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## What Other Editorial Writers Say About Dole

### Topoka Sunday Capital Journal—

As the convention tumult and shouting died, Republicans departed Kansas City much more unified than many had thought possible.

Their diversity had contrasted favorably with the unity at the convention which nominated Jimmy Carter. Though there were strong rivalries at Kansas City, they had but one purpose—to determine how the party could best carry on its quest for freeing America from big government.

Sen. Bob Dole's designation as vice-presidential candidate surprised fellow Kansans, but they are proud he was selected. Kansas Republicans agree he has been an excellent senator, speaking up for agricultural interests and conservatism.

Dole will strengthen the ticket in several ways:

—A strong campaigner, he will be able to spotlight inconsistencies in Carter's statements.

—Dole is popular with farmers and can strengthen the appeal to them.

—He is a fine organizer and a dogged fighter who does not give up—as he proved in his last senatorial campaign.

We will hear much about polls showing Carter ahead. Republicans will have to ignore these—except as warnings to work harder. Carter himself admits his standing will drop in coming weeks.

As Dole's 1974 Senate race proved, one can upset the polls by appealing to voters on the issues and refusing to give up.

Republicans have made a fundamental appeal to all who have tired of New Deal, Fair Deal, New Frontier and Great Society programs. These all add up to the same thing: More spending, more federal debt and more federal interference in individual lives.

If Republicans are to win, they must prove that they can and will end this philosophy—freeing individuals from the grip of big government.

### The Great Bend Tribune—

Although he had been mentioned earlier as a potential candidate for President Ford's running mate, the selection of Sen. Bob Dole might have been the biggest surprise of the convention.

The selection should stir some feelings of pride for Kansans because it is not often that Kansas gets much national attention. But beyond that, Bob Dole has a good track record during his long career in public office. He is tagged as a conservative and that seems to be what the people are wanting today as the cry goes up against so much centralization of government in Washington.

Dole is also a fighter, as witness his last battle with Congressman Roy for his present term in the Senate. Some of the television commentators came up with the same label "sharp tongued" but there's nothing wrong with that either if one is trying to win an election.

Some people thought President Ford would need a running mate who was a sharp speaker with a sharp tongue, and he has it in Bob Dole. But the acceptance speech that the President made Thursday night was the best he has ever done and showed a great deal of sharpness itself. For a change, the Republican candidates may have a chance in the area of TV debates.

It looks as if it will be an interesting campaign season.

### The Wichita Eagle and Beacon

The Republican convention, which began in disharmony, ended in comparative unity, which was perhaps best exemplified as the bitterly disappointed Reagan delegates acceded to President Ford's wishes and for the most part voted for his vice presidential choice, Bob Dole.

For this much of the credit must go to Reagan himself. He wanted desperately to be his party's nominee, and this doubtless was his last chance. He and his backers fought hard, but when they lost the Californian comported himself with dignity and loyalty to his party.

There were other heroes, too. Among them were Vice President Rockefeller and New York Sen. Jacob Javits, two of the few remaining liberals in the GOP, who watched the party they have served so long turn away from their cherished philosophies to take a more conservative road. They cooperated gamely in the name of party unity.

Kansans will, of course, need a little time to gain the proper perspective on Ford's choice of Bob Dole as his running mate. The first natural reaction is pride that our state has been so honored. The second, probably, will be delight at the attention Kansans will gain.

But after those emotions have subsided it will become clear to us that there's a larger importance in the selection. Dole will reinforce, perhaps even exceed, the President's conservatism. He will bring a rough-and-tumble quality to the campaign. He will not defend, he will attack. He will seize the initiative. He will never relax.

In the closing hours of the Democratic convention we applauded Jimmy Carter's choice of Fritz Mondale as his vice presidential running mate, saying that in doing so he had balanced the ticket and presented a strong and acceptable team. We challenged the Republicans to go forth and do likewise.

The GOP rose to the challenge in Kansas City last week. For whatever Ford-Dole ticket may lack in balance it certainly more than makes up for in philosophical unity and aggressiveness.

When November comes the American people will, for the first time in years, have a genuinely viable option in their choices for the nation's two top jobs.

### The Junction City Daily Union—

All Kansans can be proud that Sen. Bob Dole has been selected as the Republican vice-presidential candidate.

Some may disagree with his party affiliation but it is indeed an honor for the state's junior senator to be selected for this position.

Most Kansans will say they were surprised by Senator Dole's selection but we know the many attributes he possesses and will bring to the campaign, so looking back after the initial shock, it is not surprising that he was named by the President.

A native of Russell, he will add that important common sense touch, which Kansans seem to possess, to the national ticket.

A former Republican national chairman, he is well known for his sense of humor which will serve him well in the upcoming battle.

Senator Dole was selected because he will bring much to the party and to the campaign. Obviously, he was not selected because Kansas gave him a large majority of votes in his win two years ago. But, he has a proven record as a winner—never losing an election from the time he first entered politics in 1961.

He has proven he can come from far behind in the polls as he did in 1974 to barely win re-election over Dr. Bill Roy. His agricultural background will appeal to many across the country as will his conservative leanings.

He has been described as a "team player" which he is. He has a distinguished record as a veteran of World War II.

Even with Bob Dole's record, he might not have been chosen as President Ford's running mate without the effective selling job done by Gov. Robert Bennett and Dave Owen, Midwest coordinator for Gerald Ford. Governor Bennett and Mr. Owen worked all Wednesday night contacting state delegations and top national Republican leaders.

Because he is a tenacious campaigner, Democrats here in Kansas, will have to work that much harder because of Senator Dole. He probably will be used to take on the Democrat nominee Jimmy Carter as President Ford looks busy running the nation.

However, his help, in our opinion, will not be enough to keep Jimmy Carter from carrying Kansas and winning the election.

### The Salina Journal—

That old bromide, "A strong man doesn't cry," is a cruel truth. But, no doubt, there are some brutish fathers who are still telling their sons that.

The saying comes to mind because Sen. Bob Dole broke down and cried at his emotional homecoming at Russell Friday.

Some Democrats may try to make capital out of it, as did Sen. Edmund Muskie's foes when he cried in New Hampshire during the Republican primary campaign in 1972.

They ought to think twice if they're tempted. Actually, it can be convincingly argued that strong men are more apt to cry because they're so secure within themselves that they're not ashamed to reveal their deep emotions, and tears are the result of many deep emotions. The weaklings, the insecure, the persons incapable of deep emotions such as love and sorrow, don't cry, thinking, in a perverted way, that it's "unmanly."

If a person is never moved to tears, that person has never lived fully.

In Dole's case, he had reasons to be moved to tears. In addition to the emotions of coming back to a beloved hometown which had helped him financially and in other ways, he probably was thinking of his father who died last December while in Washington to attend Bob's wedding.

Doran Dole would have been mighty proud of his son Friday.

### The Christian Science Monitor—

President Ford now has visible momentum—and it seems bound to lift his prospects for closing the gap with Democrat Jimmy Carter.

And Mr. Ford also comes away from this win on the edge of the Great Plains with a running mate who is a hard-working, hard-hitting campaigner and who should help the President in the race to catch up with the Carter-Mondale ticket.

Sen. Robert J. Dole is known as a thorough, professional politician, completely loyal to his party. He is sufficiently conservative to be acceptable to most Reaganites. And he is viewed as sufficiently flexible in dealing with issues to be acceptable to most party moderates.

Mr. Dole's "philosophy and mine coincide almost identically," Mr. Ford said in introducing his choice of running mate.

More than anything else, Mr. Dole, a Kansan, will help Mr. Ford where the primaries have shown he has troubles with the voters—in the agricultural belt of the Midwest.

The President comes out of this bruising nomination battle looking stronger.

For this he can thank Ronald Reagan, who almost beat Mr. Ford and who, in the end, helped Mr. Ford by providing a stage on which America's millions could witness their President emerging a victor.

But the President also comes away scarred by the highly effective Reagan challenge.

But it may well handicap Mr. Ford now as he seeks to win over those independents and Democrats who might be wooed by a GOP moderate, but not by a GOP conservative whose position bears much of the Reagan brand.

### The El Dorado Times—

All the "in the know" media men were fooled.

As the time approached for the naming of the Republican candidate for vice-president, they ruled Sen. Robert J. Dole of Kansas out of the running. He had been mentioned among the 15 men, or so, who had been talked about as fit running mates for Ford. But, in the end, they left Dole out. The choice of vice-president issued with greater importance than usual this time because of all the fuss Ronald Reagan made about it.

But when the President divulged his choice Thursday morning it was the handsome, dashing junior senator from Kansas who has not lost an election since he was elected to the legislature in 1950 at the age of 26. Dole was elected to the House in 1960 and to the Senate in 1968.

Mr. Dole has been politically ambitious. When Sen. Frank Carlson voluntarily retired from the Senate, Dole was quick to lay the lines to succeed him. Two years ago he engaged in a hard fight with Dr. William Roy for election to the regular term, but won by a comfortable margin.

Since going to Washington, Mr. Dole has gained valuable experience. Four years ago, he became the National Republican chairman and served during the campaign, though Richard Nixon's own cronies managed his election in their own fashion and without reliance on the national committee.

Senator Dole is a slashing fighter. Any political opponent who takes him on will soon realize that he is in the fight of his life. He is utterly fearless of whatever opposition he faces. He fits closely with the philosophy and character of President Ford, and they should make a formidable team.

Whoever dreamed this state would be as closely involved in this presidential election as having its first citizen of Russell become candidate for vice-president of the United States? That little town out in the big oil country is entitled to all the pride and pleasure it can get from this distinction.

### The Emporia Gazette—

Needless to say, the Kansas delegates were in a pleasant dither yesterday after President Ford announced that he wanted Sen. Bob Dole as his running mate. The excitement was shared by most Kansas Republicans who were watching the convention events on television.

Kansans should be pleased by the nomination for several reasons. For one thing, it will bring the state both publicity and prestige as Senator Dole is featured in broadsheet, pictures, and news articles during the next 10 weeks.

For another, it will give the state a spokesman close to the President. Senator Dole can be expected to be a main source of advice about farm policy, for example.

All of the commentators who said President Ford would pick someone to balance the ticket were wrong. Senator Dole's political philosophy is almost identical to President Ford's. Both are from the Midwest.

The commentators were right, though, on two points—the President has chosen a strong campaigner and a man well qualified to take over in case something happens to him.

Senator Dole has served both in the House and in the Senate where he has acquired a good knowledge of both domestic and foreign affairs. Before going to Washington, he was in the legislature where he came to appreciate the problems of local government.

The senator is comparatively young; the ladies say he looks like Humphrey Bogart; and he is as honest as Abe Lincoln.

President Ford picked a dandy.—R.C.

### Scripps-Howard Newspapers—

Given all the factors he had to consider, President Ford made a good choice in picking Senator Robert Dole of Kansas as his running mate.

Dole, 53, unquestionably is a man of high intelligence and has a good reputation for integrity acquired over 25 years in continuous public life, starting with service in the Kansas Legislature and continuing today in the U.S. Senate. A man's presidential capabilities can never be measured in advance with much assurance, but by the normal rules of the game Dole would seem to have the potential for the top job.

Dole, a handsome man with a good TV presence, should be a strong asset to the President as a campaigner, an element much needed by Ford.

Another factor undoubtedly given great weight by Ford in selecting Dole was his farm state background. The Republicans are not in good shape in the farm belt, their traditional stronghold. Many farmers still are angry at the Ford administration for temporarily embargoing grain sales to Russia, which depressed farm prices. Dole is the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee and obviously will be put to work to try to bring farm-belt voters back into the GOP fold.

A drawback is that the highly partisan Dole seems to have few attributes that would make him particularly appealing to Democrats and independents, which the Republican ticket must attract in goodly numbers if it is to win. But neither does he have characteristics which would drive them away.

However, if he can put the ring into the campaign which Ford needs, plus bring dissident farmers back to the Republican banner, Ford's choice for his party will be seen to have been a wise one.

### The Hays Daily News—

All Kansans are banking in the glow of Gerald Ford's decision to tab a Kansan for a running mate.

We wonder, however, whether it will be worth it.

Bob Dole's place on the ticket can mean only one thing: a mean campaign. This isn't a giggling concern. If anything, Ford's strategists have made it clear in recent days that the running mate has to be someone who can press the attack. Dole can.

And, in an interesting bit of self-revelation a couple of weeks ago, he proclaimed himself to be one who can "pitch it out." No Kansan doubts it.

Obviously, that doesn't have to be undesirable trait. But the peculiar history of GOP running mates since 1862 has included an excess measure of muck—witness the 1890s Richard Nixon and the whole of Spiro Agnew's national political life.

We hope Dole won't be burdened by that history, but it seems sensible to recognize its true dimensions.

For his predecessors in this slot, the requirements of keeping the GOP's wild wing in line with the top of the ticket have had distressing results.

The right laid claim to the tongue—if not the body and soul—of the candidate, and then the office. Nelson Rockefeller didn't fit. He was dumped.

Some of the Topeka press corps and others had difficulty seeing it, but we saw signs of another Dole emerging in the past couple of years: less strident than in the past, with perhaps a touch more compassion for the "cheats and chisellers" and other bogymen with which the Reaganite Republicans seem so obsessed.

We like the emerging Dole. We hope the process continues, but now we would never lay odds on the possibilities it will.

### New York Times—

For his vice-presidential nominee, President Ford has picked Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas, a leading apologist for Richard Nixon, and this convention's most vicious critic of Jimmy Carter. If you'll forgive a pun, it's a doleful news.

Mr. Ford, in the end, went with No. 4, and with Robert Dole. It made no sense in sectional politics—both of them coming from the Middle West. It had no appeal to the liberal Republicans, but it was a power play to put Dole against Carter.

Dole could attack Carter as an inexperienced hypocrite, but Ford, who had promised to run a "positive and responsible" campaign, could not.

Dole could attack the anti-Kissinger-Republican foreign policy platform, but Ford had to look the other way.

Dole could imply that Carter was a "liar" on busing, taxes and abortion, whereas Ford could not.

Maybe the President was right in making this short-run gamble with Mr. Dole, but one wonders. His main political strength in this campaign is that he is the President of the United States.

But what he picked under pressure was the most aggressive and combative anti-Carter speaker he could find, and this is bound to have its political consequences.

First, it minimizes Mr. Ford's reputation as an objective, decent "Presidential figure" and second, it dramatizes the desperation of the Republicans as they go into the campaign, with Ford running one to two against Carter.

But his choice of Dole has bothered even many of his most fervent supporters, particularly those on the abandoned liberal left. For his choice of Dole seems out of character, a desperation move to win by attacking and destroying the opposition rather than concentrating on his own strengths.

The President has not acted here as a confident man with a vision of the future, but as a man on the opposition. He has opposed Reagan, and had just barely squeaked through, and is now opposing and trying to destroy Carter indirectly through Dole. It is a surprising strategy, especially since it hurts Ford's own major strengths as a presidential character who has in the last two years won the respect of his political opponents.

### The Wisconsin State Journal—

President Ford's selection of Sen. Robert J. Dole of Kansas as his vice-presidential running mate leaves no doubt that Ford has no intention of trying to moderate his conservative image in the general election campaign.

It will be hard-hitting liberals against hard-hitting conservatives in the 1976 election campaign. We will soon see which side read the mood of the voters correctly.

### The Los Angeles Times—

The Kansas City convention confronted the Republican Party with many uncertainties, and not the least of them was President Ford's judgment in selecting Sen. Robert J. Dole as his running mate.

It was a choice unlikely to excite, or impress even the most constant of Ford's supporters, much less a national electorate that knows little or nothing about the Kansan. Nor does Dole satisfy what Ford said would be his first criterion in selecting a vice presidential nominee—one who had both the breadth of experience and the qualities of leadership to assume the Presidency, if that should become necessary.

## Just a Normal Rally

Sen. Bob Dole jokingly told President Gerald Ford it was "just the normal rally crowd for when I come home."

But it wasn't. The thousands who cheered Ford and their favorite son here Friday came from throughout central and western Kansas—a 30-car caravan drove the 28 miles from Hays to welcome the pair.

Hundreds of tourists attended this homecoming for the Republican vice-presidential nominee—lured off I-70 by the chance to see some presidential pomp.

Even "Carl the Flag Man" made it. Carl Johnson, Ft. Worth, Tex., circulated through the crowd hawking American flags for 50 cents apiece.

"Isn't the President's visit worth a half dollar?" he chanted. "He won't be back for quite a while."

Johnson didn't mind being interviewed, but he refused to stand still for the questions.

"Let's keep walking," he said. "You're costing me money."

Johnson said Russell was a good town for flags, but "any town is good with the President there. Even small towns and Democratic towns."

Johnson made it to Russell because his car was broken down in Hays when he heard about the visit.

He refused to disclose how many sales he made, but noted, "I'll be able to take care of that \$30 car bill."

Johnson wasn't the only one pressed into service on short notice.

Members of the Russell High School Stomping Broncos Band started to learn "Hail to the Chief" at 10 a.m. Friday—two hours before the President made his appearance.

Trumpet player David Erwin said the band worked on the number—which turned out quite well—for 40 minutes.

After the speech making, Ford and Dole stood next to the podium eating hot dogs and sipping soft drinks as the crowd and photographers surged around them.

One of those folks was Mrs. Scott Billet, Salina, who sported a straw hat with "Ford, Dole" embroidered on its crown. She said it wasn't the result of a rush order from a factory but a homemade job.

"The hat used to say Nassau—that's where I bought it," she said. "I just re-embroidered it on the way over here from Salina."

Mrs. Elaine Capman, Hays, was among the excited crush and she said she was two years ahead of Dole in the Russell school system.

"To be right frank, though, I don't remember Bob very well," she said. "I doubt if he remembers me."

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pangeman, Hays, were just in time for the festivities.

"We were at Lake Wilson (north of Russell) when we heard about it on the radio and decided to drive in," Mrs. Pangeman said. "We were just ahead of the President's motorcade coming in on the old highway. There was just a Highway Patrol car between us and his escort."

The Russell Veterans of Foreign Wars provided an honor guard for Ford and boasted it had the largest VFW life membership in the world.

Bob Dole is a life member of the VFW and former service officer of the Legion.

When November comes the American people will, for the first time in years, have a genuinely viable option in their choices for the nation's two top jobs.