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'No blanket pardon,' says Dole

By RICHARD W. LARSEN
Times Political Writer

Senator Robert Dole, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, today counterpunched Jimmy Carter's position on pardons for Vietnam-war draft evaders.

"Let there be no confusion as to President Ford's position on this issue," Dole told the same audience that Carter had addressed yesterday.

"It is unequivocal — and applies equally to draft evaders and deserters — no blanket pardon, no blanket amnesty, no blanket clemency," President Ford's running mate said.

Carter, the Democratic presidential candidate, yesterday received some boos and shouts of "No! No!" when he told the legionnaires that if elected President, he would issue a blanket pardon to Vietnam war draft evaders. He said deserters should be handled on an individual basis, in line with the system of military justice.

Dole's remarks were greeted by shouts of "More! More!" At one point, the crowd of 6,000 rose to its feet.

Later, one legionnaire, Emil Spellmeier of Fairview, Kan., said "I think it was great. He was right on that amnesty point."

Dole, hitting Carter without mentioning him by name, said:

"Today, we have those who would signal weakness and generate strife by declaring that those who served this nation in her armed forces deserve no greater consideration than those who turned their backs and scurried away."

"President Ford extended the hand of mercy to those who fled America when she needed their service."

"He offered them a chance to earn clemency by proving their right to resume their place in this nation. The offer was extended to draft evaders and deserters alike, on a case-by-case basis."

"Some accepted. Some refused. As far as I know, the effort is finished."

"Yesterday, one of your speakers (Carter) stated: 'I do not favor a blanket amnesty, but for those who violated selective-service laws, I intend to grant a blanket pardon.'"

"The speaker provided his own definitions. He said: 'Amnesty means that what you did is right. A pardon means that what you did — right or wrong — is forgiven.'"

"I am confused by such semantics. Webster's New World Dictionary makes no such distinction. It defines amnesty as 'a general pardon.'"

BEFORE GOING to the American Legion convention, Dole was asked at a press conference: "What's the difference between pardoning of draft evaders and the pardon by President Ford of Richard Nixon?"

"I think you go on a case-by-case basis," Dole replied.

Under the amnesty program offered to Vietnam evaders, "18,000 evaders or deserters were rehabilitated that way," Dole added.

"It's not that President Nixon didn't give up something. He gave up the highest office in the world."

Dole said that the Nixon pardon helped "get Watergate behind him." He recalled that at the time the pardon was given, "I thought it was premature."

When Dole was asked about the similar Carter argument — that blanket pardon for evaders would put the agonies of Vietnam in the past — Dole replied that it should still be considered "on a case-by-case basis."

When asked if Carter might have used a stratagem in producing a flap over pardons at the Legion convention to focus on the Nixon pardon, Dole said, "I hadn't thought of that."

In his speech to the Legion, Dole said the United States had gone to war under Democratic Presidents and got out under Republicans. "My fellow Legionnaires, no one hates war more than those who have had to fight," Dole said.

Dole SPOKE OUT for a strong military posture. "There are those today who say we care nothing for the people," Dole said. "There are those who say we spend too much on planes and tanks and warships and troops, and not enough on people."

"They say we are callous. They say we are indifferent. I say I would rather spend a million dollars, or a billion dollars, to preserve peace, than to expend a single human life to pursue war."

"If that is callous indifference, let those who favor weakening our defense posture make the most of it."

The audience was bigger for Carter's speech yesterday because the Legion Auxiliary was present then.

(Other political stories, A 6 to 10, G 3.)

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Wednesday, August 25, 1976

Dole pledges to save Legion poppy program

Senator Robert Dole promised the American Legion today that he would help "resolve" problems of the Legion's poppy program, which has become bogged down in the federal minimum-wage law.

The Federal Civil Service Commission said the Legion was violating the law by having hospitalized veterans make the poppies. The poppies are sold annually to finance Legion programs.

"This is the result of big government that doesn't work," Dole, a long-time legionnaire, himself, said at the group's convention. "It attacks even our veterans' poppy program, needlessly regulating away a hallowed tradition."

The Legion has paid the hospitalized veterans on a piece-work basis, which Legion officials argue suits the infirm veterans much better than an hourly wage.

The poppy program has served as a method of therapy and rehabilitation. "How do you put a value on that?" a legionnaire asked.

Dole has led a Senate subcommittee which has looked into the matter. Action is still pending in the Senate.

"Why should the good work our people seek to do be crushed under

the heel of government floundering about in an effort to do better for us than we can best do for ourselves?" Dole said.

Dole is a member of Legion Post 89 of Russell, Tex., his hometown. At one time, he was the post's service officer. He spent some time in a Veterans Administration hospital after being wounded during World War II.

Dole denies role in anti-abortion ads

By RICHARD W. LARSEN
Times Political Writer

Senator Robert Dole said here today he has no personal knowledge how some controversial advertising showed up as a contribution to his 1974 Senate campaign in Kansas.

The New York Times reported today that Dole accepted as a contribution that year the cost of anti-abortion advertisements. Last Sunday, Dole said he had disavowed the ads which had emotional text and illustrations — including a skull and crossbones.

"We didn't authorize the ads," he told a news conference in Seattle today. "I thought they were in totally bad taste."

Today's New York Times article said the cost of the ads appear as a contribution to Dole on Federal Election Commission records. Dole indicated a campaign aide might have decided to make such a filing.

When an anti-abortion leader came to the campaign office before the ads ran, Dole recalled, "we said we didn't want anything to do with it. . . . They were despicable ads."

But the ads were run. And it was assumed they were independent of the Dole campaign. Dole won a tough race against Dr. William Roy, a gynecologist who admitted performing one abortion. Dr. Roy blamed his defeat on those ads.

Dole said today the ads were so

bad, they might have had a backfire effect on his own campaign, even though he opposed abortions. "We think they nearly cost us the election and we said so at the time," Dole said today.

But the cost of the ads showed up in the Dole campaign report. The anti-abortion group didn't make a filing with the F.E.C. The New York Times said the F.E.C. is investigating.

THE BELLEVILLE TELESCOPE, Thursday, Aug. 26, 1976

Ford Does Kansas A Favor In Naming Dole As His Running Mate

(Editor's Note: Much is being said about the nomination of Bob Dole of Russell, Kan., for the vice presidency. The following analysis written by Ray Morgan, of the Kansas City Star, whom we believe to be one of the fairest political writers around, should be of substantial interest to Kansans.)

While columnists and network analysts are attempting to divine why President Ford chose Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) as his running mate, it should come as no surprise to those who have followed the relations of the President with Kansas.

Ford has made it plain that he views Kansas as a sort of talisman state and that he sees in Kansas a microcosm of American political thinking as he likes it best, on the traditional Republican side.

The President has indicated he is an admirer of one of the leading politicians to come from the state, the late Dwight D. Eisenhower of Abilene, and would like nothing better than to emulate Eisenhower with a record of peace and prosperity as President, while wielding a firm hand in defense.

"I think you people here in Kansas are hard-working Americans who want to see this nation preserved," President Ford said when he opened his election drive in Russell, Kan., on Friday. "Your older generations and your new ones have worked and sacrificed for one purpose — so that you can hand on to your children and grandchildren a greater and more abundant America."

On Thursday, when Ford selected Dole, the President referred three times to "the great state of Kansas." Two of the references were in his announcement at Crown Center:

"He (Dole) served with great distinction not only in the House but in the Senate of the United States, representing the great state of Kansas."

"So, it is a pleasure, privilege and I am extremely proud to introduce to you Sen. Bob Dole of the great state of Kansas as my running mate for victory in 1976."

The third time was in his acceptance speech before millions of Americans on

television when he said from Kemper Arena: "To strengthen our championship lineup, the convention has wisely chosen one of the ablest Americans as our next vice-president, Sen. Bob Dole of the great state of Kansas."

Since he became President in August, 1974, Ford has chosen Kansas for two significant appearances.

One was in Wichita when he wound up the 1974 campaign for Republican members of Congress Nov. 2. He also was stumping on behalf of Dole, who was in a close fight for the Senate against Rep. Bill Roy.

That night President Ford summarized the theme he had been mentioning across the nation: He needed men like Bob Dole to help him get greater Republican representation in the Congress to support his programs.

As Senator Dole said in his remarks at Crown Center after Ford introduced him: "He has been in many places in Kansas on my behalf and I remember in 1974 when the going was tough and I was trying to be re-elected, one of the President's — I think the President's last — campaign stops was in Wichita, Kan., in the rain, and he came there to help me and I won by a very narrow margin after trailing some 12 points in the polls."

The President again showed up in Kansas on Feb. 11, 1975, when he visited Topeka to address a joint session of the Kansas Legislature. It was only shortly after Gov. Robert Bennett had taken office.

Ford arrived at Forbes Air Force Base, stopped his motorcade twice to shake hands with crowds of cheering Kansans and then paused on the steps of the statehouse long enough to talk to them about his hopes of America.

In the speech before the Kansas Legislature the President talked about his hopes of returning greater power to the states and announced he was freeing federal highway funds, which had been impounded under the previous administration as a hedge

against inflation. In other negotiations, those leading up to the G.O.P. convention last week, it was Senator Dole who tried to head off a bitter floor fight over convention offices and rules.

Meeting with Dole were Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.), the floor leader for Ford at the convention; Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), floor leader for Ronald Reagan; Lyn Nofziger, strategist for Reagan, and Rep. John Rhodes (R-Ariz.), a native Kansan who was to be permanent chairman of the convention.

Laxalt and Nofziger, both long-time friends of Dole, agreed in that session there would be no floor fight over Dole as temporary chairman or Rhodes as permanent chairman.

It was Dole who focused attention on the abortion issue at the convention. In a hearing before a jammed platform subcommittee on human rights, Dole recommended a constitutional amendment on the issue.

In his appearance Dole made it clear he had discussed the situation with the White House before he left Washington and had its approval.

Also it was no accident that there was little time last Tuesday night for a floor fight at the convention on platform issues, and Rhodes gavelled through the document.

The major roles of the convention in addition to Dole's and Rhodes', were in the hands of two Kansans, McDill (R-Ill.) Boyd, Phillipsburg publisher and G.O.P. national committeeman, who handled press relations, and Jack Ransom, R.O.P. state chairman for Kansas, who oversaw security for the convention.

Another factor which should not go unnoticed was that the command post for the Ford forces was inside the Kansas delegation on the convention floor. Senator Griffin spent the convention sessions in his chair in the Kansas delegation on a direct line to Ford.

Serving as his shield in the

operations was David C. Owen, former lieutenant governor of Kansas, who was Midwest coordinator for the President.

It was a careful if somewhat obscure orchestration on behalf of Dole. A letter from Owen went to all 2,259 delegates just before the convention, recommending Senator Dole for the No. 2 spot on the ticket. It was no mimeographed letter but one on expensive stationery with only the heading "David C. Owen" at the top. And the letters were turned out on computerized typewriters to give them a personal appearance.

The letter said this about Dole:

"Since Kansas has a Republican governor, Senator Dole is the only one now being mentioned as a vice-presidential candidate, who if elected vice-president, would be succeeded in the Senate by a Republican appointee."

"Senator Dole has served in Congress for nearly 16 years. He is experienced in the ways of Washington, yet he has maintained his anti-Washington philosophy."

"He is the only senator, other than Senator Mondale, who serves on both the Senate and Budget committees. As a former national chairman of the Republican party, he has broad support among party workers, both moderates and conservatives, and as you know, he is credited with keeping the Republican National Committee free from the Watergate taint."

"Bob Dole is a twice-wounded veteran of World War II who has close ties with national veteran organizations."

"The campaign this fall will require an aggressive, articulate spokesman, and Senator Dole takes a back seat to no one in his ability to communicate with people. He is capable of taking the attack to the Carter-Mondale ticket, which is so vulnerable in my opinion."

"His wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, who is now a member of the Federal Trade Commission,

would also be a great asset. She comes from a well respected southern family and has tremendous appeal with women and consumer interest groups."

President Ford made another bow to Kansas when he directed the move to bring Alf M. Landon, the Topekan who carried the banner for the Republican party in the 1936 presidential race, to introduce Dole when he made his remarks after being elected temporary chairman.

Ford believed Landon would soften up the audience, providing a warm reception for Dole. And so he did. Landon captured the hearts of the convention over his divisiveness and as one network commentator said when Landon finished: "He could beat either one of the candidates right now."

Ford showed his affection for Kansas twice during the convention week. On Monday, he sent his daughter, Susan Ford, who is planning to attend the University of Kansas, with a star-spangled team to appear before the 34 Kansas convention delegates.

When Governor Bennett was host at a brunch for Republican governors Tuesday at the Carriage Club, Steve Ford, a son of the President, attended the luncheon with James Cannon and Stephen McGonahay, two White House aides who handle relations with the governors. Young Ford pitched for more Republican governors to help his father.

Last Wednesday Governor Bennett, at a meeting of nine Republican governors and President Ford, broached the subject of having Senator Dole as the vice-presidential candidate.

A part of the interest Ford has in Kansas is reflected by Miss Ford. She spent six weeks last year working with Rich Clarkson, nationally known photographer, at the Topeka Capital-Journal. David Kennerly, the White House photographer, is a long-time friend of Clarkson and used to work in Topeka as well.

Now Miss Ford plans to study

Ford gaining in Republican poll, says Dole

A new and "very significant change" in a public-opinion poll suggests President Ford is gaining on Jimmy Carter, Senator Robert Dole said here today.

A fresh, G.O.P.-sponsored poll gives Carter 46 per cent and Mr. Ford 37 per cent, Dole said this morning.

The Republican vice-presidential nominee predicted that the "artificially high" public-opinion rating Carter has enjoyed will continue to slide.

"The polls will tighten up and, at the appropriate time, President Ford will forge ahead."

"The race is tightening up on schedule," Dole added.