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Dole is expected to run interference for Ford

Just after Sen. Bob Dole, 45, became Republican National Chairman in 1971, when he was jetting across the country in search of Republican seats in the Congress and trying to ensure the reelection of Richard Nixon, columnists and other political observers were saying that Dole had a bright political future. If a dump Agnew campaign surfaced, they said, Nixon might choose Dole as his vice-presidential running mate in 1972.

Dole himself was quoted as speculating in August 1972 on a possible vice-presidential nomination in 1976. "I know a lot of delegates," he said. "And I haven't been to 230 some meetings for nothing."

In an arena filled with Republican party workers and leaders, at a convention where Bob Dole spoke as temporary chairman, it seems impossible that some delegates, and some reporters, asked, "Bob who?"

But nobody's asking now.

Bob Dole, the junior senator from Kansas, has come of political age.

Republican regulars knew him nationally when he was party chairman. Kansans knew him before that, when he was a U.S. Representative from the First Congressional District. The citizens of Russell knew him when he played basketball at Russell High School, went off to KU, then to the war, returning finally to his home for recuperation from war injuries. Even before he finished his law degree at Washburn University, the citizens of Russell had sent Dole to represent them in the Kansas State Legislature. He was 26 at the time, then the youngest member of the house.

Somehow, as his life has progressed, Bob Dole has always had a constituency, whether locally, or on the state or national

levels. Now, his constituency is comprised of the people of the United States.

That Dole could rise in the Senate to support some of the unpopular policies of former President Nixon, that he was called "Nixon's boy," that he came away unscathed from Watergate, that he managed to do all this and still bring strength to the Ford campaign testifies to the nature of politics and to Dole's ability as a politician.

Most observers contend that Ford selected Dole for three reasons. The first is that Dole tried to provide a bridge between Reagan and Ford supporters so that Republicans could leave Kansas City with a sense of unity.

The second reason is that Ford is concerned about the issues of Watergate and the Nixon pardon, and Dole was quick to drop his support of Nixon when he discovered some of the White House activities.

The third and, some say, most important reason is that Dole is famous for his swashbuckling political style, a job that Ford finds distasteful and unbecoming to the demeanor of the President, but necessary nonetheless. Dole also brings to the ticket experience in come-from-behind victories.

Neither Ford nor Dole has ever lost an election. While Ford is busy the next few months in his orchestrated role as The President, Dole will try to ensure that neither candidate's track record is broken.

He'll be on the road shelling peanuts and trying to crack Jimmy Carter's confidence.

Just how much the Ford staff is depending on Dole to pick up points with the American voter is indicated by the fact that, just before the convention,

Dole had criticized the President for his flaccid campaign. Yet he was still tapped to be the vice-presidential running mate.

Time magazine quoted Dole as saying that Ford was still "running like a congressman, still drawing for help on [House] friends who represent districts, not states or regions."

"Ford just isn't the kind of guy to go around knocking heads together. But the President's got to do it. . . . You have to risk offending a few people if you really are going to strengthen your organization."

The Dole candidacy brings strengths to the ticket that the President, by himself,

lacks. He asserted again his hard-hitting campaign style in his opening speech as Temporary Chairman of the convention, when he came out swinging against Carter and the Democrats.

The nation's farmers, disenchanted with Ford's agricultural policies, particularly the embargo of last year's grain exports, could look to Dole as being helpful to them. Dole's tenure on the Senate Agriculture Committee and his concern for rural Americans also could help Ford.

His service on three of the Senate's most important committees—agriculture, finance and budget—will be a selling point for the administration, or at the least, a neutralizing factor against the

Democrats. Ironically Sen. Walter Mondale (D-Minn.), the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, is the only other senator to serve on the same committees with Dole.

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, a member of the Federal Trade Commission, is well versed on the issues and should prove to be a valuable campaign asset.

Realizing that fewer than 20 per cent of the electorate are registered Republicans, Dole thinks that the party's base needs to be broadened if the Republicans are to occupy the White House for the next four years.

"The Republican party needs spokesmen on the front lines," he has said. How to accomplish the task without alienating the very conservative wing of the party is subject to question. Dole is concerned that reaching out to minorities and supporting some of the humanitarian programs such as food stamps may alienate the Reagan conservatives.

That's on the one hand. On the other, Dole is confused about how to articulate positive Republican programs when "you have to continually be against the Carter-Mondale big spending programs."

Whatever the outcome of the election, the campaign promises to be lively. Ford and Carter will debate. Dole and Mondale will debate. When Sen. Dole speaks, he will bring attention to the state of Kansas and to the University of Kansas.

As Dole said during the press conference at which President Ford made his selection known, "I'm not a household word except in Hawaii. . . . Dole is a four-letter word you can get used to."

The country awaits the battle between pineapples and peanuts.

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Senator's record reflects conservatism

Sen. Robert Dole represents an agricultural state with a relatively sparse population. It is strong Republican country by tradition and conservative by choice. Which is fortunate, because Dole's record reflects conservatism.

His rating by the conservative group Americans for Constitutional Action was 84 in 1972 and 1974. It dipped to 82 in 1973.

The Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal organization, gave Dole a zero in 1972, 10 in 1973 and a 20 rating in 1974.

During the past year, however, he has seemed to soften his hard Republican approach to politics. Earlier this year he criticized the President's budget-cutting moves, which had been called anti-people programs by Democrats who opposed re-

ductions in food stamps and limits on Social Security increases.

"As a Republican I don't want to be put in a position all the time of seeming to be anti-people," Dole said. "We've been in that position for too long and our numbers have dwindled, and dwindled, and dwindled and it seems to me unless we have some constructive alternative, we are going to be hard-pressed to support the President."

It is indicative of the nature of politics that Dole is now the vice-presidential choice of the man he criticized.

Dole's vocal support in the Senate of former President Nixon's policies contributed to his tag as conservative. He was instrumental, for example, in delaying the Cooper-Church amendment that called for the removal of troops from

Cambodia until Nixon had pulled them out. And he then voted for the amendment, surprising many of his colleagues.

He has voted against legislation to establish no-fault automobile insurance nationally, supported restoration of a death penalty after existing state laws were struck down by the Supreme Court in 1972, supported an amendment to eliminate the so-called no-knock provision of the 1970 Drug Abuse Prevention Act, and opposed legislation to require the licensing of handgun owners and to ban the sale of cheap handguns.

On foreign affairs, Dole voted against setting limits on the number of U.S. troops stationed abroad; opposed a bill allowing the President to resume military aid to Turkey; and voted against a bill to ban importation of chrome from

Rhodesia as a sanction against that country's internal policies.

In the Senate, Dole was appointed to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, the Committee on Public Works, the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs and the Public Works Disaster Relief Subcommittee.

He has been particularly active in agricultural matters. In the early '60s, he generally supported the Kennedy and Johnson administrations' farm policies when they gave subsidies to farmers and opposed them when they tied controls to subsidies.

He made himself a "watchdog" of the Kennedy administration's possible culpability in the Billy Sol Estes grain storage scandal of 1962. In 1963, he opposed the act authorizing the sale of wheat to the Soviet Union. He recommended in 1965 the establishment of a bipartisan committee to study possible ways of channeling surplus American food to the world's starving.

Dole wrote an amendment in 1966 to the Food for Peace Act under which U.S. farmers are sent to underdeveloped countries as technical advisers.

He voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, opposed the Medicare Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1966.

His work has been particularly pointed to legislative proposals for aiding the handicapped and rural communities. He considers himself pro civil rights, and has asked repeatedly for better black representation in the Republican party.

"I believe in freedom and opportunity for people, and that's a conservative approach," Dole said in 1971, after having voted for all major civil rights bills of the '60s, including open housing.

"I've never been able to figure out why people could stand and applaud, tears in their eyes, when a black just scored the winning basket and then have chills go down their spine if they sat next to him at dinner."

As President Ford's running mate, Dole will receive federal funds to help finance his campaign. He voted against those federal subsidies when they came before the Senate.



Photo by Hank Young

Sweet victory

Sen. Robert Dole, 45, and President Gerald R. Ford wave to the cheering delegates at the Republican National Convention. In the foreground, facing the crowd, are members of the Ford family. Dole's wife, Elizabeth, and his daughter, Robin, are behind the President.

Robert Joseph Dole lived the life of thousands of other Kansas youths during the Dust Bowl and Depression years. He was born July 22, 1923, in Russell, Kan., a small, west-central town in the center of the Wheat Belt. His father, the late Doran Dole, managed a grain elevator.

As a child, he passed out handbills, helped out at his father's cream and egg station on weekends and worked at Dawson's Drugstore after football and basketball practice at Russell High.

His high school coach, Harold Elliott, remembers that Dole would "go out of his way to take the first step to make a friend. I couldn't say he was an outstanding basketball player, but he was a tremendously steady player."

"He had a tremendous sense of humor, too. This helped to keep the boys loose in tense games. Bob was always a good talker."

When he entered the University of Kansas in 1941, he pledged Kappa Sigma fraternity and began pre-medical studies, waiting tables to help defray his expenses. He earned numerals in freshman track, basketball and football and a track letter the next year.

Early in 1943, Dole enlisted in the Army and attended Officers Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Ga. As a second

lieutenant, he was sent to Italy, where the allied drive was beginning in December 1944.

About four months later, while driving through the Po Valley on patrol, he was hit in the leg by grenade fragments.

"Yes, well, it was nothing," he said at the time. "I went to the doctor and he took it out. It was one of those things, like going over a barbed wire fence. You get scratched. But in the Army you get a Purple Heart for it."

Two weeks later, he really earned a Purple Heart.

His unit was under fire while taking a hill, and Dole was trying to pull a wounded soldier into a shell hole when a shell exploded, shattering his right shoulder, cracking several neck vertebrae and damaging his spinal cord.

He was paralyzed, and Army doctors thought he would not live. From Italy, he was transferred to hospitals in Africa,

Florida, Kansas and, finally, Battle Creek, Mich. He lost 70 pounds, complications set in, and a kidney and part of a lung were removed.

Dole was one of four patients in the nation to be treated with the experimental drug, streptomycin, and he slowly began to recover. In July 1948, after more than three years of therapy and treatment, he had learned to walk again and had regained limited use of his right arm. He was discharged from the Army as a captain, decorated with the Bronze Star and oak-leaf clusters.

He completed a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona and entered Washburn Law School in Topeka. His former wife, Phyllis Holden Dole Buzick, who had been a physical therapist, transcribed his notes and wrote out the answers for exams while he dictated. He was graduated, *magna cum laude*, in 1951. Before completing his law degree, he

was elected as a state representative for Russell County. He was, at 26, the youngest person in the Kansas Legislature. In 1952, he returned to Russell and practiced law briefly before being elected Russell County Attorney.

Twenty years later, as U.S. Senator and chairman of the Republican National Party, he returned to KU to speak in the James A. Vickers Sr. Memorial Lecture Series. He donated the honorarium for that lecture, \$1,500, to the University to establish the Bob Dole Scholarship for Handicapped Students, three of whom received \$500 each.

"I customarily return a portion of honoraria received for speeches on college campuses to assist handicapped students," Dole wrote in a letter to the University. "I am returning the full amount of this honorarium and ask only that it be used to assist a handicapped student or students."

Dole's concern for aiding the handicapped will be an important part of his campaign. He told a reporter for the Kansas City Star, "It seems to me if I can't do anything else in this campaign, I can make handicapped people aware of the fact that you can have a handicap and still be part of everything. It is about time."