

102. 1976

p. 105

50 Pages

Saturday, October 16, 1976 Hutchinson, Kansas



...was a good toe-to-toe

HOUSTON (UPI) — Robert Dole said Friday the Democrats have no issue but to "kick Richard Nixon around" and Walter Mondale called Dole a Republican "hatchet man" in a vice presidential debate that started gently but grew rough and personal.

In a classic conservative vs. liberal showdown, Dole accused Jimmy Carter's Democrats of being the big-spending, labor-dominated party of war, and Mondale called Gerald Ford's Republicans the leaderless, tight-fisted party responsible for "record unemployment" and "runaway inflation."

The first vice presidential debate in U.S. history started as smooth and clubby as a Senate debate, but feelings grew ruffled and words sharp during the 75 minutes encounter in Houston's Alley Theatre.

Dole, peppering his commentary with sarcastic jabs at Carter and Mondale, brought up Carter's personal income tax deductions, said his controversial Playboy magazine interview would give him "the bunny vote" and suggested AFL-CIO president George Meany has the Democrats under his control.

Mondale said Ford and Dole had both attempted to shut off the Watergate investigations and defended Nixon to the bitter end, accused Ford of betraying American values in foreign policy, fighting tax reforms that would benefit middle income citizens and leading the nation into the worst unemployment "since the great depression."

One exchange near the end of the clash typified the ran- cor that developed between the two senators who had begun by calling each other "my friend."

Dole, the Kansas Republican, conceded that Watergate and the Nixon pardon was an "appropriate topic, I guess — but it's not a very good issue, any more than the Vietnam war would be, or World War II or World War I or the Korean War. All Democrat wars!"

He was suggesting those wars were part of the past just as Watergate "is behind us," and added: "I know that it's an appropriate tactic to kick Richard Nixon around. Let them play that game. It's the only game they have."

Mondale seemed stunned and answered angrily. "I think Sen. Dole has richly earned his reputation as a Republican hatchet man tonight by suggesting the Korean War and World War II were Democratic wars," the Minnesota Democrat said.

"Does he seriously suggest that the decision to fight Nazism was a partisan decision?"

He said he and Carter were not suggesting Ford and Dole were personally responsible for Watergate, but that "they defended Richard Nixon to the last."

Between barbs and borderline insults — many of them oneliners fired by Dole at Carter — the two men spent much of the time outlining their general philosophies of political leadership.

Dole, in his closing statement hit again at the alleged spenderism of the Democrats, asking viewers to decide "which candidate wants bigger and bigger government? Which candidate wants more spending ... and more interference."

"They don't care about inflation, the cruellest tax of

all," he said, and called Ford a man of "unparalleled decency, honesty and courage."

Mondale, in his parting words, emphasized Carter's theme of morality in government, leadership competence and the state of the economy.

"We believe that we need a government that works," he said. "We also need a government that cares ..."

"For eight years, Republicans have controlled government," he said. Citing unemployment and inflation statistics, he added, "and every one of those problems has gotten worse. They are defending the past."

After the debate — third in the presidential campaign series — Mondale claimed victory and Dole got a congratulatory call from Ford, who told him "you did great ... You hit hard but hit fairly."

One of the hardest-hitting exchanges concerned the subject of tax reform, with Mondale claiming a Carter administration would close loopholes that benefit the rich and institute reforms that would help middle income earners — carefully stating Carter meant to raise taxes only for those who make \$50,000 or more a year.

"Sen. Dole," he said, "probably has the worst record in favor of tax loopholes (for the rich) in the history of the Senate," and Ford in the House.

"I think Sen. Mondale's a little nervous," Dole said sardonically in response — and turned the subject to Carter's personal tax deductions.

He said that Carter, in 1975, reduced a \$58,000 tax liability to only \$17,000 by taking an investment tax credit for "some peanut machinery."

"This is the same man who is running around the country talking about tax reforms!"

On other issues, the candidates said:

Dole as vice president: Dole said Ford has indicated he would have special duties dealing with agricultural policies and accounting for Americans missing in action in

Asia. Mondale said Carter might give him responsibility in the fields of reorganizing the federal government and dealing with economic problems such as unemployment and inflation.

Henry Kissinger: Dole supported the secretary of state because of "what he has done for America and done for the free world," listing the breakthrough with China, easing tensions with the Soviet Union, ending the Vietnam War and recent efforts to solve the southern African crisis.

Mondale said foreign policy should be "the responsibility of the President ... That's where I think the key difference between the two parties lies."

East Europe: Calling Ford's statement "probably one of the most outrageous statements made by a president in recent history," Mondale said the Democrats would deal with each country there directly and not through the Soviet Union, press for more people-to-people contacts and honor the people from Eastern Europe — like Alexander Solzhenitsyn — who stand as "symbols" of independence.

Dole conceded Ford's remark on lack of Soviet domination was "a mistake."

The next and last campaign debate takes place between Ford and Carter.

They finally selected a maroon tie and a red and blue patterned tie. The total bill was \$31.50, paid for in cash by Mrs. Dole. Of course, the two ties were 100 per cent silk, a sales girl noted.

"If we don't win, we'll bring one back," Dole replied.

The Doles, their shopping completed, turned to greet store customers and gradually make their way to the front.

Near the entrance, a store mannequin modeled the latest fall fashions. As Dole worked his way toward the store front, a local Texas Republican whispered, "don't shake hands with the mannequin." Dole didn't and he was on his way back to the hotel where he prepared for the vice presidential debate, at that time only a few hours away.

Dole's audio test could have been a strain, too, since he has a bad head cold. Dole told reporters he had taken a lot of medicine.

His hometown folks sent him greetings Friday. Dave Owen, former Kansas lieutenant governor and Dole's campaign manager, made a point to unroll the telegram greeting before network television cameras.

The telegram, signed by a reported 700 persons, was from Russ Townsley, editor of the Russell Daily News.

"Tell it like it is, Bob," the telegram said. Dole dutifully read it for the cameras. The telegram also read, "We join all Kansans and all Republicans in wishing you well."

Everyone aside from the "peanut shell Democrats" will side with the Republican ticket, the telegram said. Dole noted that Townsley is a personal friend and a Republican.

Dole underwent almost an hour's preparation at the debate site, the Alley Theatre, making technical preparations for the debate. The preparations required makeup, and a lengthy stand before the television cameras and lights in a mock-up for the debate.

Dole, Mondale in spirited debate

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — Vice-presidential rivals Walter Mondale and Bob Dole snapped at each other on government spending, Eastern Europe and restoration of public faith in a debate that brought their campaign, one-liners and all, into the nation's living rooms Friday night.

Sometimes-nasty jabs at the opposition punctuated a recital of familiar campaign positions by both men, who essentially were stand-ins for their ticket leaders.

Mondale accused President Ford of "one of the most outrageous statements ever made by a president in recent history" when Ford said in the last presidential debate that Poland was free of Soviet domination.

Dole repeatedly said he didn't know

what Jimmy Carter stood for, claiming "Carter has three positions on everything; that's why they're having three debates."

They most frequently turned to economic arguments, Dole attacking Mondale as a free spender and the Democrat ticking off needs he said Republicans aren't meeting.

Though their delivery was quiet, almost informal, one-line barbs flew back and forth throughout the 78-minute nationally broadcast event, which ran three minutes longer than scheduled.

For example: Dole: "I couldn't understand why Gov. Carter was in Playboy magazine. But he was. We'll give him the bunny vote."

Mondale: "I think Sen. Dole has richly earned his reputation as a hatchet man tonight by saying World War II and the Korean War were Democratic wars."

Dole: "I just wish Gov. Carter had a foreign policy. He doesn't have any."

Mondale: "Sen. Dole has probably the worst record on supporting tax loopholes" in the Senate.

After the debate, Mondale said "I feel good about it," adding that he thought Dole had spoken in "negative terms," avoided substantive answers and looked backward.

Carter telephoned Mondale to tell him he was proud of his performance. "You didn't get small, you didn't get mean, you didn't get twisted in your approach."

President Ford called Dole from Ford's hotel in Joliet, Ill., and told his running mate: "You were superb, you were confident. You hit hard, but hit fairly. You thought of a lot of very effective points."

Dole said he thought he had won the debate and declared: "I thought we'd have tougher questions." He said Ford told him "I did a great job." Dole said he got a similar call from Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller.

The Republican candidate said he started getting bored near the end of the debate, especially "when Sen. Mondale was talking."

But Carter told his running mate on the telephone: "Fritz, you did great, man." He told Mondale that the most difficult decision of his life after

deciding whom to marry was choosing a running mate. "I've never been so sure as tonight (that) I made the right choice. I was really proud of you."

Carter added, "I showed tonight you're completely qualified to be President. I'm just glad I'm not running against you."

Democratic national chairman Robert Strauss said "Dole's performance tonight probably did President Ford and the Republican Party a great disservice."

Mondale stood straight at his lectern, often gesturing sharply with his right hand.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Fourth Kansas Poll to appear Sunday

Findings of The Capital-Journal Kansas Poll will be published Sunday, measuring voter preferences in the presidential, 2nd District Congress and state treasurer's races.

Sunday's poll will be the fourth of five Kansas Polls, showing in terms of voter preference, just how these three races are shaping up.

The Kansas Polls commissioned by The Capital-Journal have earned a reputation for bull's eye accuracy in the last two elections.

Dole, Mondale in spirited debate

(Continued from Page 1)
arm. Dole leaned on his left arm much of the time, adopting a relaxed air and even observing at the start that "tonight may be sort of a fun evening."

By the end, he was referring to the home audience as "all those in the viewing audience who may still be with us."

Though Dole said the two senators would be friends after the debate and after the election, their acrimony rose to its zenith when Dole ticked off a list of the century's wars, the number of casualties from the fighting and blamed them on the Democrats.

Moments later, Mondale, obviously angry, shot back a question: Wouldn't the Republicans have fought the Nazis in World War II?

Mondale also publicized his 100 per cent approval rating by the League of Women Voters, sponsors of the debate, and said Dole had battled only 50 per cent. Dole suggested perhaps the League was wrong on some of its stands, drawing a murmur from the crowd of League members who had been instructed to show no reaction during the debate.

Dole defended the policies of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, saying "no one's being drafted; no one's going off to war; no one's being shot at; no one's being buried; not a single shot is being fired in anger."

Asked how Democratic foreign policy would differ from the Republicans' in Eastern Europe, Mondale said it would not deal with that region as a bloc, but with each country individually.

In low-key exchanges punctuated occasionally by Republican Dole's

sardonic one-liners, Mondale accused the administration of responsibility for economic woes, and Dole branded Mondale as the Senate's most liberal member who votes "for every piece of spending legislation that comes down the pike."

Democrat Mondale said Jimmy Carter and he can restore the faith of the public "by telling the truth, obeying the law, seeing things as they really are."

But Dole said faith in the nation's political system would be better restored if politicians don't "promise what we can't deliver."

In a reference to Carter, the Kansas senator said "some of those who lust for power are not really concerned about the people." His Minnesota senate colleague countered that Carter shows he "really has faith in the people" by campaigning more than Ford and by disclosing his income tax returns.

Again and again in the domestic issues segment of the first nationally broadcast debate between vice presidential candidates, Dole and Mondale returned to the basic economic theme of social needs versus budget trimming. Mondale said that under the Ford administration the country had moved to the verge of "raging inflation."

Dole led off their debate, staged in the Alley Theatre. In his two-minute opening statement, Dole called Mondale "one of the most liberal members of the U.S. Senate" and said he had a record of "voting for every inflationary

spending program except defense."

Mondale said he and Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter would give the nation a "government that works."

"The Republican ticket," he added "is engaged in a frantic effort to defend the past."

Dole repeatedly referred to what he called Carter's "lust for power."

At the start of his opening statement, the Kansas Republican said, "I don't know much about Gov. Carter. I know he's very ambitious. I know he wants to be President."

Dole touched immediately on inflation, saying the only instances in which Mondale has not voted to increase it have been "in national defense, where he's voted for every cut."

In contrast to Dole's conversational approach, Mondale took his two-minute opening statement to outline the familiar Democratic campaign approach. This country "needs an economy that works. The economy today is in very bad shape," Mondale said.

Instead of leadership, he went on, the Republican administration is "making a frantic effort to defend the past."

In the hours before the debate, Mondale played tennis while Dole nursed a cold. Both men visited the Alley Theatre where they checked out the cameras and microphones.

The stage setting is the same as that used in the two encounters between ticket leaders Jimmy Carter and President Ford.

Topeka Daily Capital
Saturday, October 16, 1976 3

Colorful tie sends Dole on quick shopping spree

By KEN PETERSON
Staff Writer

HOUSTON — Sen. Bob Dole met show biz Friday.

Show business, you see, is part of a nationally televised debate. It requires audio and visual tests in front of color television cameras and sound equipment. It requires the proper appearance.

At the risk of sounding unkind, Dole flunked his visual test. The light red-

dish and tan patterned tie he wore for the tests raised havoc with the television cameras. The Republican vice presidential candidate hardly could appear on nationwide television with a tie that clashed with viewers' screens.

So Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, took a stop-and-start motorcade through downtown Houston traffic to find a tie that would match his dark blue suit and soften his impact on the tube.

The motorcade stopped at the Sakowitz, an exclusive department store where Dole and his entourage shopped for ties. They were greeted by Robert Sakowitz, president of the corporation, who helped in the selection.

Dole, who didn't seem particularly interested in finding a tie, and Elizabeth, who did, sorted through various tie selections. Mrs. Dole asked the vice presidential candidate what kind of tie he wanted.

"Whatever you can afford," Dole said.

They finally selected a maroon tie and a red and blue patterned tie. The total bill was \$31.50, paid for in cash by Mrs. Dole. Of course, the two ties were 100 per cent silk, a sales girl noted.

"If we don't win, we'll bring one back," Dole replied.

The Doles, their shopping completed, turned to greet store customers and gradually make their way to the front.

Near the entrance, a store mannequin modeled the latest fall fashions. As Dole worked his way toward the store front, a local Texas Republican whispered, "don't shake hands with the mannequin." Dole didn't and he was on his way back to the hotel where he prepared for the vice presidential debate, at that time only a few hours away.

Dole's audio test could have been a strain, too, since he has a bad head cold. Dole told reporters he had taken a lot of medicine.

His hometown folks sent him greetings Friday. Dave Owen, former Kansas lieutenant governor and Dole's campaign manager, made a point to unroll the telegram greeting before network television cameras.

The telegram, signed by a reported 700 persons, was from Russ Townsley, editor of the Russell Daily News.

"Tell it like it is, Bob," the telegram said. Dole dutifully read it for the cameras. The telegram also read, "We join all Kansans and all Republicans in wishing you well."

Everyone aside from the "peanut shell Democrats" will side with the Republican ticket, the telegram said. Dole noted that Townsley is a personal friend and a Republican.

Dole underwent almost an hour's preparation at the debate site, the Alley Theatre, making technical preparations for the debate. The preparations required makeup, and a lengthy stand before the television cameras and lights in a mock-up for the debate.