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## Dole campaigning with quips

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Dallas, in Carbondale, Ill., in Little Rock, Ark., in the small town meeting rooms paneled in imitation rustic and big city ballrooms with chandeliers aglitter, Sen. Bob Dole campaigns for the vice presidency with quips.

"I'm not used to crowds like this. I'm a Republican," says Dole to a thousand people gathered to hear him in a San Francisco hotel. "But I'm glad to be here — Republicans are glad to be anywhere."

He waits for the laugh. Then: "Some people ask how I got on the ticket. It's been suggested President Ford flipped a coin and it didn't come down. So he asked me."

In St. Louis on Tuesday night, 400 Republicans paid \$50 each for a dinner to swell the campaign chest of Gov. Christopher Bond. Entertainment was by Dole, a comedian of the Will Rogers school.

He talked about his home town of Russell, Kan. "We planned to have our convention there this year," he said. "But both of our motels were booked solid so we went

to Kansas City instead."

Ford wanted to stop them after the convention but his staff was dubious about launching a national campaign from Russell, Dole said. The staff thought people in Russell couldn't get ready on such short notice, Dole said.

"This was on a Thursday and I surmised that Friday afternoon in Russell was a pretty good day for presidents to stop in. Most of the important meetings were rescheduled — and others were forgotten about," he said.

After speaking to the townspeople, Dole said he and Ford escorted Dole's mother to her house but she couldn't find the key to the front door. She said to wait while she went to get a spare key.

"Who do you keep waiting," he asked, "your mother or the President of the United States?" That leads Dole to laying into Jimmy Carter with a one-liner.

If Carter had been involved in the key incident, said Dole, "he would have had two or three positions on whether to leave or stay."

The humor comes naturally to Dole. There is no joke writer on his staff. He generally saves the funniest speeches for GOP functions and tends in serious campaign speeches to be flat.

He reads speeches badly and manages to lose funny lines so poorly that audiences sit on their hands. And the less responsive the audience, the worse becomes his reading.

But he uses his humor to make some political points.

"I can report in a general way that the polls are looking better," he said in St. Louis. And he ticked off figures from three or four states. Then he said he had just gotten the results of a poll showing Republicans surging ahead in Missouri.

Dole said he didn't want to give the figures because they were not final yet, but he confided to the assembled Republicans that the poll "was taken at 8 o'clock at this meeting."

Dole resumes his traveling tonight, beginning a five-city trip by flying with Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller to Buffalo, N.Y.

## Watergate's Prosecutor Declares He Didn't Get Dole Gift Inquiry

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—The Watergate Special Prosecutor said today that no White House official had made inquiries at his office about allegations that the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate, Senator Robert J. Dole, had accepted illegal campaign contributions prior to Mr. Dole's selection as President Ford's running mate on Aug. 19.

In an extraordinary action, Charles Ruff, the special prosecutor, said that since there had been no White House inquiries if would be incorrect to suggest that his office had given Mr. Dole any "clearance" before or after he was chosen as the party's Vice-Presidential candidate.

After allegations that Mr. Dole had accepted illegal campaign contributions were reported by The New York Times on Sept. 6, White House spokesman had indicated that they were satisfied Mr. Dole had not received the contributions. Though the White House never specifically said it had contacted the special prosecutor, it left the impression an inquiry had been conducted.

Mr. Ruff, through a spokesman, would make no further comment on the matter. His office said that he decided to comment on whether the White House had checked out Mr. Dole after numerous press inquiries on the question.

The New York Times reported on Sept. 6 that Claude C. Wilder Jr., a lobbyist for the Gulf Oil Company, had testified before a Federal grand jury that he gave Mr. Dole some \$5,000 in 1973 through William A. Kats, a long-time aide to Mr. Dole.

Mr. Dole's background, said the Kansas Senator, had told the White House about the allegations that he accepted illegal contributions and that Mr. Dole denied the charges.

Mr. Schmults said he discussed the matter with Mr. Dole and was "satisfied" the allegations were not true. Meanwhile, the Presidential spokesman, Ron Neesen, had been telling reporters that the White House had checked out the charges and found them not to be true.

In response to Mr. Ruff's announcement, Mr. Schmults said that his office had not checked any of the potential Republican Vice-Presidential candidates through anything but public records in examining their fitness for the Vice Presidency.

He said that the only call his office made to the special prosecutor's office on Mr. Dole came after The New York Times story on Sept. 6 when he called to investigate an allegation that the special prosecutor had leaked the grand jury testimony. He said he was now convinced he had not.

Mr. Schmults said that the White House had decided that it would not use the records of Government investigation agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in checking on the backgrounds of potential Vice-Presidential candidates, because it was power that only the President had and thus would be unfair.

Instead, Mr. Schmults said that the White House had required detailed information from the candidate. He said in Mr. Dole's case he had checked other sources, outside of closed Government files on the Gulf matter, but declined to enumerate them.

## Dole Sounding Like a Lonely Man With Less Than Total Confidence

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 14—Senator Robert J. Dole, who as the Vice-Presidential candidate has been bearing the brunt of the Republican national campaign on the road for nearly four weeks now, frequently sounds like a lonely man with something less than total confidence that his ticket is going to be elected in November.

With President Ford remaining in the White House to reinforce his image as he incumbent, it has fallen to Mr. Dole to beck from one end of country to the other in trying to put his rivals, Jimmy Carter and Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, on the defensive and to convince voters that the Democrats are much too liberal for the nation's taste.

He has done it bravely, as he did here today before the Commonwealth Club at a luncheon in the Hilton Hotel, warning his listeners that it would be dangerous to entrust the economy to the hands of Mr. Carter and insisting that the former Georgia Governor has an excessive concern with reducing unemployment that would lead to runaway inflation.

Mr. Dole has often bolstered the spirits of Republican audiences by declaring flatly: "We are going to beat Jimmy Carter." But there are many moments when the 53-year-old Kansas sounds less than certain that.

Humor Over Prospects  
One such moment came not long ago aboard his chartered 727 jet, the "Bob Dole Campaign Express," when he was asked somewhat jokingly if he was headed for an appearance in Topeka, Kan., because the Ford-Dole tickets was in trouble there.

"I have to get re-elected," he countered quickly with a wry half-smile, obviously recalling his narrow 1974 Senate victory and looking ahead to the prospect of another battle in 1980 should the Democrats win the general election this fall.

And in his wife's home town of Salisbury, N.C., recently, in what smacked to some of gallows humor, he told a friendly gathering: "If everything else fails now — if it really goes to be a disaster, we're counting on Russell, Kansas (he own home) and Salisbury, N.C."

Yesterday in Lexington, Ky., Senator Dole was chiding businessmen before a local Chamber of Commerce group for not doing as much for their political choices as labor does. In a remark vaguely reminiscent of one made during some dark days in the primaries by Rogers C.B. Morton, since replaced as chairman of the President Ford Committee, who said he would not "rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic," Mr. Dole concluded:

"I love businessmen and women, but I just hope that before the ship goes down that you throw us something besides an anchor."

Sometimes it is difficult for constant observers of the campaign to tell whether such comments have some deep Freudian

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## Dole carrying GOP banner alone

By RUDY ABRAMSON

L.A. Times-Washington Post Service  
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Sen. Robert J. Dole's vice presidential campaign reached a small milestone when he arrived in Texas last week to woo conservatives in a state crucial to Republican election hopes.

He began stuffing the inside pockets of his coat with three-by-five-inch file cards, giving him a quick-draw reference to the key positions and policy statements of Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter.

Before that, Dole had been assailing Carter from all sides without benefit of notes or prepared texts.

But the barbs were getting sharper every day. And, considering one of Dole's chief missions is to test the thickness of Carter's skin, he and his staff decided he should be better prepared to back up his charges.

Dole's sharpened attacks, and his forethought in carrying the file cards intended to support them, are part of his emergence as an unusual vice presidential candidate. In the days since the Republican National Convention, Dole has been carrying more of his party's burden than usually is expected of the No. 2 man on the ticket.

He stands to have more influence on his party's ticket than any vice presidential candidate since Lyndon B. Johnson ran with John F. Kennedy in 1960.

Dole was made a central figure in the campaign by President Ford's decision to stay away from traditional campaigning and remain in the White House through the early phases of the race.

He has become the instrument by which Ford hopes to bring home the bitterly disappointed supporters of Ronald Reagan — an absolute necessity if there is to be any chance of heading off a Carter sweep of the South.

Dole has shown himself to be probably the most skilled public performer of the four candidates.

Shortly before the nominating convention in Kansas City, President Ford told interviewers that vice presidential running mates seldom have an appreciable effect on the outcome of elections. Thus far, however, Dole has been the sum total of the Republican campaign.

Since leaving the convention, he has campaigned in 11 states, and he will add a half dozen or more this week.

He has shown himself to be probably the most skilled public performer of the four candidates.

He has lived up to his reputation as a politician who attacks by instinct. He has been surprisingly willing to acknowledge that he and President Ford have their differences, and he has not been afraid to leave the impression he considers the campaign less than a life-and-death matter.

Though the Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside roles for Ford and Dole have been well established, the outside campaign of Robert Dole still has about it a certain aimlessness.

Dole told a Texas audience Friday

that supporters had been asking him if he had a campaign plan. "I told them no," he said, only half joking. "I just have an airplane."

Dole's campaign has been troubled at times by scheduling problems, particularly a lack of major events to provide a forum for his remarks.

### A news analysis

On Monday, on a visit here in Lexington, he found himself with several hours to kill. He spent the time visiting a tobacco farm and a University of Kentucky fraternity house and watching horses being trained.

Similar scheduling problems dogged Dole in the initial stages of his campaign.

When he went to a Labor Day automobile race in South Carolina, he found himself upstaged by Carter in front of more than 60,000 persons.

He has been an inspiration to the Republican right. He has single-mindedly tarred Carter with the liberal brush.

Three days later he went to New York and delivered a message of unflinching support for Israel before the Zionist Organization of America. The trouble was that the speech went scarcely noticed because President Ford, only hours before, had spoken to the national convention of B'nai B'rith, another Jewish organization.

In Austin, Tex., Saturday he held a press conference while supporters of Ford and former California governor Ronald Reagan were still fighting at their GOP state convention over the selection of a state party chairman.

The only thing that accomplished was to give local reporters a chance to quiz Dole on the continued feuding within the Texas GOP, and to show him to be irritable and snappish when pressed on the subject.

Despite evidence Reagan supporters have not entered the Ford ranks with the same enthusiasm that carried them behind the Reagan banner, Dole has been an inspiration to the Republican right.

Everywhere he has appeared, he has single-mindedly tarred Carter with the liberal brush.

At times he appears to be involved in a struggle with himself to keep his rapier sheathed.

He responds to Democrats' criticism of the Ford administration's unemployment record by saying the Democrats had an employment program that gave half a million young Americans work in South Vietnam.

He suggests Carter was hypocritical in criticizing loopholes in the U.S. tax system, then claiming an investment tax credit for the purchase of peanut-shelling equipment on his personal income tax return.

He implied Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., Carter's running mate, is unwilling to campaign far from union hiring halls.

Short television glimpses and cold print usually miss the softening effect Dole's humor give to his harsh political rhetoric.

He jokes often and easily about himself, about politics, about revered Republican elders like Alf Landon, about his own crippled right arm, even about Watergate.

Like Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale, he is less than spellbinding when he undertakes to deliver a formal prepared speech.

He is more comfortable setting sail with a few jokes, putting the blade into the Democrats extemporaneously, then easing the sting with a self-deprecating wisecrack.