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Dole Defends Campaign

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — GOP vice presidential candidate Sen. Bob Dole, criticized this week President Ford's campaign manager, said Thursday he is improving his campaign.

The Kansas senator blamed part of his problem on pressure from the White House for hasty schedule changes.

The Washington Star reported earlier this week that James Baker III, campaign manager for Ford, said poor scheduling, sloppy advance work and inexperienced personnel are plaguing Dole's campaign.

"WE ARE DOING, with all modesty, a pretty good job and reports from states we visited indicate that," Dole said.

Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, traveling with Dole in New York, was more effusive: "I just think he's done a fantastic job and it's going to get better and better as the time goes by."

Dole added: "We're just barely on board, we hit the road running almost every day and we're now getting coordinated" with the Ford campaign.

Rockefeller said Baker has never had any campaign experience and that "he's going through the same problems at getting organized that Bob Dole is. He's (Baker) an honest businessman and executive who's just telling it like it is."

DOLE SAID HIS campaign is getting pressure "from outside" and gave that as a reason his schedule is hastily rearranged so often.

As an example, he cited his scheduled trip to Birmingham, Ala., today and said he now is being asked by the White House to make an appearance in Minnesota — which, he pointed out, is not exactly on a direct route between Washington and Alabama.

Another Star story Wednesday, by reporter Walter Taylor, said Dole's campaign "seems fatigued, almost out of gas."

Dole said that criticism is unfair. He said the story was written by a reporter who had been on the campaign for only two days. Dole added that he is not particularly concerned about the story.

Dole Claims Gains for Ford

By Ray Morgan
Kansas Correspondent

Topeka — A month into his vice-presidential campaign, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) has conquered the logistical problems that marked the beginning of his campaign, and so far the little controversies have stayed little.

Reporters for the Washington Post and the New York Times, who spent several days in Kansas immediately after Dole was nominated to be President Ford's running mate, did not come up with anything more damaging than some political gossip about the questionable advertisements run by antiabortion forces in his 1974 campaign.

Up to now Dole has shown restraint in his attacks on Jimmy Carter, the Democratic presidential nominee, using humor as his principal tool. The campaign has been free of the slashing, wound-opening thrusts that had been predicted.

This in not to say there have not been some rough spots. James H. Baker, coordinator for the Ford campaign, said in Washington last week that some minor problems had arisen in the early stages of setting up a Dole campaign organization to work with the President Ford Committee.

The Washington Star, in an article last week, quoted some Ford committee officials as saying that Dole had suffered early on from poor scheduling, sloppy advance work and inexperienced personnel but that these things were gradually being resolved.

A Political Analysis

"On the whole, we have to say that Bob Dole has done a remarkable job overall since he came into this thing," Baker said last week in Washington. "The President has been very pleased with what Dole has been doing on his behalf in the campaign."

Dole said that his campaign, by and large, has managed to project a positive image and that he believes things will get better. He also said that the Democratic ticket has been having its problems since the G.O.P. campaign began in earnest after the national convention in Kansas City.

"I think all you have to do is look at the polls and read some of the other newspapers to see that we're making headway," Dole said. "We've still got a ways to go, as everybody knows, but some of the reaction that came out in some of the Eastern papers right after I was nominated is swinging around."

"The more I campaign the more I become convinced that Carter and Mondale are a lot less popular with the voters than the polls were indicating early in the campaign, and I think this is going to show soon."

Dole admits that his campaign staff was not quite up to the task when he first began but that a more professional atmosphere has developed. He also bristles at suggestions that there is not

enough co-ordination with the Ford committee.

"We spent two days out at Vail talking with the President about what I was to do in the campaign and we've been following that outline," Dole said. "I've been getting nothing from the White House but praise for what we're doing in the campaign."

"That thing out in Russell right after the convention was an indication of what you can do. They kept telling me we couldn't do it that fast on the day after the convention, but we did and it turned out to be a huge success. The President was really pleased."

Dole turned his back on some parts of the Republican platform and was supported in his position by Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller. Dole said he and the President did not agree with everything that was in the G.O.P. platform, which has been criticized by some moderate and liberal Republicans. But he did say it was a platform adopted in a spirit of compromise under pressure from supporters of Ronald Reagan, the Ford challenger.

"I think President Ford and his supporters were trying to make some compromises to placate all the elements in the party and as a result they got some things they really would have preferred not to have," Dole said. "On the other hand, Carter can't say that about the Democratic platform. There was no fight in the Democratic party over the candidate since Carter had it going away. He and his supporters got what they wanted in the platform and

what they did not want is not in there."

Dole said in a campaign appearance Friday that he believes some kind of national insurance to cover catastrophic illnesses will be passed by the Congress in the 1977 session "regardless of who wins in the November elections." The statement apparently was to take some play away from Carter and the Democrats, who have embraced such programs.

Dole took some lumps in the campaign over a CBS-TV report that he had appeared before a federal grand jury in March to testify about a \$2,000 illegal campaign contribution he was reported to have received from Gulf Oil Corporation. Dole heatedly denied that he received the money and said he appeared before the grand jury in an investigation into Gulf contributions.

Later the Gulf Oil official who was quoted as saying he gave the money to Dole retracted his statement and publicly apologized for any embarrassment he may have caused the candidate. The official said he was mistaken in making the allegation.

The night of Dole's nomination his former wife, Mrs. Phyllis Dole Buzick, who now lives in Sylvan Grove, Kan., was quoted in a wire service story as criticizing her former husband. But last week in a story distributed nationally by Malvina Stephenson of the Women's News Service, the former Mrs. Dole said she is enthusiastic about the Ford-Dole ticket, adding: "We have to be; we can't have Carter."



SEN. BOB DOLE

"I don't really feel any more bitterness toward Bob," she was quoted as saying.

Dole's second wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hanford Dole, is being given credit by some of those who have known Dole during his political career for much of his success and for his relaxed campaign approach. Mrs. Dole is on leave from the Federal Trade Commission.

"She really enjoys what he is doing," one observer said. "She's a very affectionate, outgoing person who has probably done more than anything else to take off some of his rough edges. Just the fact that she's there with a soft hand when he's tired from his campaigning seems to calm him down."

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Dole again in uphill fight, but stakes bigger this time

By KEN PETERSON
Staff Writer

Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas is in the big leagues now. Drafted by an incumbent president, he is pitching harder and faster than at any time since he narrowly retained his Senate seat in 1974.

And as the Republican vice presidential candidate, his targets really haven't changed that much since the uphill struggle he encountered two years ago.

He's still courting the conservative vote, he's still aiming sharp attacks at Democrats. And he again is waging an uphill fight. The stakes are just bigger, a lot bigger.

Republicans seemingly have handed Dole the biggest campaign lead.

Gerald R. Ford will remain — at least for now — in the White House and act presidential, leaving to Dole the task of carrying out a nationwide offensive against Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

His assigned duty is to question Carter's leadership ability and Democratic proposals, particularly on spending, and to show how sane a Ford administration will be if elected to another four years.

Part toastmaster and part prosecutor in this election, Dole is the messenger for the Republican party and the President.

His Trek across the nation from early to mid-September revealed certain characteristics about the Kansas junior senator.

He can be funny and warm and an audience with five or 10 minutes of a comic routine expertly delivered.

"The only union that supported me was the Women's Christian Temperance Union and they're reviewing their files," he said in Dallas last week. A short while later, he said, "There's a Gulf in my credibility." A play on words tied to recent reports about contributions to him from Gulf Oil Corp.

He can be biting, almost to the point of anger.

"I would guess if Gov. Carter gets in at the White House, his top foreign advisers and defense advisers and domestic advisers will be George Meany or Leonard Woodcock or Jerry Wurf or some other card-carrying liberal Democrat and they're going to call the shots," he told the Dallas audience of Rotary Club members. "You give labor a president. They've already got the Congress, just hold on America. It's going to be downhill from there on."

He can scold. In Lexington, Ky., before a legislative issues seminar sponsored by a local chamber of commerce, he criticized businessmen.

"We may fuss about organized labor but they know how to get things done," he said. "They know how to get people elected. All the (U.S.) Chamber of Commerce does is have meetings and criticize Congress. I love businessmen and women, but before you let the ship go down, I hope you throw us something besides an anchor."

He can vituperate. In Salt Lake City, he recalled his "very tight" Senate race in 1974 against Dr. Bill Roy.

"He (Roy) used to go around the state saying he was one in a million, an M. D., and lawyer," Dole recalled. "Everywhere he went he was one in a million and now he's one of eight million, I guess because he's out of work."

He can be honest and straightforward.

"Whether we are trying to save a life in Russia or ensure the survival and eventual peace and prosperity of Israel, we have to try everything, press at every point and even settle sometimes for half measures," he told the Zionist Organization of America at their convention in New York City.

He can be testy, particularly with reporters' questions.

For example, Dole describes himself as a bridge between Ford and Ronald Reagan supporters. Asked at an Austin, Tex., press conference if he expected Reagan supporters to stay at home on election day, Dole replied, "The big picture is one of unity. A lot of his

(Carter's would-be voters) are going to stay home, too. They can stay home together."

He can be sharp-tongued about Carter and Mondale, and that obviously is a key assignment for him.

He talks frequently of Carter "flip-flops" on issues, of Carter's "coronation" in New York, of a "Carterized" platform that he says will create more inflation and add to government encroachment in everyday life. In the South, he describes Mondale as "Mr. Busing" and says Democrats will not allow Mondale to campaign there because of his liberal voting record.

"The only consistent thing about Mr. Carter is that when he's done flip-flopping and comes to rest, he always comes to rest on his left foot, he's always leaning to the left," Dole told the Texas Republican State Convention.

"Mr. Carter has had a great deal to say about the economy and I think we need to pay attention to him because, as with foreign affairs, crime, energy, the constitution and a host of other subjects that concern us, the national economy is not something Mr. Carter seems to know very much about."

Even in his nonpartisan speeches, Dole seems ready to strike at Democrats. He may not be the political fighter in this campaign, but he keeps a pen knife handy just in case.

He's also obviously proud of his wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, a 40-year-old federal trade commissioner who is taking a leave of absence from the job to campaign for her husband. At every stop, without fail, he introduced her to those greeting them.

From early to mid-September, Dole's campaign concentrated largely on partisan organizations — largely Republican groups — and he did little outright handshaking and meeting "the folks."

The Dole campaign sometimes seemed a bit aimless.

In one day, for example, he flew to Lexington, Ky., for the legislative issues seminar. After that, since a scheduled trip to Milwaukee was scrapped, he evidently just killed some time. He visited the University of Kentucky campus, met some students in a rally, and toured a nearby ranch.

Later that day, he flew to San Francisco to spend part of the next day in that crucial state, then turned around to fly halfway across the country for a fund-raiser in St. Louis.

At times, the senator seems to be taking his assignment lightly.

That observation is disputed by Dave Owen, former Kansas lieutenant governor who now is campaign director for Dole's portion of the President Ford Committee.

"He's been in politics since he was disabled in the war," Owen said. "He takes any political endeavor seriously."

The most serious side of the campaign is Dole's job of representing the President.

"We always knew Jerry Ford was a good man. Now we know that he is also a good President," Dole said at a Newport, R.I., fund-raiser. "His grin may not be as wide, or his platitudes as plentiful, but he has passed the acid test of real leadership. And in doing so, he has earned our trust and our support."

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Dole: GOP gaining in South

United Press International

Jimmy Carter and his running mate took a break from the presidential campaign trail Saturday, but President Ford got in some low-key campaigning at the White House and Robert Dole said the Republicans are overtaking Carter in the South.

Dole, the GOP vice presidential candidate, did the only serious stumping of the day. He told veterans he would rather spend too much than too little for defense, planned strategy with Ford and flew to New Jersey for a speech to Jaycees and a visit to a state fair.

At the Woodbridge Mall in New Jersey, Dole got the most enthusiastic public reception yet of his campaign from 15,000 cheering shoppers. Then he addressed the Jaycees and participated in the New Jersey State Fair at East Brunswick.

Dole said his travels, plagued with "hit-and-run" scheduling, "have been given direction and will concentrate on small towns and rural America. Aides said he would go Sunday to Ohio and then to Orlando and Panama City, Fla.

All the candidates except Ford planned to hit the road Sunday, appearing in cities from the Midwest to the Northeast just four days before the first of three scheduled Carter-Ford debates.

The outlook for a national telecast of the debate Thursday was clouded by a dispute between the sponsoring League of Women Voters and network executives.

Campaign '76



Representatives of the three commercial networks and the Public Broadcasting System met with league officials in Washington Saturday. Officials of the commercial networks said they did not know if they would televise the debates if the League did not remove restrictions on TV coverage and stop screening panels named to questions the candidates.

PBS said it would televise the debates.

Dole, at the White House to visit Ford, told reporters: "I would hope television would cover the debates. It would certainly reduce the impact if we didn't have television coverage."

Carter said in Georgia the debates "will be very important," but told reporters he did not think they would "dominate the final judgement of the American people."

Maintaining his determination to project a presidential image, Ford stayed at the White House but used the naming of the new commissioner of education to push his theme of "bloc grant," direct federal aid to local school systems.

Press Secretary Ron Ness said Ford, who intends to invade

the South on a Mississippi River steamboat next weekend, had no plans to devote time Saturday or Sunday to preparing for his first debate with Carter.

Emerging from his White House strategy session, Dole told reporters the Republicans are gaining in the South and Carter's southern support is "very soft."

Earlier Dole addressed about 125 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, drawing cheers with support for strong defense spending and promising: "There will be no blanket pardon... no clemency for war resisters in the Ford-Dole administration."

Carter, taking a break from the campaign after traveling 7,200 miles in the past five days, donned levis and work boots shortly after dawn to weigh in tons of freshly harvested peanuts at his warehouse in Plains, Ga.

Talking to reporters as he worked, Carter maintained integration is the best thing that has happened to the South and said it is unfair to "dredge up" the old anti-civil rights records of veteran southern senators who now support his candidacy.

Carter planned to skip his normal attendance at church Sunday, flying instead to campaign in St. Louis and Kansas City before starting a whistle-stop train trip Monday from New York to Pittsburgh.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Walter Mondale spent a quiet day at home in Washington Saturday.