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Commentary

HURON NEWS 10-17-76

Ford steps up attack

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford has turned more aggressive in the closing days of the 1976 campaign.

Ford's stepped up attack, both in words and in presidential activities that many observers feel are politically motivated, comes at a time when Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter has been advised to tone down his attack.

Both candidates have become harshly personal, focusing on differences between themselves perhaps even more than on differences over issues.

On Saturday, Carter sent Ford a telegram demanding that the President stop making "misleading and erroneous" claims about him. Ford fired back a reply saying he didn't know whether Carter was repudiating previous positions or denying he took them in the first place.

Ford also has started adopting some of GOP running mate Robert Dole's words and style, including the charge that Carter would "say anything anywhere to get elected" and that he "wanders, wavers, wiggles and waffles" on the issues.

Most observers agree Carter triumphed over Ford in the last debate when, as one wag put it, Ford "freed Poland."

The President's comment that Eastern Europe was not Soviet-dominated threw his campaign for a loop. Carter, riding a campaign crest, said Ford had been "brain-washed" during a visit to Poland and his remarks were "a disgrace."

It took six days for Ford to admit his mistake. But that move, when it came, was the better part of valor and got him back on the track.

To recoup, Ford made a series of rapid fire decisions

carrying overtones of pure politics even though he "categorically denied" such motives.

Apparently trying to boost his standing with Jewish voters, Ford secretly approved the sale to Israel of four advanced items — including some not yet even developed — from the U.S. defense arsenal.

In doing so he bypassed the State Department and Defense Department, which had questioned Israel's shopping list.

Ford said he acted as "commander in chief." He indicated that his secrecy — the arms package was first announced in Tel Aviv — was designed to avoid "leaks," something which struck observers as being reminiscent of the Nixon and Johnson years.

Ford also issued an executive order approving a 50 percent increase in wheat price supports even though Agriculture Department experts said there was no economic justification for the hike.

A couple of days later, on the hustings in the Iowa Farm Belt, he accused Carter of wanting the government to "meddle" in farmer's affairs.

The President's fortunes rose considerably when Special Prosecutor Charles Ruff cleared him of any financial wrongdoing in his past congressional campaigns. He held the first presidential news conference televised by all the networks since February and showed himself to have new confidence.

Ford and his strategists feel he has turned the corner again in a campaign marked by ups and downs and no clear path to victory for either candidate.

For the next few days Ford will conduct a White House and Rose Garden campaign, preparing for his final debate showdown with Carter in Williamsburg, Va.

FAMILY CIRCUS

The Journal's Page of Opinion

"The Great Debate"

The Salina Journal, Sunday, October 17, 1976

Bob Dole was as witty and caustic as ever. Walter Mondale looked like a wooden puppet, but an articulate and forceful speaker than the 2 masters they serve, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Those were the principal observations to be gained from Friday night's debate.

Dole and Mondale did a better job of delineating the differences between the 2 main candidates than Ford and Carter have done. And they didn't hesitate to take some sharp swipes at each other.

But, as far as meat-and-potatoes substance is concerned, there wasn't much. That, however, wasn't the fault of the candidates. The fault was in the debate format — the same as in the 2 Ford-Carter

debates — which didn't allow a questioning reporter to pursue a subject and nail his target down, thus permitting the candidates to slip glibly away from tough answers.

Mondale, like Carter, was vague on how in the world a Democratic regime could whip the inflation, unemployment and tax reform problems while simultaneously achieving a balanced budget.

Dole, aggressive and seemingly confident during most of the debate, appeared uncertain in his answers to the customary Mondale allusions to Watergate and overstated his inference that the Democrats played a part in causing World War 2 and the Korean war.

Who "won"? This department gives first prize to Dole. But the margin wasn't great.

SAL JRNAL 10-17-76

Dole's KU visit highlighted otherwise sad Homecoming

By DEAN HINNEN
Kansas Correspondent
LAWRENCE (HNS) — Officially, Saturday was Homecoming on the University of Kansas campus. Unofficially, it was Bob Dole day.

For many, Dole's visit, on the heels of Friday night's vice presidential debate, was a Jayhawk victory at an otherwise disastrous homecoming. Dole, still nursing a sore throat, tossed the coin at opening ceremonies and then watched most of KU's 28-10 loss to Oklahoma. He missed the early minutes of the second half and didn't see the play on which quarterback Nolan Cromwell was injured.

Everywhere Dole went on the KU campus there were old friends to greet him. He visited with former classmates and other friends, shook hands with hundreds of Kansans and signed autographs for others. He also visited the fraternity house where he waited tables more than 30 years ago, and was honored at a reception in the KU Union.

From the moment his limousine arrived at Memorial Stadium until he left the campus more than four hours later, Dole was besieged by Kansans who either knew him or wanted to. He was relaxed and appeared to be enjoying both the game and the return to his old school. Although he campaigned for Rep. Garner Shriver in Wichita in the morning and put in a plug for Rep. Larry Winn at the KU reception, most of Saturday's activities were basically non-political — if anything a national candidate does can be non-political.

Everywhere he went he was congratulated for his performance in the Friday debate, but told Olathe attorney Gene Balloun, "You're the debater, you should have been there. I've never debated in my life."

Balloun, who succeeded Dole as Russell County attorney in 1961 and then

practiced law in Great Bend before moving to Olathe four years ago, laughed and changed the subject.

"We've known Bob Dole for a long time," said Balloun's wife, Pat. "We were at KU together and then were in Russell when he was there. We're just so pleased that he's doing such a great job. I think he is fulfilling a lifetime ambition — it's great to see somebody do that."

"Win or lose, Bob Dole is a successful person," Mrs. Balloun added.

She wasn't the only one to mention losing. Dole, who rarely talks about anything but winning when he's campaigning, joked about the subject in his appearance at Kappa Sigma fraternity.

"Do I get to keep the it?" he asked, after receiving a scrapbook that had been kept by 1941 Kappa Sigma president Merrill Jones. "Yes, you do," Jones replied. "Even if I lose?" Dole quipped.

The scrapbook, of the 1941-42 school year at KU, included a picture of Dole winning an intramural race and other highlights of the first of two years he spent at KU. Dole is not a KU grad. He interrupted his education to join the Army and completed his degree requirements at Washburn University in Topeka.

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The Salina Journal, Sunday, October 17, 1976

In the Great Veep Debate

Bob and Fritz trade charges



HOUSTON (UPI) — In a battle that began gently, but grew rough and sarcastic, Robert Dole charged the Democrats with favoring a big spending, labor dominated government, while Walter Mondale attacked the "incompetent" Republican administration of high inflation and high unemployment.

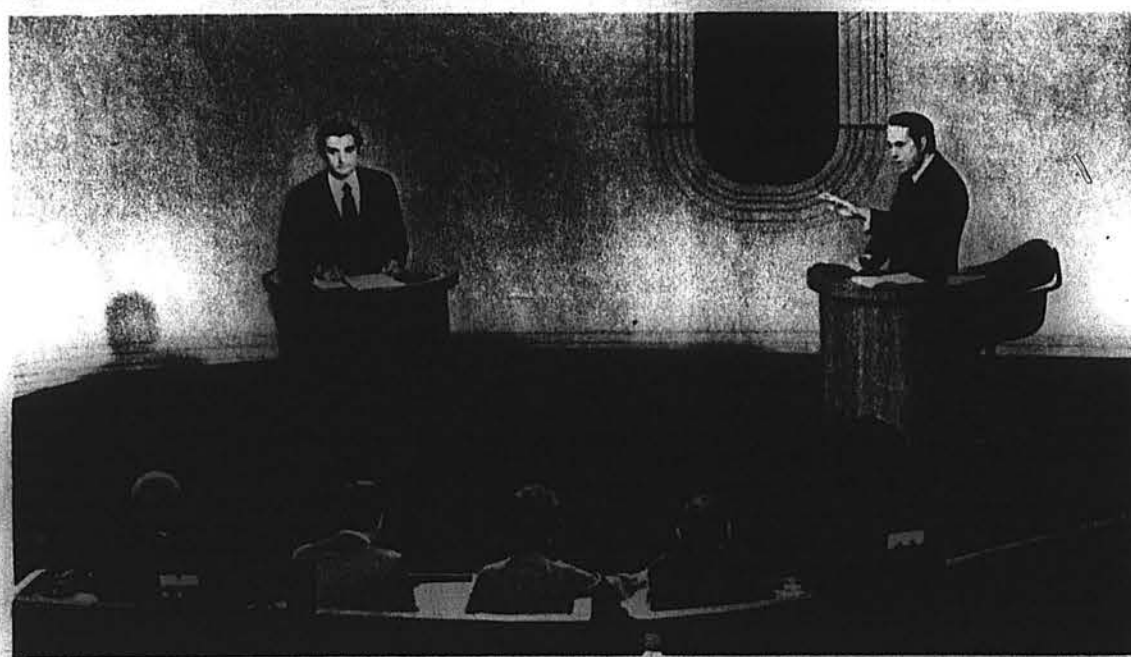
The two senators running for vice president tangled in a classic conservative-liberal confrontation Friday night in Houston's Alley Theatre, spending as much time on personal attacks as on the issues in the presidential campaign.

Mondale said later that "humility" compelled him to say he won the 75-minute debate, while John Connally declared Dole the winner. Dole said the Texan's statement saved him the trouble of saying it himself.

Ford called Dole right after the confrontation, and told him: "You did great ... you've done a fine job ... you hit hard but fairly."

Jimmy Carter telephoned Mondale and said: "You didn't get small, you didn't get mean, you didn't get twisted in your approach, you're a brave man."

Mondale and Dole began the first vice presidential candidate debate in history describing each other as "my friend." But soon the friendly exchanges were replaced with sarcastic jabs, with Dole taking the role of the aggressor.



Behind the lecturns

Sens. Walter Mondale (left) and Robert Dole face questioners in

debate between 2 candidates for vice-president. (UPI Photo)

"I think Senator Dole has richly earned his reputation as a hatchet man tonight," Mondale said as Dole launched a vitriolic attack on Carter's fuzziness on the issues, taking a \$41,000 tax deduction for business machinery, and the controversial Playboy magazine interview.

And he suggested the Democrats were under the control of AFL-CIO

president George Meany.

Mondale's approach was more restrained, and emphasized Carter's main theme of turning the economy around by lowering unemployment and inflation. But he got in his shots at Dole and Ford for not releasing their income tax returns, having "probably the worst records in Congress," favoring tax loopholes for the rich and for

voting against Medicaid.

Mondale said that both Ford and Dole attempted to head off the Watergate investigation and tried to defend Richard Nixon "to the end." Dole shot back that the only issues the Democrats could find in the campaign was to "kick Richard Nixon around."

Then he added if his opponents wanted to drag up old issues like Watergate, he would recall "Democrat wars" — two World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam, which killed 1.6 million people — enough people "to fill the City of Detroit."

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

"We need government that works and government that cares — our government cries out for leadership," he said. "The Republicans have had eight years to solve these problems and the problems have gotten worse."

Lust for power

Dole said: "Some of those who lust for power are not really interested in

the people," and a Democratic administration would mean bigger government, higher taxes "more and more spending."

He praised Ford's "unparalleled decency, honesty and courage," and the "yeoman service" of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in detente with Russia, establishing relations with China and more recently in South Africa.

In attacking Carter, Dole peppered his speech with statements like: "I

don't know much about Carter, I've been trying to find out. I couldn't understand why Governor Carter was in Playboy — but we'll concede him the bunny vote."

Mondale noted that Ford was never elected to the presidency, but appointed, and hammered at the President's comment that Eastern Europe was not under Soviet domination — a statement he called "probably the most outrageous made by an American president in recent history."



"Let me be the first..."

Sen. Bob Dole (left) gets congratulations from wife, Mary Elizabeth, (center) and Mr. and

Mrs. John Connally following debate. (UPI Photo)

Both sides claim victory

By United Press International "Humility" compelled Walter Mondale to declare himself the winner of Friday night's debate. John Connally proclaimed Bob Dole the victor — which Dole said saved him the trouble.

Mondale, leaving the Alley Theatre afterward, told reporters he thought his 75-minute set-to showed viewers the clear difference between the Jimmy Carter-Mondale ticket and that of President Ford and Dole.

"Humility requires me to say that I won," the Democratic vice presidential candidate said.

Dole, taking a congratulatory telephone call from Ford immediately after the debate, said John Connally, the former Treasury secretary, was with him in Houston and declared Dole the winner. "If he didn't, I would have," the Kansas senator said.

In his telephone call, Ford told Dole, "You did great ... you've done a fine job ... You hit hard but fairly."

"Bob, you did great," said Ford, "and Betty and I are very, very grateful for this anniversary present."

Dole thanked the President and mentioned he had a cold, "but I guess my voice held out."