home after receiving serious

was a pause, Mr. Ford said, and finally interjected, "Don't wait too long."

Senator Dole then asked, the President said, that he agree to come to Russell today. "So here we are," Mr. Ford said, embracing the community and Mr. Dole.

Mr. Dole told his friends that he had worked eight years as county attorney with the community and Mr. Dole.

The crowd, estimated at about 5,000, constituted roughly half the population of Russell County.

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NY Times

News Summary and Index

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

The South African Government offered a housing concession to the country's urban blacks but with tough speeches suggesting that life for South Africa's 18 million blacks was not likely to change fundamentally. Reversing a policy adopted last year, the Government agreed to allow blacks buying houses in segregated townships to have unrestricted title to the land. [Page 1, Col. 1-2.]

Mass executions of 46 people were carried out apparently by right-wing extremists in Argentina in reprisal for the assassination of a retired army general. The bodies of 23 men and 5 women, and two mutilated corpses were found in a pasture in Pilar, about 25 miles northwest of Buenos Aires. Sixteen more bodies were found in a field in Banfield, a suburb south of Buenos Aires. [1-1-2.]

Secretary of State Kissinger said that the United States was demanding "explanations and reparations" from North Korea for the killing of two American military officers in the Korean demilitarized zone on Wednesday. He said that the United States "absolutely cannot and will not accept" what he termed "the premeditated act of murder." [1-1.]

National

With the two Presidential nominees committed to televised debates on campaign issues, Senator Robert J. Dole, President Ford's running mate, and Senator Walter F. Mondale, Jimmy Carter's No. 2 man, said they would also be willing to meet in what would be the first televised debates between Vice-Presidential candidates. Mr. Ford and Mr. Carter will hold the first Presidential debates since John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon met in four national televised debates in 1960. [1-8.]

President Ford and his running mate, Senator Robert J. Dole, paid a sentimental and political visit to Russell, Kan., Mr. Dole's hometown. The Senator broke into tears—his friends cheered him for doing so—in recalling his earlier homecoming after World War II, in which he was seriously wounded. [1-4-7.]

President Ford told the newly elected Republican National Committee that he was in favor of changing the Vice-Presidential selection process. He said that he had followed very closely the battle at the Republican National Convention over Rule 16-C, spon-

sored by Ronald Reagan forces, that would require Presidential candidates to name their proposed running mate well in advance of the Presidential roll-call. "I happen to believe that there is considerable merit to that approach," Mr. Ford said, and he suggested that the national committee change the ground rules for 1980. [1-7.]

Jimmy Carter tried out at a news conference at his home in Plains, Ga., what may be the principal themes of his Presidential campaign, scheduled to begin formally on Labor Day. He accused the Ford Administration of allowing the nation to "drift" without a goal or purpose, and said that the voters' choice was between "new leadership in the White House or no leadership." [1-5-6.]

The Labor Department reported that consumer prices rose in July at about the same pace as in other recent months, with inflation now running steadily at a yearly rate of 5 to 6 percent. Food prices increased very little last month, but there were sufficient increases in other categories of goods and services to push the Consumer Price Index up by five-tenths of 1 percent after adjustment for seasonal changes in some prices. [1-3.]

Tighter controls on the use of Darvon—a mild pain killer related chemically to methadone and the country's third most widely prescribed drug—is being planned by the Government. Overuse and abuse of it by narcotics addicts, would-be suicides and others has been linked to more than 1,000 deaths over the last few years. [1-7-8.]

Metropolitan

School Chancellor Irving Anker proposed a change in Board of Education policy that would mean the end of free transportation for 11,500 public and nonpublic school pupils and higher fees for 63,400 other children who receive fare privileges. The proposal is scheduled to be acted on at the Board's public meeting Wednesday. It would save the school system \$18.4 million annually, Mr. Anker said. [1-4.]

A small but growing number of black middle-class families has been moving to Harlem over the last three or four years, attracted mainly by the brownstone houses that can be bought comparatively cheaply. One of the families is that of Benjamin Grant, a high-school principal who bought a house two years ago that he says has doubled in value. [1-2-4.]

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