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Dole Proposes National Health Insurance Plan

By IRA A. ALLEN
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Republican vice presidential candidate Robert Dole Friday proposed a national program of catastrophic health insurance to protect families from financial disaster with major illnesses.

Dole made a brief campaign appearance here sandwiched between speeches in Boston Thursday night and visits later Friday to Minnesota and Alabama. He spoke at the opening general session of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 30th anniversary conference.

"As many of you know so well, the cost of health care has risen to incredible heights," the Kansas senator said.

"We need a program to protect families from financial disaster due to severe illness," he told an audience of more than 300 persons.

Dole gave no details of his proposal but said he hoped some kind of catastrophic protection would be approved by Congress next year "whatever happens insofar as the presidency is concerned."

Without endorsing or rejecting the newly passed tax reform bill, Dole said one provision—a tax credit for businesses to remove architectural barriers—would benefit handicapped persons.

"If it is enacted, the removal of barriers that have kept handicapped people out of jobs and meaningful employment will be stimulated," Dole said.

Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter has proposed a mandatory national health care plan, but President Ford says the economy cannot afford a national health insurance program covering everyone.

Dole got a rousing reception in Boston Thursday night during an anti-labor speech to the builders and contractors.

At another location earlier, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, taking Dole through his home state, had some raw meat of his

own for about 25 chanting protesters. It came in the form of Rockefeller's upraised middle finger — "responding in kind," he said to demonstrators' taunts.

The indefatigable vice president's showmanship Thursday in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton and New York City must have taught the Kansas senator running for Rockefeller's job something about crowd-pleasing.

At the ABC convention, a natural audience for his barbs at AFL-CIO President George Meany, Dole scored heavily by noting his and President Ford's opposition to the common situs picketing bill and charging Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter with owing his fortunes to the giant labor organization.

"He does a lot of wriggling, but just watch him try to wriggle out of the pocket of big labor after it spends millions to try to elect him," Dole said.

Dole was to begin Friday's campaigning with a speech to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Washington and then was to appear at "Farmfest '76" in Crystal Lake, Minn., and at a GOP fund raiser in Birmingham, Ala.

The Minnesota trip apparently is a matter of some contention within the Dole campaign, with the candidate not enthusiastic about it.

Dole had planned to be in Alabama, but indicated displeasure at one point over the addition of Minnesota. "It is on the way to Birmingham," he quipped resignedly.

Ford thanks Russell folks for hospitality

RUSSELL (HNS) — Letters of appreciation from the President are making the rounds at Russell.

They are signed by President Gerald Ford, and thank those taking part in the Aug. 20 homecoming celebration for him and Sen. Bob Dole, Ford's vice-presidential nominee.

The celebration was planned in about 18 hours and was conducted just 20 hours after Ford named Dole as his running mate.

A letter to Russell Mayor Roger Williams read:

"Many thanks for your thoughtful letter following my visit to Russell on Aug. 20. I was happy to come to Bob Dole's home town, and it is easy to see that he is a 'favorite son' in your community."

"I am grateful for the warm hospitality you and your fellow Kansans extended to me, and I particularly appreciate your words of support and good will."

"With my best wishes." — Jerry Ford.

Dole Meets Childhood Companion

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (UPI) — Bob Dole took time for hot dogs and sodas and handshaking with spectators — and the crowd loved it.

"The last time I was in Jacksonville we had the biggest Republican meeting at that time in history — I think we had 600 some at the dinner," the Republican vice presidential nominee said Monday.

"I remember the dinner very well. I almost choked on a piece of chicken. I think someone mentioned Jimmy Carter to me then."

In the crowd, Dole met a childhood companion, Lloyd Graf of Russell, Kan. Graf, 54, has worked in Jacksonville, as a millwright for 10 years and said he had not seen Dole for 15 years.

Graf, a lifetime Democrat, said he was urging fellow party members to vote for the Ford-Dole ticket. He described Dole as "honest, sincere, striving for the best."

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Retired Faculty Says Bob Dole Hard-Working Athlete

By PAULINE STURGEON

With seconds left to play, Our Hero in the very last action of the football game catches the pass and, running on a muddy field, makes a touchdown. It has happened in the movies. It may have happened to numerous players the country over. But it's one they tell about Bob Dole, and it's a true story.

The game was with Ellis, says former Coach George Baxter. He well remembers, because the coach from the opposing team threw his hat on the ground and jumped up and down on it.

The year was 1939-40 when Russell had a wooden stadium and the football field was owned by the school district, but the present high school had not been built. The high school was the present Middle School.

Dole was a better than average player, said Baxter, and made some outstanding plays. Playing Great Bend, he caught two long passes. The other school had a much larger enrollment and it was a great honor for Russell to beat Great Bend.

It was a long time ago, Coach Baxter reminded himself. He is a graduate of Russell High School in 1928. His father homesteaded at Gorham. Courtside, the brick school near Ruppenthal, was built in 1918 and held the 7th and 8th grades and high school.

Baxter came here as a teacher from Glasco, where he was on the faculty eight years and taught eight classes. When he returned to Russell in 1939, he was business teacher with four classes of typing and was head football coach.

Harold Elliott was here a year before him. Elliott was head basketball coach. Dean Skaer had been football coach and stayed and helped Baxter and also was track coach. Baxter thinks that Bob Dole's experience in track under Skaer and basketball under Elliott made him a better all-round team player as well as a football star.

"Bob was dedicated. Anything he did, he tried real hard," says Baxter, now retired. That meant more, too, in 1939, for Russell had won hardly any games, even though they had some good material.

Baxter was to leave Russell before too long for the Army. He left the day before Christmas Day in 1943, and got out in September, 1945.

Harold Elliott, retired, coached basketball and was an assistant in football and track. A picture which has been published nation-

ally showed Elliott wearing a Prairie State beard and Dole on his right. Now, there had been a third person in the picture: Bud Smith, a pilot in World War II, shot down off the Philippine Islands.

The boys had come up to Coach Elliott after a team picture was

was easy to see he had a spark of some kind that others might not have, when it came to getting things done. He was a very good student.

"Injuries accented his determination. I knew him when he came back after the war. He was

"From my reading, he has done quite well and been accepted in Congress. He and the Democrats get along very well, he is a good friend of Sen. Hubert Humphrey. His fellow Congressmen respect him. Honesty and integrity have helped to keep him



PARADE OF FASHIONS—These costumes tell as well as any way what Bob Dole's youth was like: 1. Freshman in mackinaw jacket; 2. high school picture in overalls; 3. Phillip



Ruppenthal and Bob in track warm-up clothing; and 4 (below), in service uniform. (Photos courtesy of Mrs. Bina Dole)



respecting in life by people, and helped him to stay clear of Watergate.

"As an athlete here, he didn't get full growth, he was six feet one or two inches, 175-80 pounds, and a marvelous athletic specimen. For a year at the University of Kansas, he was in football and basketball. He was also in track, and good in the 440 and 880, and his time on the half-mile was a little over 2 minutes, not the best in the state but respectable at the time. We had games we won that we shouldn't have, for Hays High School and the Hays Cadets (since renamed Thomas More Prep) dominated the league.

There are thrills in memories. "When Bob is working, he just enjoys people and has a tremendous memory of names and faces. In being a politician, that's one of the necessary things and he certainly has had it. He was well-liked as a county attorney and had no problem in being reelected. He would work with people in the daytime and do individual work in long hours at night."

Mr. and Mrs. Tom L. Iden, retired, were besieged by the press when the news broke on Bob Dole's vice presidential selection and nomination. They wisely compiled a sheet of facts for reference so that they could

naturally right-handed, and had to have reorientation to use his left hand. Determination has been the thing that has carried him. He could still achieve and do things that need to be done. I can't speak highly enough for him in his determination to succeed. He didn't lack courage!

"A political career takes unusually long hours, and in spite of all the work he retains likeability and wit and humor. One of his top characteristics as a politician, he always felt a responsibility to his constituents. I can't imagine most Congressmen taking the time to help them, the way Bob did—as county attorney, representative, and senator."

be accurate on the telephone. Mr. Iden came here in 1924 and retired in 1968. His wife, Thelma, came here in 1925 and they were married in June of that year. She retired in 1965.

Mrs. Iden was kindergarten teacher for Robin, daughter of Bob and Phyllis Dole. She obviously retains a fondness for now-grown-up Robin, and protests when a newspaper photo is unflattering for the young lady.

Mr. Iden said: "I knew Bob all through school and his family of course from the time we've been here. I can always see Bob catching that pass. Dean Skaer was one of the coaches and made an early decision or prediction about Bob. We had to shut him out so we could go home—he would come back and practice goals, all excited after the game. Skaer, visiting here, said that as a competitor Bob was determined to do the thing he set out to do. I was glad to hear him say it."

"When Bob was in the Veterans' Hospital, we were both there," related Mrs. Iden. "It appeared he could not live. His determination was one of the big factors that brought him through. At that time the hospital was old-style, a kind of barracks in little houses. Our daughter, now Mrs. Thelma Rilling, couldn't stay because of the stench of the veterans' wounds after operations. But the personnel were doing the best they could."

"Bob told us that when he was lying in Italy after being wounded, 'It felt like I'd lost my arm,' and he thought it would be better to be left there... but somebody came and got him. Bob had been a young officer leading a night patrol, he had just barely landed."

Mr. Iden was high school principal in 1935 when Bob was in high school, but he was superintendent from 1929 and at the time Bob graduated. "He never caused any problems," said Mr. Iden. "He was one of the boys you wouldn't know about."

The Idens made a special trip to Winter General Hospital to see the hometown boy. Bob's mother was with him when they went. They also visited Bob in Lawrence his freshman year and later in Washington. "We were always glad to support him," they said.

When Ford and Dole made their trip here after the Republican convention, Mr. and Mrs. Iden were seated in their car in front of Banker's Department Store and kept informed on their portable radio. This was the spot where the top of the presidential limousine was opened and Ford and Dole came up in sight. But

Luthi left here to go to Augusta, then make a career in the Army as a lieutenant colonel, where the Idens visited him in the Pentagon and in Leavenworth and at Philadelphia; later he was director of admissions at Washburn University, Luthi is now city manager at Woodward, Okla.

Luthi wrote about Bob during junior and senior years when he was his student. "I remember Bob as a very stable young man. He was a participant in a wide range of activities and did not permit himself to become over involved in any one area. He had a pleasing, warm personality with a quick wit. He was respectful of peers and elders alike. He was always an attentive and good student. He was never a troublemaker in any sense. There is more that could be said, but this represents the most memorable aspects of his life as a young man and student as I recall."

the Idens feel sure that Bob didn't see them. They recall the car ahead of the limousine stopped and the secret service men came back and got on the main car. The Idens were interested in seeing what was going on and "felt so much a part of it!"

"It shows Bob is undoubtedly the type of person to get along, that Ford picked him," the Idens declared. "We watched Bob down on the floor in the national House of Representatives," said Tom Iden. "He's a politician's politician. He has willingness and eagerness to attack any problem. He could see our point of view, no matter what the problem."

"He was a man of smiles on the street," said Mrs. Iden, "with his arm supported at an extended angle. Any of us who lived here can remember seeing him walking with his arm in this frame. We never did hear him complain."

Mr. Iden has a book of the graduates' list for each class. There was no 1941 yearbook. In Bob Dole's class a few of the classmates were Ralph Resley at the Post Office, John Brown of Gorham, Dean Banker, Mrs. Frances Brooks Dawson, Mrs. Edgar Grass and Carl Rein.

Mrs. Iden recalled that as Robin's teacher she was a casual visitor in the Bob Dole home. The Idens attended a reception for Bob and Phyllis when they were bride and groom. "Phyllis is a fine person," said Mrs. Iden. "She has been able to help Bob by letting him do for himself. She is a capable, fine person and highly respected by Bob's family."

"When the Doles were here they were good parents to their daughter. She was not spoiled and is well-balanced in personality and disposition. Bob and Phyllis had been married a number of years and had adoption papers out when they learned they would have Robin. She was born in Russell."

Harold Elliott had praised Irvin "Jack" Luthi for his tremendous influence on students — "head and shoulders above anyone else" in the way he could bring out students' ability. Luthi was speech instructor and debate coach, assistant principal under Tom Iden and when Mr. Iden became superintendent Luthi became principal. But Mr. Iden felt that the influence of the coaches was more definite, as Bob never debated.

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