

115. 1976

# DOLE

Continued from page 6

ferent ball park?

I told my friend I must think on it and write him later. I did. Much of what I wrote follows:

If the legislative branch reveals a man as a party politician, surely the executive branch reveals a man as himself. What kind of man, therefore, is our Junior Senator? How would he function as President?

First, Dole is one of the hardest-working Senators I have known. In spite of our opposition to his elections, we have never found him unresponsive to any request or inquiry. We were, simply, his constituents (if somewhat cantankerous ones), and he treated us as such. He had a sympathetic ear for our problems, for all Kansas' problems.

For example, I have seen him sweat through hearing after hearing, in a hot Kansas summer, trying to stall the abandonment of rail service which would add more burdens to his people. He has championed the rural residents, the disadvantaged ones who suffer one outrage after another in such areas as postal service, new highways, trains, cable television. He has tried to stem the forces of an urban-oriented Government.

At the same time, he has provided a sympathetic ear—and voice—to the oil interests of his state, to bankers, to contractors. Through his passion for military power, he has been a prime mover in the growth of Wichita as an air center. He has fought both Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and A.F.L.-C.I.O. President George Meany when he felt the interests of Kansas' farmers were threatened.

This ability to represent ably, a broad economic spectrum surely would be a Presidential asset.

His reputation as a fulsome and sometimes vitriolic orator is deserved. Objective listeners will note, however, that he attacks a target more in the style of a polished debater defending only one viewpoint than in the style of a scholar trying to examine all the facts and arrive at the best probable answer. There is no gray area for Bob Dole. Life and its problems are black and white.

That is a luxury a President cannot enjoy. Since his re-election to the Senate in 1974, and particularly since his marriage last December to Elizabeth Hanford, Dole seems to have recognized this fact. His oratory may be as one-sided as ever, but his views have shown a moderation in his views. So much so, in fact, that he has plummeted from 100 percent in 1971 to 63 percent on the American Conservative Union's thermometer of most-favored Senators.

His oratorical flights sometimes hide his sense of humor. He comes on strong as a political haranguer, but in after-dinner informality, he can be a delight. He is articulate and intelligent, traits which are not the personal property of East and West coasts.

If he rises above his past political instincts, if he calls more on his obvious intellectual capacity and less on his

visceral surgical skill, then we may have hope that he would be a comfortable man in the White House.

Any President, any successful businessman, survives on ideas—ideas that aid him first in governing and directing himself, and second in governing and directing others. Ideas are not like instant coffee. They must be born and nurtured in rich, fertile minds.

Is Dole an idea man? That is the key question to learning what sort of President he would be.

He is a hard worker, a digger, a storer of information. So far, these talents have been devoted mostly to gratifying his personal ambitions and carrying the favor of right-wing Republicans. Whether the rarefied atmosphere of a possible White House residency expands his horizon is what no one—least of all Bob Dole—can tell us today.

It is said that the White House has changed almost every occupant. There is no advance reason to believe it would not change Bob Dole. He has the native abilities for the job. If circumstances should lead to his Presidency, I don't think I'd worry. He's too smart to screw it up.

*Peter MacDonald is president of the Harris Newspapers that publish in Kansas, Iowa and California and Chairman of the Advisory Board of U.P.I. A resident of Kansas, he has been a friend of Senator Dole for 20 years.*

# MONDALE

Continued from page 6

responsive populism," he compiled one of the most liberal voting records in the Senate while taking up the cause of "the poor, the powerless and those who are without adequate representation in our political system."

Despite Mondale's impeccable liberal credentials, there is reason to believe that as President, the hawk-nosed champion of the underdog would not, as some Republicans suspect, throw open the doors of the U.S. Treasury for vast new social spending schemes.

"I don't think there's any question that he's still deeply committed to the social agenda he talks about," says a Democratic Senator who has worked closely with Mondale on many issues over the years.

"But he's an extremely hard-headed character who deplores the way many of these programs have been administered. I think people will find him surprisingly tough-minded in terms of insisting that Government agencies are made accountable for the programs they administer and that the programs prove they can help solve the problems they were designed for."

An example of Mondale's efforts to establish a mechanism for objectively measuring the worth of domestic programs was his proposal, first advanced in 1968 but dormant at the moment, for

# MONDALE

Continued from page 8

creation of a Council of Social Advisers. Patterned after the President's Council of Economic Advisers, the panel would analyze and appraise domestic programs and advise the President and Congress as to their effectiveness.

Reporters who have covered Mondale through the years are invariably impressed by his command of the subjects he is involved in. He has demonstrated expertise in fields as diverse as civil rights, consumer affairs, secrecy in Government, tax reform, the budget process, Senate procedure and the intelligence community, for instance.

"I have enormous respect for his ability as a legislator," says a Senate committee staff aide who has worked with Mondale. "He understands the politics and the substance of the issues and the way they interrelate better than any politician I've ever worked with."

However, despite Mondale's impressive strengths, there are those who question whether he has yet developed any clear-cut political philosophy or approach to government suited to the final quarter of the 20th century.

"He's like most liberals who believe government can be made to work better, but I don't think he's really sat down and thought hard about what government should or should not be

*Minnesota Albert Eisler, a Washington correspondent for Knight-Ridder Newspapers, is the author of Almost to the Presidency, a 1972 dual biography of Hubert Humphrey and Eugene McCarthy. He has reported on Mondale since he became a Senator in 1965.*

doing and just what its role is," says a former Mondale aide.

Equally serious questions about Mondale's Presidential qualifications and leadership ability have been raised because of his innate caution, a characteristic that has sometimes led opponents to charge him with lacking the courage of his convictions.

One who suggests that Mondale has not been sufficiently tested by hard political combat or personal tragedy to handle the pressures of the Presidency is former Minnesota Democratic Congressman John Blatnik, who had hoped to succeed Humphrey in the Senate instead of Mondale.

"I don't believe, to put it in plain language, that Fritz has the stomach for a real fight," Blatnik said recently. "When the wind is blowing hard against him, he likes to wait for a little more favorable tide."

However, a cautious nature is not an unattractive quality in a President, and neither are a spotless personal life, a basic decency, a low-key personality and a manageable ego that allows a man to poke fun at himself. All are qualities Mondale possesses that would serve him well in the White House.

A man of modest means—his most recent financial statement shows he is one of the least wealthy members of the Senate—Mondale has been dubbed a "walking Protestant ethic" by a friend. He and his wife Joan, whom he married in his senior year in law school, and their three children share a genuinely close family life as well.

Only time will tell whether Mondale will have the chance to test his considerable political skills in the White House, but there is little question the wholesome preacher's son from Minnesota hopes to occupy the "bully pulpit" of the Presidency.

12C THE WICHITA EAGLE AND BEACON Sunday, October 31, 1976

# Dole Has a Flair For Biting Putdowns

United Press International

Bob Dole spent eight years in the 1950s as county attorney in his home town of Russell, Kan., and he brought his prosecutorial glare, sharp tongue and instinct for the jugular to the 1976 campaign.

When President Ford needed somebody to blame organized labor and the Democratic Congress for farm problems or to start attacking Jimmy Carter in hopes the Democratic nominee would get rattled, nobody was more suited than the two-term Kansas senator, who hopes to return to the Senate chamber in January as presiding officer—vice president of the United States.

**DOLE'S FLAIR** for biting putdowns and self-deprecating humor—along with the sobriquet "hatchet man"—was well known when Ford selected him as his running mate in Kansas City Aug. 19.

"When the phone rang, I accepted before I identified myself, thinking maybe he called the wrong number," Dole joked afterwards about the fateful telephone call.

But he showed an entirely different face the next day when Ford accompanied him to Russell for the GOP ticket's first rally. As Dole looked over the crowd in front of the courthouse, he saw old familiar faces and choked up. Wiping away a tear, he said: "When I needed help, the people of Russell helped."

Dole, 53, was referring to an incident after World War II, when he lay in hospitals crippled and near death from battlefield wounds. The townspeople took up a collection to pay for the best medical care available.

AS A RESULT, the only public reminder of his wounds is a withered right arm and his legislative and campaign attention to the handicapped. But Dole says, "I'm not used to it yet. I'm still embarrassed about it. You're reminded of it every morning," trying to button a shirt collar with only one hand.

He spent the campaign's first month—a terribly inept one from the standpoint of mechanics—getting used to the pace, telling small groups or anyone else who would listen he is not really a "hatchet man" but more of a "tabby cat" who tells the truth. Eventually, however, after the oneliners that put him on the evening news, Dole became serious—todd testing for Ford attacks on Carter's tax reform proposals, the Playboy interview and defense budget cuts.

**HE ALSO REFERRED** occasionally to the "four Democrat wars this century." But most of his appearances were before friendly crowds, no one called him on it.

Then he participated in the debate with Walter Mondale, and said Watergate should be no more of an issue this year than those "Democrat wars." Many Democrats were shocked by that remark and Mondale retorted that "You have richly earned



SEN. BOB DOLE  
... Dedicated politician

your reputation as a hatchet man." Dole, says his hero was Dwight Eisenhower, who also came out of Kansas.

**REFLECTING ON THE** time before he went into the service, Dole says: "When I was 18, 19, 20, my primary interest was how fast I could run and how well I would do out on the basketball floor—whether I could catch a football. That seemed to be the greatest goal in life. Then suddenly I became a member of another class, when someone fed me and someone dressed me and someone turned me around. And I suddenly realized that there was not just Bob Dole—although I'd have to admit there was a lot of self pity in those early days."

One who helped him through that time was a nurse, Phyllis, who subsequently became Mrs. Bob Dole. The marriage lasted until 1972 and the Doles had one daughter, Robin, now 22. He now is married to Elizabeth Hanford, an FTC commissioner on leave.

**DOLE SERVED HIS** party and President Nixon so well he was GOP chairman in 1971 and 1972. But he never hesitates to talk about Watergate. "It was my night off," he jokes.

Dole survived politically because the Watergate abuses were laid to the Nixon campaign committee and not the party organization. He eventually was fired by Nixon after a meeting at Camp David. "I was given a Camp David jacket and a rope," Dole recalled.

**DOLE WAS ELECTED** to the Kansas House of Representatives at 26. He served four terms as Russell County attorney through 1951.

In 1950 he was elected to the House and re-elected every two years until he won a senate seat in November 1968, succeeding retiring Republican Frank Carlson.

## PROCLAMATION

ALL CITIZENS OF RUSSELL COUNTY BE NOTIFIED:

WHEREAS, BOB DOLE, being one of Russell County's leading citizens has distinguished himself and the citizens of Russell County and the State of Kansas by representing the citizens as Russell County Attorney, as a member of the Kansas State Legislature, as a Representative in the United States Congress, and as United States Senator from the State of Kansas, and has been selected by his party to run for the second highest governmental office in the United States; the office of Vice-President;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Russell County sincerely desire and wish to recognize him in such manner that is proper, therefore, I, Norman W. Brandeberry, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Russell County, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the State of Kansas, do hereby declare and proclaim November 2, 1976, as BOB DOLE DAY in Russell County, and do hereby proclaim that all citizens of Russell County shall act in accordance in bestowing upon Russell County's most notable citizen, BOB DOLE all the honor that is due him and shall acknowledge him publicly in all proper manner.

PROCLAIMED by the Chairman of the Russell County Board of Commissioners, this 1st day of November, 1976, and unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners on 5-11-76.

*Norman W. Brandeberry*  
Norman W. Brandeberry, Chairman

*Clifford J. ...*  
Clifford J. ...

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