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Carter Likens Dole to Maddox, Plans to Aim Attack at Ford

Chicago Tribune

PLAINS, Ga. — Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter put on his campaign work clothes Friday and launched his first softly spoken but toughly worded counterattack on the new Republican ticket.

In what may be a preview of 10 weeks of campaigning, Carter said he would direct his campaign toward President Ford and avoid responding to any criticism from Ford's running mate, Sen. Bob Dole.

Carter said he wants to avoid the "bickering" that plagued politicians in Washington recently, and made it clear he does not approve of Dole's "reputation as an aggressive campaigner." During a press conference on his front lawn, he compared Dole to his archenemy in Georgia politics, former Gov. Lester Maddox.

"I'VE HAD A lot of training for that kind of attack," Carter said. "I've spent four or five years dealing with Lester Maddox while I was governor and he was lieutenant governor. He's an expert."

When asked about reports that Dole will try to ignite Carter's cold-eyed anger, Carter said at first: "I don't know Sen. Dole very well. I have seen comments about him that indicate that he's a very aggressive cage rat."

But in answer to another question, he related his own experience with Dole in 1974, when Dole was running for re-election and Carter was the na-



AMY CARTER WITH DAD, JIMMY, ON TRIP ... Carter talked to Plains, Ga., businessmen Friday

tional campaign chairman for the Democratic National committee. "I think one of the attacks that was made against (his opponent) by Dole

was that (his opponent, Bill Roy) was an abortionist. And this was a very damaging allegation made in the last stages of the campaign and may have made the difference in the election," he said.

The Georgia peanut farmer, who carefully couched each attack with faint praise, said he does not expect such campaign techniques from Ford.

"I think that would be out of character," he said of the President, adding that he plans to debate Ford on his record and the Republican platform, while leaving the rougher campaign style to his running mate, Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn.

But Carter, who apparently plans to stress his criticism of Ford's leadership ability, was averse to linking the President with his predecessor.

Asked why he refers to the past four years as the "Nixon-Ford administration," Carter said: "There is an almost complete continuity — not in the crimes, I think President Ford is an honest and decent man — but in the policies."

"In a completely dormant way, he simply extended what Nixon had evolved, Nixon being a much more active and aggressive President, and I think, to that extent President Ford is responsible for the continuity that exists."

"BUT IN USING this approach," one reporter asked him, "Aren't you linking Ford to a fairly unsavory name?"

"Well," Carter said, smiling, "It's not my fault that Nixon's unsavory."

Carter, who has remained quiet and mostly out of sight this week, appeared calm and confident in responding to Republican attacks against his smile, his gubernatorial record, his campaign style and even his apparent love of softball.

But one reporter apparently caught the nominee off guard by asking him why he was wearing a coat and tie for the first time at a press conference on his lawn. For most of the summer in Plains, Carter has been wearing either sport shirts and slacks or work shirts and blue jeans. Friday he had on a coat and tie.

"Is there some meaning in this?" a reporter asked. "I believe (one of the Republican speakers) referred to you as a quick-change artist. Is that what they mean?"

Carter laughed, blushed slightly and then answered: "Well, I can wear both. I do wear a tie on occasion, and I certainly reserve the right to change my clothes."

Strategy for Dole: To Wound Carter, Bring Out Issues

By JAMES WIEGHART
Of the New York Times

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — President Ford's selection of Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas as his vice presidential running mate is part of the "high road, low road" strategy Ford's advisers have settled on as their best hope of overcoming Democrat Jimmy Carter's enormous lead in the battle for the presidency.

Ford, of course, will take the high road, wrapping himself in his incumbency and making lofty, presidential pronouncements on foreign policy and on pressing domestic problems such as the economy, energy, farm policy and the like.

The President's top political advisers already have indicated that Ford will spend most of his time from now to Oct. 15 in the Oval Office, acting "presidential," confining his political travels to occasional major speeches before important groups.

DOLE, MEANWHILE, who has the deserved reputation of owning the most acid tongue in the Senate, will head for the hustings on Labor Day to begin his assigned task of flaying Carter. The aim is to wound Carter sufficiently so he will be forced to go beyond the politics of love and trust that proved so successful in the Democratic presidential primaries.

The Kansas senator gave the Republican convention a sample of his cut-and-slash campaign style in the speech he delivered to the delegates Monday night, in which he described Carter as "a political quick-change artist," skilled in the art of "deceptions and contradictions."

Perhaps Carter, riding a 30-percentage point lead over Ford in national opinion polls, will be able to ignore Dole's jabs and continue his pre-nomination campaign practice of addressing issues in broad brush strokes and avoiding specifics.

The secret of Carter's amazing success thus far has been his ability to fuzzle the issues so skillfully that liberals feel he is liberal, while conservatives see him as one of them and moderates believe him to be a middle-of-the-roader.

DOLE'S JOB IN THE days ahead —

with the aid of such GOP heavy hitters as Vice President Rockefeller, former Treasury Secretary John Connally and Ronald Reagan — will be to drive wedges between the various groups that make up the current Carter coalition.

For instance, Carter's conservative supporters, particularly in the South, will be told he favors big spending — federal jobs, health and welfare pro-

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grams that would add \$100 billion to next year's federal deficit. They also will be bombarded by the liberal positions of Carter's hand-picked running mate, Sen. Walter Mondale of Minnesota, such as liberalized abortion, day care centers for working mothers and school busing.

The emerging strategy of the Ford camp obviously is a negative one, designed to cut Carter down to size over the next two months in the hope that when Ford takes to the campaign trail full time Oct. 15, the gap between the two will be narrowed considerably.

Viewed from this perspective, the selection of Dole seems an admirable matching of the job to the man. The Ford camp was looking for a political hit man to shoot down the high-flying peanut farmer from Georgia and Dole looks like just the man to do it.

Boston Sunday Globe

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1976

A town that takes care of its own

By Anne Kregan
Night News Service

RUSSELL, Kan. — The politician stood on the platform and asked out at the crowd.

He saw no ties or fitted suits or gaudy spandrels with snazzy signs. He saw farmers' hats and farmers' pants — with the white skin sneaking down from beneath their short beards. He saw open faces and handmade signs and pickup trucks.

And standing there beneath the arbutus trees and looking out at a people he used to be, the politician — who wants to be Vice President — started to cry.

Bob Dole had come home.

It was a moment of triumph to turn where he'd begun and face a people who started him off. For brought the President of the United States with him. Right down the main street in Russell. Right on to the cool shade of the court-



Sen. Dole wipes away a tear at hometown reception. (UPI photo)

house lawn where the Republican women were roasting wieners. Right down to the old limestone building where his political career began.

Waiting for him there Friday were all his friends — farmers who'd driven 50 miles, old people in lawn chairs hugging their canes who came to see "Dole's son."

And here he was coming to town. In a limousine with the Secret Service and the national press. Standing up there on the Chamber of Commerce's platform, holding hands with the President while the high school band played "It's a Grand Old Flag."

"The President told me he wanted to begin this campaign in the heartland of America," Dole WELCOME, Page 5

Dole's hometown cares for its own

★ WELCOME

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said, standing tall and smooth and gray-suited before the mike. "And I told him I knew a little place that was qualified."

"I never believed I'd be in this position. I never believed it when I was in this county courthouse. I never believed it when I was in the legislature, or in Congress, or in the Senate."

Dole looked at the people around him. "It just shows you can come from a small town ... and succeed. I can recall when I needed help, the people of Russell helped."

And then Bob Dole, who's never lost a political fight and never let an opponent off easy, broke down. He stopped talking. Humbled before them, he let out a sob.

For a moment there was silence. And then the people of Russell began to cheer. The cheers grew louder and louder. And Bob Dole looked up, wiped away the tears, and added quietly, "It was a long time ago."

Perhaps Bob Dole was remembering what the town did for him when he came back from the war, wounded and on a downhill slide.

"Clet Dawson started a drive and collected over \$2000 to pay for Bob to have an operation in Chicago," said Dean Baker of the local department store. "Just about everybody chipped in. That experience did something to him. Here we do that kind of thing all the time. If a farmer is sick, why, the next day five tractors will pull in and all the other farmers will cut his wheat. That's what people in Russell are like."

Perhaps he was remem-

bering the eight years he was county attorney in Russell, making \$50 a week and strolling across the courthouse lawn 17 years ago — worrying about county deeds and speeding tickets and how to get a start in the Republican Party.

Perhaps he was seeing the faces of people who took him back a long time. Like George Baxter, his football coach, who was standing there in the crowd.

"Bob wasn't the star on the team, he was a worker. I'll never forget the game against Ellis High School when the field was too muddy to run with the ball. The score was zero to zero and the game was just about over and Bob caught a pass at the goal line. It was the last play of the game and we won it."

"The other coach was so mad he threw down his hat and jumped on it. But Bob just smiled. He was a quiet boy who always worked. He was an ordinary boy from ordinary people. But he turned out just fine."

Russell has changed a bit since Bob Dole moved out of town. Interstate 70 passes by a mile or two out of town and businesses have grown up around it. Farmers are no longer poor. They've got tractors with air conditioning and radios inside.

Back up on the platform, Bob Dole started to smile again. The people of Russell smiled back. He introduced the President to his town, and they cheered.

And when he left, 30 minutes later, they crowded around to say goodby. They liked him for his tears. For Bob Dole had shown he hadn't really forgotten where it all began.

Mondale, OKs Dole Debate

HIBBING, Minn. (AP) — Sen. Walter Mondale said Friday he would be pleased to debate Sen. Bob Dole, his Republican vice presidential opponent.

The Democratic nominee also told a news conference at his vacation hideaway that both he and Jimmy Carter will wage vigorous campaigns on issues.

"Neither of us will take the low road," Mondale said when asked if he would be more abrasive in his campaign strategy. "I've never taken

the low road in my entire public career. And I will not do so now."

Mondale said he intended to debate President Ford to the economic and social policies of the Nixon administration. He said that as House minority leader and vice president, Ford was a defender of the Nixon administration.

Dole, the Kansas senator nominated by the GOP Thursday night as Ford's running mate, had offered to debate Mondale.

Mondale said accepting the challenge "makes

a lot of sense." The Minnesota said ground rules would have to be worked out for candid and open discussion of the issues.

Mondale also said he was pleased Ford had accepted Carter's debate offer.

"Debate is the more creditable way to get at issues," Mondale said.

He described Dole as "a nice man" but said the Republicans had chosen a very conservative ticket and approved a platform that "couldn't be more conservative."