

60, 1976



Salina arrival

President Gerald Ford and Sen. Robert Dole flank members of the Dole family as the Republican nominees for president and

vice president arrive at the Salina Municipal Airport. Left from Ford are Dole's mother, Mrs. Doran Dole; Dole's daughter,

Robin, and his wife, Mary Elizabeth. (Journal Photo by Evelyn Burger)



Warm welcome

Sen. Bob Dole waves to friends at Salina airport. (Journal Photo)

Salinan complains about some GOP noise-makers

Ben Vidricksen, Saline county Republican chairman and candidate for the 8th district Kansas House seat, enjoyed attending the Republican National convention in Kansas City and was particularly pleased at the vice-presidential nomination given Kansas Sen. Bob Dole.

But Vidricksen has a complaint he plans to present in writing to the Republican National committee — he believes scarce tickets to national conventions should go to party workers, not to warm bodies recruited to make noise.

"One of the things that disgusted me a little bit is that both the Ford and Reagan people had seats available for these young people to put on demonstrations in the balcony," Vidricksen said from Kansas City in a telephone call to The Salina Journal. He said several hundreds of seats were used up by these bused-in demonstrators.

"I personally this is a huge mistake — that they bring in their cheering sections this way. I don't think this ought to be allowed. Let the delegates do all the hollering and shouting," he said.

The "cheering sections" might not have been that much of a problem except for 2 factors, according to Vidricksen. One was the extreme shortage of spectators' tickets. He could not satisfy many requests he got from Salina for tickets to the convention, he said.

The 2nd factor was noise — so intense at times "it was almost to the point of being disgusting because you couldn't hear what was going on."

Vidricksen said he planned to recommend that gallery tickets go to party workers and others who would listen and could benefit from participation.

He said one demonstrator told him, "I don't even know what I'm supposed to do here. Both my parents are Democrats."

According to Vidricksen, all delegates he talked to were pleased by Midwest hospitality in Kansas City.

"Of course, the final night, with Ford and Bob Dole — the Kansas delegation just about flipped their lid over the Bob Dole thing. It was the consensus of the delegates that Ford made a real good choice there," he said.

Fights dirty, some former foes say

He's had close election calls

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — Sen. Bob Dole has never lost an election, even though he had to come from behind three times to keep the record intact. And although Kansas politicians all agree he's a tough campaigner, some of his former opponents say he fights dirty.

William Roy, a Topeka physician-attorney who narrowly lost a fight to unseat Dole in the 1974 general election, still had bitter memories of that campaign Thursday when he heard Dole had been selected as President Ford's running mate.

"The last weekend before the Tuesday election, he distributed brochures of dead babies in garbage cans," Roy said. The ads referred to Roy's moderate position on abortion. Even though Roy is a Roman Catholic, he supported letting women decide individually whether to have an abortion. Dole supported a constitutional ban.

Roy, now an administrator at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka, lost the election by 0.6 per cent of the vote.

"I have no personal dislike for Bob Dole," Roy said. "It (the presidential campaign between Ford and Jimmy Carter) will be a tough, close campaign with a lot of emotional issues. It may be what some people will call a dirty campaign."

Another Kansas Democrat, Martha Keys, said Dole would be a "very divisive campaigner. That's always been his strategy."

Proud Republicans

But Republicans, who dominate the state legislature and the congressional delegation in Kansas, were proud Ford had hand-picked his vice presidential candidate from their state.

Attorney General Curt Schneider, a Democrat, forgot about partisan politics when he heard the news.

"I think it's a big plus for Kansas

right now," Schneider said. "I don't care if he's a Republican or a Democrat. It's a big honor for the state."

Former Gov. Robert Docking, another Democrat, said he thought Dole's selection "was a logical choice. He's a hard, tough campaigner."

A member of Dole's staff, Kim Wells, said his reputation as a conservative was not deserved. "If you look at his voting record I don't think you can say he is a conservative."

Wells helped write the food stamp legislation which Dole co-sponsored in the Senate with Sen. George McGovern, D-N.D.

Former Lt. Gov. Dave Owen said Dole was conservative on fiscal matters, but a moderate overall.

"He votes very conservatively on economics," Owen said. "But there's nobody who champions the cause of the handicapped like Bob Dole. So I would say he's a moderate."

Carlson surprised, pleased by choice

By JOHN MARHSALL

Kansas Correspondent

CONCORDIA (HNS) — Former Sen. Frank Carlson, Kansas' Republican statesman and political veteran, says he doubts Bob Dole was eager to campaign for the first time in 1968 for the U.S. Senate.

But Dole ran, defeated Bill Robinson, and left the House to succeed Carlson in the Senate.

"I had told Bob that I was retiring, visited with him and said it looked like the field would be open," Carlson recalls. "He was in a position to run after 3 terms in the U.S. House, but I don't think he was eager. He was comfortable in the House."

Carlson was elected to Congress in 1934 and served until 1947, when he was inaugurated as governor. In 1950, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and served there 18 years. Carlson is the only Kansan elected to all 3 offices, and also is a former state representative.

"I think President Ford made an excellent choice in Bob Dole. But he's a hard worker and because of that I could be concerned about his health," Carlson said.

Dole was critically wounded in Italy during World War 2 and was hospitalized for 39 months. His right arm and hand were crippled.

"This will be the roughest campaign

of his life," Carlson said.

He said he was surprised Dole was picked, but happy he is on the ticket.

"I had a feeling it would be Howard Baker or William Scranton. But the President didn't ask me. Bob Dole is a good man, hard worker, able and fearless."

"He will be especially effective in areas regarding farm policy. Ford has lost strength in the rural areas because of the grain embargo."

Dole and Carlson were close friends while they served at Washington — Dole in the House of Representatives, Carlson in the Senate. They have been close since, but have not discussed Dole's candidacy.

Speculation starts

Who will be tapped to succeed Dole?

OLATHE (HNS) — Kansas Republicans already are looking at who might become their next U.S. senator if Sen. Robert Dole is elected vice president in November.

The two most frequently mentioned possibilities are that Gov. Robert Bennett will resign and let Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith appoint him to the post, or that Dole's 1974 campaign chairman, Dave Owen, Olathe, might get the nod.

"A lot of 'ifs' have to happen," said Smith, but he acknowledged that a resignation in anticipation of the appointment would not be unprecedented.

"I think we've got a campaign to win first. That's the job to do now."

But Smith said, "There would be all kinds of options in addition to Bennett or Owen."

"The choice will be strictly up to the governor," Owen said. "I have thought about it (serving in the Senate) from time to time."

Owen said he believes Dole "should have some input into who is selected, since he was elected to the position."

Rural Kansans, however, see drawbacks to the appointment of either Bennett or Owen. Both are from Johnson county, as is the state's senior senator, James Pearson.

Although Owen's closeness to Dole may help ease any anti-Johnson county feelings connected to him, Kansans from points west of Johnson county are expected to lobby for the appointment of someone from outside the wealthy Kansas City suburban county.

Salina stop homecoming for newsmen

President Ford's stop in Salina Friday was a homecoming of sorts for one of the newsmen covering the journey.

Jim Lee, son of Mrs. Mary Anne Lee, 1935 S. 4th, is a field producer with NBC-TV and has been covering the Republican National Convention in Kansas City. He arrived on the press plane which accompanies Air Force One.

Lee started a broadcast career in Salina with KFRM, later worked in television in Topeka and Denver and joined NBC in New York last winter.

His mother and grandmother, Mrs. Anne Pafford, 1701 E. Iron, were on hand to greet him and Lee planned an overnight stay in Salina before joining the press corps again in Denver.

Hot line was here

"What's that thing out on the ramp? Looks from here like a telephone."

Indeed, it was a telephone, the famed Hot Line which goes everywhere the President of the United States goes.

Secret Service has busy season

It's a busy season for agents of the Secret Service.

But, as an agent said Friday in Salina, "It can't be any worse than it has been."

The Secret Service, of course, are charged with protection of the President, other high officials and active candidates for the office. They were more than a few such candidates in this election year. Nominating conventions have reduced the number to 4.

"Actually," the agent said, "there are a lot fewer candidates now so the load is a bit lighter. Some of these candidates would make 50 stops a day. I've heard a rumor Jimmy Carter plans a whistle stop campaign like Harry Truman had. That would be tough."

The agents work 28 days straight before rotating to other duties. Their presence is not obtrusive, but it's always there.

During the stop of President Ford and Sen. Bob Dole Friday in Salina, security included an armed guard atop the terminal building.

States goes, linking him with Washington where decisions are made.

Because of President Ford's decision to join Sen. Bob Dole for lunch Friday at Russell, Dennis Peters, 2661 Allen, a PBX supervisor for Southwestern Bell, and 4 telephone installers worked through Thursday night into Friday's wee hours.

"I got a call from my boss Thursday night and was told we had to have the connection made by this morning," Peters said. "We worked all night to do it."

Apparently, the Hot Line connection isn't your ordinary run-of-the-dial phone.

Assisting in the installation were installers Laverne Anderson, Bob Lloyd, Jim Pickering and Gary Wisby. And there were others in the central office.

Windsor Estates residents on hand

Six residents of Windsor Estates were on hand for the arrival of President Gerald Ford and Sen. Robert Dole Friday morning at the Salina Municipal airport.

The group was accompanied by Mrs. Alice Eichberger, Windsor Estates' activities director, and Marion Hamilton, a registered nurse at the home.

"They were thrilled to see Air Force One," commented Mrs. Eichberger, "but couldn't get very close to see the dignitaries. They really enjoyed it."

Hello, Salina

Spreading his arms wide as he waves to the crowd, President Gerald Ford is surrounded by

Secret Service men and newsmen at the Salina airport. (Journal Photo by Bill Burke)

