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Dole Gunning Only for Issues, Not Personalities, He Repeats

By Joseph A. Lastelic
Chief of the Washington Bureau
Vail, Colo.—I've been featured as a gunslinger and I don't even have a gun. Sen. Bob Dole said yesterday, again denying a charge that he was put on the G.O.P. ticket to stalk the Democratic team and serve as President Ford's point man.



BOB DOLE
... no hatchet

"I've been miscast," Dole told reporters and tourists who stood next to a field of wildflowers at this mountain resort. "I think you can be tough without being nasty."

"It would take more than one person," he quipped. Asked if he believes there is "fear and apprehension" of Carter, as ex-

pressed Friday by John Connally and President Ford, Dole replied, "I haven't seen anyone trembling," then added, "As I view it, there is this lack of information, no perception of Governor Carter."

Dole's wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hanford Dole, also spoke to reporters. Mrs. Dole, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, was asked if she would resign, take a leave of absence or continue in her work now that her husband is a candidate.

Mrs. Dole said she would meet tomorrow with a lawyer at the White House to discuss the issue and then make a decision.

Will she campaign? "That depends on how we handle the FTC," she said, adding that she had mentioned the matter to the President.

Mrs. Dole declared herself "a registered independent and I intend to say that way." She explained that she has been a professional in government and has not been active politically.

Later, in an interview in the living room of the home where the Doles have been guests, the senator said he would run a lean campaign, holding down spending and operating with a small staff. He intends to be active nationally, not just in one area of the country, and will go into the South this week, including a visit to the home town of his wife, Salisbury, N.C.

In his meetings with President Ford, Dole said, he watched the performance of men he called superstars, Connally, former Treasury secretary, and Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller.

"They're ready to go to work," he said. Dole said there is great confidence that Ford can win the election and that the party is "pretty well united." He expects Ronald Reagan "to be in there pitching" soon, the senator said.

The Doles went shopping in Vail, with Secret Service agents all about them. Tourists took photographs and said hello. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lehman and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Gottlieb of Prairie Village, and Ed Kaiser of Mount Vernon, Ill., formerly of Leavenworth, Kan.

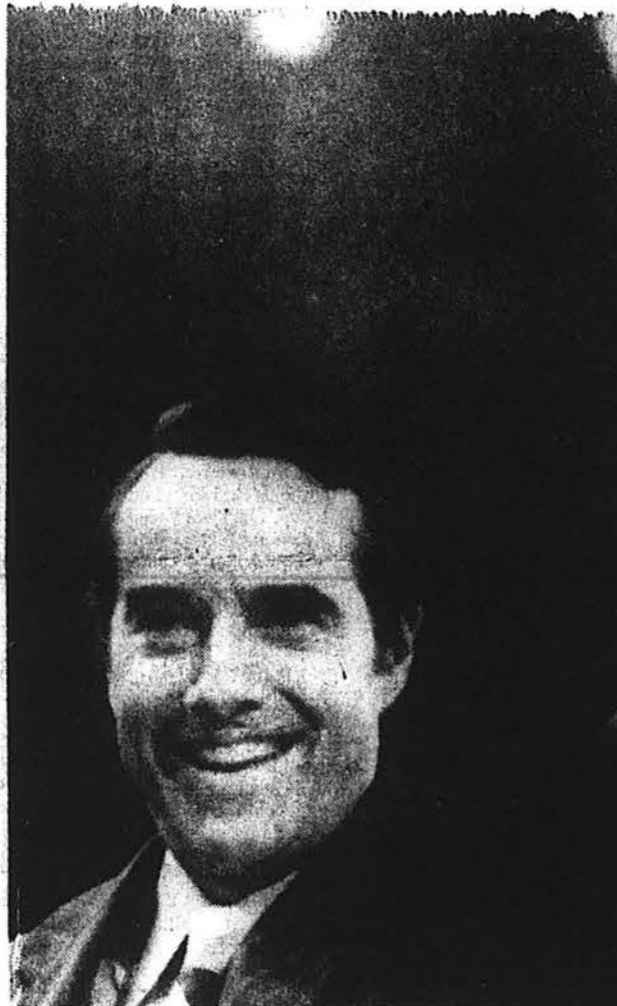
"I'm for you 100 per cent," Kaiser shouted at Dole. "I'm a Democrat."

"We need your help," Dole replied, walking over to shake hands with Kaiser.

The candidate and his wife bought a Vail T shirt for Dole's daughter, Miss Robin Dole, and the senator purchased a yellow cap for himself for \$8. They then drove to Grand Junction, Colo., for their flight back to Washington.

How did he get here from there? And where to, next? And other miscellaneous stories, all on the

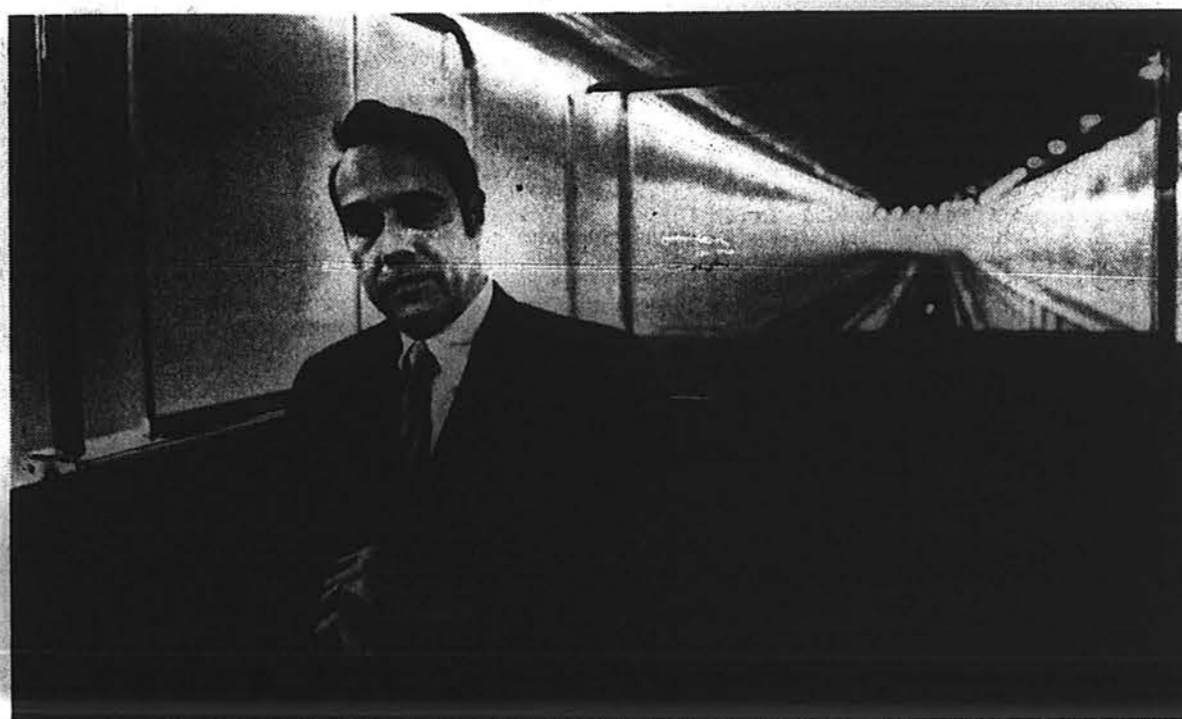
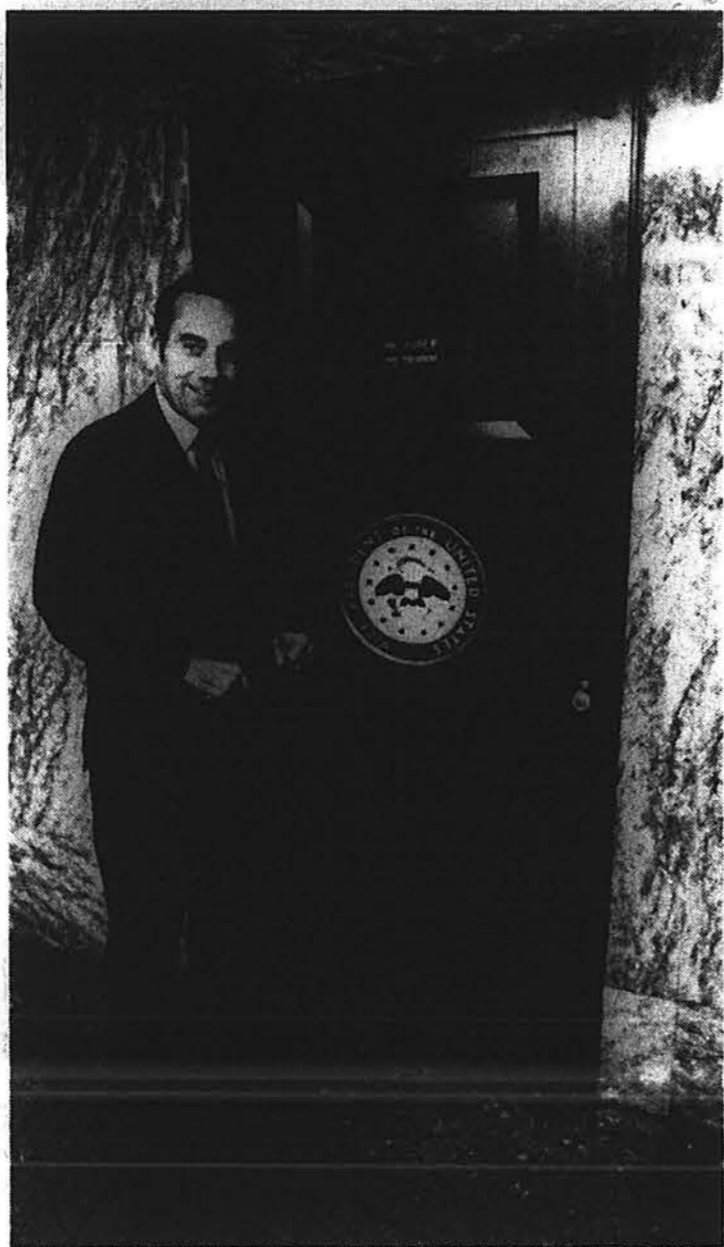
DOLE



From the oval office of the White House in 1960 and a fond embrace from Richard Nixon, Sen. Dole made his way virtually unharmed to that moment a week ago when President Ford embraced him on the podium at Kansas City as his running mate.

by GENE SMITH

Photos by Chris Johns and Bern Ketchum of the Capital-Journal and Ollie Atkins of the White House (upper left)



In 1960, Sen. Dole was already a man on the go — caught up in thought as he rode the subway between the Capitol building and the Senate Office Building, or standing before the door of the Capitol office of the then-vice-president.

On the morning of the second day of the Republican National convention, Robert Joseph Dole, junior senator from Kansas, sat for an informal question-and-answer session with some news magazine editors.

Dole, who was on that day one of two men the President was considering as his vice-presidential running mate, said he didn't think he had much of a chance. But he said whoever it is, should be able "to do some gunslinging."

Then the Kansas senator added some thoughts about the President, and after the President picked Dole as his running mate, Gerald Ford turned out to have been one of the dark Kansas's first targets.

Ford, said Dole, was "still basically a Congressman" and running like a Congressman. Further, Ford's decision to spend the week after the convention vacationing in Vail, Colo., meant 15 per cent of his campaigning time "down the drain."

The published interview a week ago left Ford without a rebuttal. It also underscored the fact that, whether he's championing Richard Nixon or Gerald Ford, chastising "do-nothing Democrats" or teaming up with Sen. George McGovern, D.S.D., on a food stamp bill, Bob Dole is very much his own man. And it may have lent substance to the occasional charge that Dole's slashing tongue is more of a liability than an asset.

When William B. Sashe was a GOP senator from Ohio, he said Dole couldn't sell beer on a township. When Dole succeeded Rogers C. B. Morton as Republican National Committee chairman, someone else said "Rog is a big, old St. Bernard while Dole is a hungry Doberman pinscher."

It was Dole who subsequently tagged the "Committee to Reflect the President" with the acronym "CREEP," who once dismissed former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark as "a left-leaning marshmallow," who criticized Ford himself for his "premature" pardon of Nixon in 1974 for Ford's two-month embargo on U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union last year, and recently Dole chided a Dept. of Agriculture official for the Ford administration's tough food stamp guidelines.

But Ford, unlike Nixon, is used to independence and outspokenness among those around him and apparently has a lot of faith in Dole's capacity for shelling peanuts.

In fact, Dole's been shelling peanuts since well before the Kansas City convention — and already has drawn a protest from former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, the Democratic presidential nominee, that the wheatlands' fast gun was getting personal.

"I can't remember saying anything except that he was sort of a Southern-fried McGovern or Humphrey," responded Dole. "Both Hubert and McGovern thought that was fine, as long as I mentioned their names. Governor Carter is a mass of contradictions."

Dole warned Carter had "better get ready because we're going to be playing hardball pretty soon, and he's going to have to learn how to catch as well as pitch." Then he followed Carter to Seattle where he blandly told the American Legion convention that Webster's Dictionary made no distinction between "amnesty" and "pardon" and that the Ford-Dole ticket had no intention of granting any sort of blanket forgiveness for Vietnam draft dodgers and deserters.

It didn't do the Ford-Dole ticket any harm — or Carter any good.

The fact is, Robert Joseph Dole has never lost an election in 27 years of public life — and he doesn't intend to start now.

He is a professional survivor. He survived the war, at the cost of nearly three years in hospitals, a kidney and a withered right arm. He survived the moose that Nixon's aides knotted for him. He survived the Watergate scandal. He won a hard-fought 1974 re-election battle, beating popular incumbent Democrat Congressman Bill Roy, a Topeka gynecologist, by 13,532 votes.

Perhaps that's what drew Ford to him; that, and other factors, including an endorsement of Reagan (whose blessing obviously was necessary to keep from splitting the Republican Party after a violent convention), a military

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