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Editor's Corner

Will the nation have to be subjected to a bath of pineapple juice before its voters recognize the name of Robert Dole?

The pineapple juice gimmick worked in Kansas when Dole twice overcame a name-recognition problem, once to win a U.S. House of Representatives seat in a new district and again to win his U.S. Senate seat.

I'm not ordinarily guilty of the common vice of name dropping, but before anyone figures out that it's because I just don't have many names to drop, let me explain that Robert Dole is probably the only political figure of national stature that I've met, interviewed and photographed many times while I was in newspaper work in Kansas.

He has my respect and will have my vote come November. Contrary to the views of many political columnists of national fame who are deriding President Ford's selection of Dole as his running mate, I look on it as an act of political honesty that compares well with Ronald Reagan's bold but losing gamble in picking the liberal Richard Schweiker as his choice for a vice president.

Reagan represents the wing of the Republican party which supposedly will not compromise its principles, and yet the nod to Schweiker was an obvious move to swing some badly-needed uncommitted delegates into the Reagan camp and with little thought to the succession to the presidency should Reagan not live out his term.

And those who believe Schweiker's statements that he would have carried out Reagan's conservative policies in the event he would have to step in as president should also go into the forest and expect to find leopards combing Grecian Formula into their fur to change their spots.

Dole, on the other hand, is in the image of the President in political philosophy, and isn't that what the voters have a right to expect when they choose a president, that the mandate will be left in the same philosophical camp?

The country could be in a far worse position for leadership than having Bob Dole in the wings as president should Ford's term be cut short.

Dole has shown an ability to compromise and to work compromises in both the Senate and in his roles as party leader and temporary convention chairman. And he has given his support to opposition measures when he thought they were best for the party or the country.

He is a rough and tumble campaigner whose sarcasm and biting remarks about Jimmy Carter may grate some of those who think politicking should be a nice-nice business.

But from the time he was first elected to the Kansas Legislature when he was 26 years old and still a student in Washburn University Law School, Dole has never lost an election. And conservative Kansas voters are not known to suffer long fools in public office.

After a stint in the state legislature, Dole was elected to four terms as a county attorney, then to a seat in Congress, all from an area where he was well known.

When his Congressional district was combined with another district to form a huge new district, he had his first problem with name recognition, and his campaigners trotted out the Dole pineapple juice.

The gimmick worked and Dole won a tough campaign. In 1968 Dole ran for the U.S. Senate and faced an uphill battle as a Western Kansan, relatively unknown in the far more populous and more liberal eastern part of the state. He won again.

The odds seem even greater against the Ford-Dole ticket.

After his nomination as vice presidential candidate television commentators could not seem to mention Dole's name without adding a phrase about "his loyalty to President Nixon almost to the end."

What they didn't say, or know, is that while Haldeman and Ehrlichman were still being hailed publicly for the efficiency with which they were running the White House, Dole had broken with them and told intimates of his fears for the presidency and for his own position as Republican party chairman because he had dared to cross them.

At the post-convention barbecue last week in his hometown of Russell, Kansas, Dole cried when he arose to talk to the homefolk. Cynics might think it was a bit staged. I believe Dole's thoughts as he stood before his friends and neighbors, went much further back than his glittering career in politics, back to dark days during World War II.

News accounts since his nomination have told how the battle-decorated infantry officer was severely wounded in Italy and spent 39 months in hospitals.

A little-known part of that story, however, is that at one point, Dole was wasting away from the effect of his wounds, down to 120 pounds and apparently near death.

At that time streptomycin had not been sufficiently tested for acceptance by the military doctors, but was available elsewhere.

The Russell townspeople staged their own fund drive, rounding up about \$5,000 to secure the new wonder drug and some advanced surgical techniques to help save the life of the young war hero.

I think that's where Dole's thoughts were when, at the peak of his political career, he stood before those same friends and neighbors more than 30 years later.

Bob Dole knows what it means to fight long odds, both personal and political.

—JOE CANNON

TEXARKANA GAZETTE

TEXARKANA, TEXAS

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viewpoint

Dole as Ford choice

There was a big let down at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City when the news swept Kemper Arena that President Ford had picked the not widely-known Senator Robert Dole as his running mate. Shock and dismay spread through the arena and across the nation as fast as the news flashed along the airways. There were so many other dramatic possibilities for a Vice President, so many who could have broadened the ticket or brought Democratic votes.

But, as usual, President Ford steered clear of expediency, or opportunism. He dipped down deep within the well of his heart and brought up another veteran, Senator Robert (Bob) Dole, who had been through World War II, and in the crucible of silent, suffering years, who had struggled to reach this country's Congress for a second term by his own indomitable spirit, keen intelligence, and compassion for humankind.

Senator Walter Mondale, who is teamed up with Jimmy Carter for the final sprint toward the Presidency, may think that Senator Dole is a cinch to

beat. But we believe he is very wrong about such a premise, if he does feel that way. There is a magnetism about "Bob" Dole.

Women and young people attending the convention were the first to notice that Robert Dole appeared in the early film newsreel showings there, like one of the old, silent-movie stars awkwardly directed. But when he gained confidence after being nominated, and convention and television audiences were given the full impact of his speaking and platform stance, in his new role for today and the future, a startling resemblance was noted: Robert Dole is a new and handsomer Humphrey Bogart. There is a startling power behind that deep-set look, which says it would be unhealthy for anyone to tangle with him; there is a turn of the head, a hunching of the shoulder to deflect blows; a body language which demands quick return to the business at hand, if anyone has tried to distract him. At every instant, Bob Dole is advancing — he isn't in a foxhole — and he has his grenades in his fist.

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In 16 years in Washington, his manner has evolved into a notorious, quick-witted, vitriolic style that can leave its victims reeling from verbal bullets.

Bob Dole — one hard fighter

By Stephen Wermiel
Globe Staff

TOPEKA, Kan. — Political campaigns in Kansas were often low-keyed, tedious affairs.

Then, along came Robert Dole. In 1960 the 37-year-old Republican county attorney from Russell took the western end of the state by storm with his driving ambition, quick wit, ingenuity and ability to cut down opposition.

He had to beat a primary opponent named Doyle so he wrote to the Dole Pineapple Juice people to ask for permission to use their product to improve his name recognition.

He also had to get by Keith Sebelius, a Republican who had come within 51 votes of beating the incumbent two years earlier. Dole won the support of the retiring incumbent.

To tackle Sebelius, Dole told voters as he handed out pineapple juice in paper cups that his opponent was, according to one story, probably down at the American Legion "bar" campaigning. Dole was victorious.

"What could I do?" Sebelius, now the Republican representative from the district, asked last week. "There was Dole pineapple juice going in every direction and girls who could sing for him and housewives, volunteers, in pretty red and black dresses from Russell." Sebelius finally won the seat in 1968 when Dole, nominated last week as GOP vice presidential candidate, moved to the Senate.

This story is among the mildest told about Bob Dole, whose manner in 16 years in Washington has evolved into a notorious, quick-witted, vitriolic style that can leave its victims reeling from verbal bullets.

Once described as "swashbuckling" and a "hatchet man" by then Sen. William Saxbe (R-Ohio), Dole is adored in his home town of Russell, where he was the model boy and star high school athlete.

Interviews with family and friends, political allies and foes give a picture of a man respected by his GOP colleagues and constituents, a man who has made few real enemies in Kansas while aggravating and unnerving Democratic opponents beyond description. His base for support appears founded more in a belief in his integrity and hard work than in passion or emotion.

"He's a tough, hard campaigner and a tireless worker," said former Gov. Robert Docking, a highly-popular Democrat from Arkansas City. "He is an astute politician, has never been involved in any scandal to my knowledge... (and) he is ambitious and he is aggressive. But is that a fault in the business he's in?"

"He's a pretty straight shooter," said Republican Gov. Robert Bennett, "a hard fighter, but I've never heard anyone imply he was on the take or even subservient to special interests. He has always been known as pretty tenacious at what he wants to do or is doing."



Illustration by David Ormer White for The Boston Globe

which has left him with a rebuilt but still largely useless right arm and shoulder.

In November, 1971, Dole, a Methodist, announced that he wanted to end the marriage. Strangely, the divorce was filed by his wife in January, 1972. Dole was in Florida and waived an appearance. Details of the divorce settlement remain secret and the decree, a bitter reelection battle in 1974 against Democratic Rep. Bill Roy, his closest tie to and financial support from the oil industry, and his strong support for President Nixon.

A man of modest background, Dole grew up in Russell, a town of about 500 people, sitting among active grain elevators and pumping oil wells so that it looks as if it is surrounded by salt and pepper shakers.

He is still a man of modest means by Senate standards. His 1973 net worth, reported in May 1974, was \$84,077. That included \$58,206 in equity on a Watergate apartment which he now shares with his second wife and bride of last December, Mary Elizabeth Hanford, a Federal trade commissioner. His chief liability was a \$44,000 mortgage on the same apartment.

Dole's main source of income in 1973 was his \$42,500 congressional salary, but—having earned a reputation as a partisan, vitriolic public speaker not afraid to tackle leading Democrats in harsh terms—Dole was in big demand on the lecture circuit, leading the Senate in that category in 1972 and commanding \$38,150 in fees in 1973.

His associations with the oil industry, the second largest industry in Kansas, and his conservative fiscal outlook have combined to give pause at times.

Politics is his whole life," said his first wife, the former Phyllis Holden of Concord, N.H., now Mrs. Lon Buzick of Sylvan Grove, Kan. "He's very ambitious. I'm sure he'll do whatever the President asks him to," she said last week, "but I can't see him sitting back and listening... I think he will be loyal, but I can't see him sitting in the Vice President's seat because of his drive."

Mrs. Buzick was Dole's physical therapist when he spent 39 months in hospitals recovering from a crippling 1945 war injury incurred in Italy

During the 1974 Senate campaign, according to Common Cause, the \$1.1 million Dole raised included \$80,773 in identifiable contributions from oil officials. These include \$100 from Claude C. Wild Jr., former Gulf lobbyist who has since been indicted for making an illegal \$5000 contribution to another campaign, state records show.

He also received some \$2200 from J. D. Alexander, a Washington oil lobbyist who this year persuaded Dole to introduce two tax bill amendments which subsequently were found to benefit the family of Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), whose Senate Finance committee was working on the tax bill. Dole said in June he was approached by Williams because it was known he had an amendment of his own for the tax bill.

Dole called in all debts in the fight with Rep. Roy. GOP colleagues who supported his effort or campaigned for him came from both ends of the Republican spectrum — Sens. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), Lowell Weiker (R-Conn.), Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), Bill Brock (R-Tenn.), Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and James Buckley (R-N.Y.), and Elliot Richardson, Ronald Reagan, President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller.

Weiker and Richardson cleared Dole of any Watergate guilt, although Kansas Democrats are quick to point out he used \$3000 from the Nixon reelection committee slush fund to tour Vietnam and may have been aware of promises by ITT-Sharpe Corp. to pick up a \$400,000 tab for the Republicans to hold the 1972 convention in San Diego.

The battle with Roy was in many ways illustrative of the aggressive, almost compulsive Dole style.

In his bitter battle with Roy, Dole supported a right-to-life constitutional amendment but never specified the substance. Roy, a doctor, was hounded by anti-abortion groups after he admitted to performing abortions himself.

Dole won the support of right-to-life groups but disavowed any connection with ads attacking Roy. Yet campaign records show that Dole accepted \$228 of "in kind" contributions in the form of newspaper ads from Eastern Kansas for the Right to Life. The ad had a skull and crossbones bearing the words "abortion" and "euthanasia" and said "Vote for Life... Vote for Dole."

There was other hardball played in the campaign, typical of the Dole style. Veterans' groups received an advertisement proclaiming: "There's no military term that Bill Roy understands. A.W.O.L." The absence referred to Roy missing a House military appropriations vote, not to the congressman's absence from duty.

Another television ad won national acclaim for its creators, the Boston firm of Hill, Holliday, Connors and Cosmopolis. Although Roy stayed largely away from Watergate as an issue against Dole, the ad showed mud being flung at a Dole sign — presumably by Roy — and then the mud being cleaned away to leave the clean likeness of Dole.

His 1968 Democratic opponent, William I. Robinson, is still smarting from his 175,000-vote loss for the Senate.

"Dole is probably the most partisan politician and individual that I have ever known. Everything is either black or white with him," said Robinson, "but I can't say he fought me unfairly."

A varsity basketball and football player before the war injury, Dole was "an outstanding competitor," according to his basketball coach in Russell, Harold Elliott. "When the going was tough, he was the toughest," said Elliott, "and he seemed to have a mental spark about him."

His brother, Kenneth, 51, an oil speculator in Russell, recalls how Dole went to high school and worked on oil and gas pipelines at the same time, then ran track late at night to stay in condition. "He can't stand wasting time," his brother said. He recalled, too, his mother's expression for her children: "can't never do anything."

Said Kenneth: "Bob wasn't an outstanding athlete or player, but he was always there. You could always count on him to do the right thing at the right time."

With one bad arm and only one kidney, Dole gave up on medical school ambitions and attended Washburn Law School in Topeka, where he studied until 3 a.m., listening to recordings because he could not take notes. After a two-year stint in the state legislature, he won the post of Russell County attorney in 1952 and served eight years.

Dole earned \$224 a month as county attorney. The courthouse janitor earned \$250. Although he had a private practice at night, he spent much of his time preparing tax returns for free. "He was good in court because he never went in unprepared," said Russell publisher Russ Townsley, a friend of Dole's since World War II when residents of the town collected some \$5000 to pay Dole's medical bills.

McDill "Huck" Boyd, a publisher and Republican national committeeman recalls, "the first time I ever met Dole, I was coming through Russell about midnight in 1960. I saw a light in the courthouse and went in and found him going through file cards for his election campaign for Congress."

That tirelessness has stayed with Dole, who has not had a physical more than a year. He plans one shortly but is, he says, healthy. He did have an unexplained problem a couple of years ago with a leg swelling up from knee to ankle.

Townsley said, "Dole often appears tired, but only when he's not campaigning."

Gov. Bennett said he and aides on the campaign trail now talk of "Dole-izing" a crowd when they want to move through an audience and shake every hand.

Dole is known, too, for his sense of humor. Last week when he stopped in Salina, Kan., with President Ford, he told this story of being placed on the Republican ticket:

"When the President called, I remembered my room was right next to (former Treasury Secretary John) Connally's. And I thought perhaps he had been connected with the wrong room. So I accepted before I identified myself."

Boyd, a close friend of Dole's, is one of many officials who believe the blunt style of the Senator may be troublesome. "He doesn't shadow box very well," said Boyd. "Sometimes he answers awkward questions that he just shouldn't answer," he said.

The blunt style was very evident in 1971 and 1972, before Dole quit as Republican chairman, when he ran into a stone wall of White House aides.

In 1971, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) accused Nixon of prolonging the Vietnam War and support for Saigon to insure his own election.

"Unfortunately, far from being a calm, well-reasoned analysis of the national state, it was the usual cacophony of mindless negativism... mudslinging that goes beyond partisanship, beyond reason and beyond common decency," Dole slashed back.

Dole is also said by some to have a long memory. Townsley, who published the Russell Daily News, recalls being called by the FBI at Dole's request once after he criticized Dole in an editorial for allegedly allowing some of his youthful workers to tear down posters of a local candidate.

And Democrats still contend that a mysterious Tennessee political consultant who showed up in the capital city of Topeka in 1973 was, in fact, hired by Dole to spy on then-Gov. Docking, whom Dole suspected might challenge him in the 1974 Senate election.

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