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Designated hitters get their turn on debate stage

By JOAN HANAUER
UPI Television Writer
NEW YORK (UPI) — Watching Walter Mondale and Robert Dole trade verbal punches in the first televised vice presidential debate in the brief history of the sport was like watching a pair of preliminary boys put on a better fight than the heavyweight contenders.

For openers, both vice presidential candidates have the knack of speaking in complete sentences, which made it much easier to understand what they were saying.

Both senators devoted at least part of each answer to the question asked, which also was a departure from the presidential debates, in which the candidates tended to give the speeches they were prepared to offer, regardless of what was asked.

They even got a bit rough with each

other, which certainly makes for a better fight. They also acknowledged each other's presence on the Houston stage. That's in contrast to the presidential candidates, who sometimes give the impression they are debating from separate cities.

The answers they gave made it obvious that each man was representing his sponsor, not charting new ground. If either man was prepared to speak out in opposition to his principal when principle demanded, as each solemnly promised he was, neither was about to begin on national television.

As was to be expected from their advance notices, Mondale was Mr. Sincere while Dole was quick with a quip, as when he conceded the bunny vote to Jimmy Carter in a crack alluding to the Playboy interview.

On the other hand, he led with his jaw when he dared Mondale to tell the audience what Carter stood for. That

was all the opening Mondale needed to give a brief but effective Carter campaign speech.

Few surprises

There were few surprises. In positions that go back generations, both men stood flailing away in their parties' traditional postures, with the Democrat hitting the Republican on economic issues while the Republican went back as far as World War I to link the Democrats with war.

They also repeated the Ford-Carter employment-unemployment hat trick. Mondale, like Carter, cites the accurate and depressing figures on unemployment, while Dole, like President Ford, quotes the more encouraging and equally accurate figures on employment. Which only proves the Devil can quote statistics.

Who won the debate? Without doubt the Democrats will call it for Mondale, and the Republicans for Dole. As for the independents, anyone who can figure out their choice in this campaign will be a big winner of election day bets.

Dole master of one-liner

HOUSTON (UPI) — Robert Dole backed his reputation for a quick wit and a sharp tongue with some tart words Friday night.

"I think tonight may be a sort of fun evening," said the Republican senator from Kansas as he opened the televised vice presidential debate with Democrat Walter Mondale.

Then he fired such barbs as:

"I couldn't quite understand what Governor Carter meant in Playboy Magazine. I couldn't understand, frankly, why he was in Playboy magazine. But he was, and we'll give him the bunny vote."

"I'm glad you (Mondale) mentioned Ford Motor Co. not paying any taxes... Henry Ford happens to be supporting Governor Carter. Maybe that's why."

"I think Sen. Mondale is a little nervous... every time I think of a (tax) loophole, I think of Governor Carter."

Noting that Mondale had been appointed attorney general of Minnesota and to the Senate to fill the unexpired term of then-vice president Hubert Humphrey, he said: "Some of us had to run for what we have... When you get things given to you, you like to give something else to someone else." He did not note that Mondale subsequently won election to both posts.

Finally, near the end of the debate when Dole intimated that 1.6 million American dead in both World Wars and in Korea had been caused by Democratic administrations, Mondale fired back:

"I think Senator Dole has richly earned his reputation as a hatchet man tonight."

LWV becomes debate issue

HOUSTON (UPI) — The League of Women Voters, sponsors of the debate, became part of the argument Friday when Walter Mondale cited their ratings of his voting record and Robert Dole said the League was a bit liberal for his tastes.

Dole had said, as he has in the past, that Mondale was the most liberal senator in Congress and as such had voted consistently with labor organizations.

Mondale replied that not only did he have a high rating with labor, he had one for small business, farming, good

housing, health, education, education and economic management.

In each of the five years, Mondale said, he received a 100 per cent rating from the League, on every issue they thought were the most important. "My opponent," Mondale said, "was wrong half the time" and President Ford was "right only 35 per cent of the time" in the League ratings.

Dole retorted that also could be interpreted as him having been right half the time and the League wrong half the time.

"Vintage Dole" says old foe

By DEAN HINNEN
Kansas Correspondent
TOPEKA (HNS) — It lacked the "sparks" of a Senate campaign debate two years ago, but Sen. Bob Dole's performance Friday night in his vice presidential debate against Sen. Walter Mondale "was vintage Dole," according to Dr. Bill Roy.

Roy should know. He was the Democratic candidate for Dole's Senate seat in 1974 and battled Dole in a no-holds-barred debate at the Kansas State Fair.

"I thought Sen. Dole, as far as his debating style and manner, did a very

good job. As far as content, it was vintage Dole, defending positions very well and often defending them by attacking the position of the other person. He didn't mention a single positive thing."

Roy said in a telephone interview from Albuquerque, N.M.

"Dole did very well. He did a better job than I thought he was capable of doing," Roy continued.

"I found Dole more entertaining, but Mondale, I thought, did a tremendous job on the issues — I think he laid out what this campaign is about," said the former Congressman who barely lost to Dole in 1974.



The Mondale clan

Sen. Walter Mondale is surrounded by his family after debate. Wife, Elizabeth, (left) is joined by children, Bill, Eleanor and Teddy. (UPI Photo)

Veep candidates trade barbs

Dole — 'Hang onto wallet'

By United Press International

Walter Mondale and Robert Dole, the vice presidential candidates who debated face-to-face Friday night, traded barbs in separate appearances Sunday on whose party is ruining the economy.

Both President Ford and Jimmy Carter stayed close to home.

Ford, after attending church across from the White House, met with a Cabinet-level task force to discuss urban policy. Carter

attended the Plains, Ga., Baptist church and later issued a statement condemning Ford for coming under the influence of industry lobbyists.

Carter's campaign headquarters also released a long, previously undisclosed list of contributors to the Georgia's 1970 gubernatorial campaign. It showed about 5,000 donations totaling almost \$700,000, with far more support from corporations than from organized labor. Corporate donations were legal in Georgia.

A UPI tabulation showed most of the contributions from all sources were \$100 or less.

Republican Dole, standing in the pulpit of the Colonial Congregational Church in Kansas City, Mo., where he was invited to answer questions, said:

"I'm convinced that we will have a Democratic Congress, and if you turn over to Governor Carter the White House and have a liberal Democratic Congress like they have now, then I say to the taxpayer you better hang onto your wallet."

Dole, replying to a question from the audience in the church, said if Ford had not vetoed many bills the nation would have a \$65 billion or \$75 billion budget deficit.

Democrat Mondale, appearing on CBS' Face the Nation, said:

"This administration has applied the wrong remedy for inflation. They assume inflation results from excess demand — too many dollars chasing too few goods... and that's wrong."

Using unemployment to cure inflation, he said, "is sort of like going to the doctor with a broken leg and getting chemotherapy to treat cancer. They have pursued a policy of massive unemployment to dampen down demand."

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"An intelligent economic policy requires an all-out effort to put people back to work," Mondale said.

Mondale also said — and Carter backed him up in a statement from Plains, Ga. — that "what we do need is a selective jawboning policy just like John Kennedy in the 1960s stood up to the steel industry when it was trying to rip off the American people and said: 'Now you keep those prices in line so we can have price stability.'"

Carter said: "Large companies have taken advantage of their oligopolistic position, confident that a president who listens to their lobbyists will let them get away with it." He apparently was referring to Ford having gone on golf outings at the expense of U.S. Steel and its chief lobbyist, William Whyte.

Alluding to Kennedy's showdown with the steel firms, Carter said: "We Democrats recall that a president

who cares about inflation must stand up to concentrated centers of market power."

Mondale went from Chicago to Rockford, Ill., to denounce Ford and Dole's farm record and then traveled to Wichita. Dole met with Missouri farmers in a suburb of Kansas City before heading to Iowa.

Mondale said Dole supported a Nixon administration move to abolish the Agriculture Department and incorporate it into a super-agency. He also said Ford's decisions to raise wheat price supports and impose beef import quotas last week was an "election eve gimmick" to win farm support.

Several polls this weekend provided good news for Carter.

A Gallup Poll taken after the presidential foreign policy debate showed that by a 5-to-3 margin, Carter was thought to have done the better job. An NBC telephone poll showed Carter leading 42 to 38 per cent with 19 per cent undecided.

10A THE WICHITA EAGLE AND BEACON Sunday, October 17, 1976

Sen. Dole's Style Credited to Russell Influence

By TIM KIDD
Staff Writer

RUSSELL, Kan. — Bob Dole's home town friends who watched Friday night's vice-presidential debate praised Dole for his performance and credited his sharp tongue largely to their influence.

As Mayor Roger Williams put it Saturday, people in this western Kansas town "try to tell things like they are." Further, said Williams, "In the telegram we sent to Dole, we told him to be himself."

More than 450 Russell residents signed the telegram shortly before the debate urging Dole to "tell it like it is" and saying: "We are confident that in tonight's talk, the independents and all but the peanut-shelled Democrats will come to know you as well as we do."

Russell residents later watched and listened approvingly as Dole thanked his "many friends in Russell, Kan., for that telegram," before a television audience he estimated at 85 million persons.

Although there was disagreement nationally about who won the debate, viewers in Russell proclaimed Dole the victor. Almost in the same breath, they admitted their bias.

"We certainly like him," said Williams. "Dole was ready for anything that came along. He was real composed. He wasn't nervous. Everyone that I've talked to felt good about the debate."

Williams said Dole's opponent, Sen. Walter Mondale, appeared "a little scared maybe of what was going to be said... I'm prejudiced, though."

The debate and a high school homecoming football game made Friday probably the busiest day in Russell since the Friday eight weeks earlier, when Dole and President Ford dropped in immediately after the Republican convention in Kansas City.

A sizable crowd attended the homecoming game in which the Russell Broncos beat the Lyons Lions 28-7, but many townspeople gathered instead around their televisions for the debate.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Dummer, Friday night bridge games yielded to the debate as the 10 persons present centered their attention on the televised image of their old friend Bob.

Members of the group urged Dole to "get him" when it came time for Dole to respond to Mondale. And they said things like "Wow!" as Dole finished his verbal attacks.

And when Dole was lambasting Carter for Carter's interview with

Playboy — "We'll give him the bunny vote" — the room filled with laughter.

"I didn't know this was going to be comedy hour," said Faith Dummer after Mondale bragged about his voting record on taxes.

Other in the group called Mondale's remarks "a canned political speech," and Dick Shields called one Mondale answer "a cop-out."

There was some concern, however, about the severity of some of Dole's verbal jabs.

"Sometimes I wish Bob wouldn't be so barby, really," said Faith Dummer. Darrell Haynes, another debate watcher, said he believed "old Robert took kind of a gut shot at him a time or two."

In the debate Mondale had said, "I

think Sen. Dole has earned his reputation as a hatchet man tonight."

Nevertheless, the consensus in Russell appeared to be that Dole uses his wit to get attention, not to be malicious, and that straight talk is a

tradition in this agricultural community.

"I don't think Bob's a hatchet man," said Shields. But "I think he expressed what he really meant tonight."

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We'll Counter 'Gate Talk, Dole Says After Debate

By AL POLCZINSKI
Political Writer

Fresh from the first debate between vice presidential candidates, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole said on his arrival in Wichita Saturday the important issue was how the American viewer judged the candidates.

Dole said he thought he won the Friday night debate in Houston but added that he woke up at 4:30 a.m. Saturday and couldn't go back to sleep.

"I thought of all those things I could have said, but I assume Sen. Mondale woke up early, too," the senator told newsmen at a brief airport news conference.

THE ONLY THING he would not do if he had another debate is "study so hard," Dole said, adding, "There were a lot of things I knew that I didn't get to say."

Dole told about 300 Republicans at a Canterbury Inn rally for Rep. Garner Shriver, 4th District Republican, he was in Wichita "for no other reason but to grab onto Garner's coat tails and ride through to Nov. 2 because I know he's going to be re-elected."

Dole left Wichita an hour later to go to Lawrence for the University of Kansas homecoming football game

with Oklahoma where he was to toss the coin for the kickoff.

Despite the temperature in the 40s, Dole stood hatless and coatless in the still wind as he talked with newsmen at the airport. His voice was hoarse from a cold he caught last week and which was noticeable during the debate.

ASKED IF HE thought he had won the debate with Sen. Walter Mondale, Jimmy Carter's running mate, Dole replied: "I kind of think so, from the kind of reaction we've had, but I don't know."

"The important thing is how the American viewer judged us."

He described the debate as "a sort of preliminary bout" in between the main event — the debates between President Ford and Carter.

"We did want to make it clear that if they want to keep on dredging up Watergate and the pardon (of former President Richard Nixon), we will dredge up a few wars," Dole said.

In the debate, Mondale cited the support Dole and Ford had given Nixon during the Watergate investigation. Dole countered by attempting to pin blame for two world wars, the Korean war and the Vietnam war on Democratic administrations.

"If it's fair to judge us by something that's happened in the past, we can judge them," Dole said Saturday. "He (Mondale) didn't like that very well, but we resent the implication of Watergate everytime he stands up."

DOLE CONTENDED he "spoke the truth" in his strong defense of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during the debate.

To a question asking how southern conservatives who dislike Kissinger would take his remarks, Dole merely said he did not agree with the secretary all the time.

"But every time I disagree, I think about what he's done for America and the free world," he added.

When Dole was introduced at the rally by Shriver, he began by saying: "I don't know how I look. I haven't got my makeup on."

When he told of waking up early and thinking of things he should have said in the debate, one man in the crowd shouted: "You did a damn fine job. That was a big hand from the crowd."

With his mother beside him, the senator announced that he plans to be in Russell, his hometown, on election day. Turning to her, he asked: "Going to have anything to eat in the house?"

AT ONE POINT, he said he had great respect for Mondale. Then, with tongue-in-cheek, he added: "I said so last night. I thought I said several nice things about Sen. Mondale. He ended up calling me the hatchet man. I can't understand that."

Dole also denied a report that his wife, Elizabeth, would have her own plane for campaign purposes, beginning this week.

"That isn't a fact," he said. Later he explained that he has started using two planes, both Northwest Orient chartered 727s, because of the increasing number of newsmen who want to travel with him for the remainder of the campaign.

THE SEPARATE PRESS plane (only a selected pool of reporters now travel on the senator's plane) was used for the first time Saturday.

Dole said his wife, who accompanied him to Wichita, would be doing some campaigning on her own during the next two weeks and would require a chartered airplane for some trips, but he indicated it would not be a 727 jetliner.