

119. 1976

WICHITA EAGLE 11-3

Russell Welcomes Dole Home

By TIM KIDD
Staff Writer

RUSSELL, Kan. — Vice-presidential candidate Bob Dole cast his ballot Tuesday in his home town of Russell, where he and President Ford began their uphill battle against Jimmy Carter 10 weeks ago.

"Today it's over," Dole told a crowd of 2,000 persons who had gathered near his mother's house to welcome him.

Dole then consigned the outcome of the election to the voters and delivered a serious and relatively nonpartisan speech in praise of the United States and of our national trust in the ballot box.

"We think about what's past in America,

what's good about America, and we think about the future of America," Dole said.

"SOME OF US REMEMBER what it's all about, and what it's all worth. And it's meant a great deal to all of us.

"But always it's good to make the journey back to your home town, back where it all started. And as far as I'm concerned, it wouldn't have been possible without the help of countless people across this part of Kansas."

After he voted, Dole told reporters he hoped to extend his unbroken string of political victories. He described the campaign as "a great experience."

But he added: "We're realistic. It's been a tough race and we're kind of glad it's over."

According to statistics compiled by Dole's staff, the Kansas senator campaigned in 44 states and 150 cities, flew 60,000 miles and drove hundreds more.

"WE LIVE IN THE greatest country on the face of the Earth," Dole told the crowd. "We have our faults. We have our problems. . . ."

"We keep trying, we keep striving, because we believe in lofty objectives and we want to fulfill the aspirations and hopes of every American, and I really think that we can do that."

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Dole arrived in Russell more than an hour late.

Bands from Russell Middle School and Russell High School played for the waiting crowd and repeated their performances after their repertoires ran out.

School children who had been dismissed from classes for the "Bob Dole Day" rally waved Ford-Dole signs in the cold wind, but eventually began cheering at anything that came down the street.

When Dole's motorcade finally arrived from the airport at Great Bend, Russell's tornado sirens were sounded and a loud cheer arose.

FLAGS WAVED ON Main Street. A large banner at an intersection near the Dole house proclaimed, "Welcome to Dole Country."

"We're going to have sirens blowing, bands playing, flags waving," Opal Ehrlich, Russell County Republican chairman, had promised. Mrs. Ehrlich said the Democrats

had not set up a campaign headquarters in Russell this year.

Dole was last in Russell in a surprise visit with President Ford after the Kansas City convention. At that time town officials worked overnight to arrange a rally and a picnic on the courthouse lawn.

PERHAPS THE BIGGEST problem Tuesday came when a man, thought to be a chamber of commerce official, attempted to deliver a large pot of coffee to the Dole house. The coffee spilled in the back seat of his car after a sudden stop. The car's windows fogged, and the official emerged in a cloud of steam.

More coffee was brought in. Dole voted with his wife, Elizabeth, his daughter, Robin, and his mother, Bina, at Simpson Elementary School. Dole had attended the school when it was housed in an older building on the same site.

Dole spent about five minutes filling out his paper ballots in a booth behind

a red, white and blue striped curtain. When he emerged, a reporter asked why he had taken so long.

"I couldn't make up my mind," Dole responded.

"It's really great to be here," he told the crowd. "We've drawn a lot of strength from this community, this county and this entire area."

"YOU'VE PUT ME ON the map. Now we're trying to put Russell on the map today."

Dole spent about 90 minutes in Russell — including a few minutes eating a home-cooked meal of fried chicken, which relatives said is his favorite.

He left for Washington about noon to watch election returns with the President. If the Republican ticket wins, Dole said, he will visit Salisbury, N.C., today for a victory celebration. Salisbury is his wife's home town. Dole promised to visit Russell for another victory celebration.

WICHITA EAGLE 11-4

Dole Predicts a Struggle For Leadership of GOP

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Bob Dole, his quest for the vice presidency unsuccessful, congratulated the Democratic team Wednesday and said there probably would be jockeying among Republicans for the party's leadership mantle.

Appearing calm and relaxed, Dole joked during a news conference that attracted a much smaller number of reporters than had followed him during the campaign that ended the day before.

"It was a good campaign," said the Kansas senator, who still has four years remaining on his current term. "We wish Gov. Carter and Sen. Mondale well."

He hesitated when asked who would be the head of the Republican party once the Carter administration starts in January.

"Well, Mary Louise Smith is the national chairman," said Dole, who held the position himself when Richard Nixon was in the White House.

He said he assumed there would "be efforts by some" to take the GOP reins.

Will Bob Dole be among them? "I haven't made any judgments," said Dole, who hours before had been close to becoming a heartbeat away from the presidency.

"Vice presidents are soon forgotten," he said, "and vice presidents who lose are forgotten sooner."

Dole said he had talked with Mondale and had "wished him well" as vice president.

Looking back on the campaign, he said that the GOP effort had been hampered initially by a "lack of basic organization" and that that had been the only major drawback.



DOLE AT NEWS CONFERENCE
... Predicts GOP leadership struggle

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Dole Still Has Support

Relatives of Sen. Bob Dole are still hoping for a great future for him. Their high anticipations of Tuesday have been depressed, but they still maintain a high support for the recent Republican vice-presidential candidate in their minds and hearts.

Kenneth Dole, Bob's brother, is using mathematical logic: "Look at the total vote," he said. "75 per cent of the people didn't vote for Carter; 50 per cent didn't vote at all, half of the other 50 per cent didn't vote for Carter, that adds up to 75 per cent. Bob's senatorial term will run until 1980; he is probably the strongest Republican in the country today. At first they were 33 per cent behind and Dole overcame 31 per cent. We are still working, whatever we need to do, we will do it."

A sister, Norma Steele of Derby, Kan., commented: "I'm disappointed; the country should be disappointed. I'm very proud of Bob; he didn't do a thing that could hurt him. Mother is glad it's all over. Bob is still a senator, but I'm sorry for Ford."

Nancy Poche, Bob's niece and the daughter of Kenneth Dole, said that she had really deep emotions, "I really feel good, but also feel bad. I don't feel that he lost, it was an experience in everyone's life. This had really made Bob a valuable man, known nationwide. He is a man to be No. 1 and not No. 2. He will become our next president after Carter. Ford lost, and I like Ford, he's a swell guy. People wanted a change, now let's see what they do with it."

Ken Steele, a son of Norma Steele, Bob's nephew, said: "People will get what they voted for; it serves them right. The ones who voted for Dole know better already, and it won't take the others long to find out. Carter's policies, I don't know how he'll carry them out. There's a gamble on every program that will make or break him, and we think it will break him."

Mildred Hoke, an aunt of Mrs. Bina Dole, said: "We're all a little disappointed. The majority of people wanted a change. After Watergate it has been an upset time. I feel Haldeeman and Ehrlichman shouldn't have had to go to prison if Nixon didn't go. We're Republican, but we don't vote a straight ticket, we vote one we feel would be best. My husband said it was the first election Dole lost, but it's not his private election. Now Bob has been all over the country, and he might fall into the presidency in four years. It all depends on how people like Carter, what kind of president he makes. We think Bob will have a chance in four years."

Gladys Friesen, a sister of the late Doran R. Dole, and an aunt of Bob, said: "We're disappointed, of course. They need to do some checking, as in New York. I hope Bob gets some rest, and we'll wait and see what happens in four years."

Mrs. Friesen's daughter, Peggy Barringer, came from Indonesia to California the night before the Dole-Mondale debate. Tuesday's defeat was Dole's first loss in a political race, but his friends in Russell agreed that he will be able to cope with it emotionally and continue his rise in politics.

"I WOULD NOT BE surprised if he is our nominee in four years," said Arnold. "I'm going to save the button I've got, anyway."

Dumler also predicted that Dole would continue. "I think Dole's mother summed it up yesterday when she said Bob's lost an awful lot more."

Dole spent about three years undergoing treatment for extensive wounds suffered in World War II. He sacrificed a career in medicine and studied law, because of a crippled right arm.

Prince Elmquist, editor of the Russell Daily News, said he believed Dole may have been expecting the loss when he addressed a hometown crowd of 2,000 Tuesday.

"You can talk to a person and almost on the inflection of his voice tell whether he is confident or skeptical," said Elmquist. "He was hoping against hope. . . . He put up a good front."

DOLE HAD TOLD reporters Tuesday he hoped to continue his unbroken string of political victories. But he added, "We're realistic. It's been a tough race."

Elmquist and others noted that Dole and Ford almost overcame the 30-point lead that Carter held at the beginning of the campaign.

As Dumler put it, "It was a remarkable comeback when you consider all the things they inherited."

WICHITA EAGLE 11-4

Russell Disappointed But Still Proud of Bob

By TIM KIDD
Staff Writer

RUSSELL, Kan. — Bob Dole's defeat in his race for the vice presidency generated disappointment but not despair among friends and ardent supporters in his hometown of Russell.

The Ford-Dole ticket won a two-thirds majority in Dole's county and a three-fourths majority in his ward, and supporters Wednesday reaffirmed their faith in Dole's political future. Some said they believed he would be the Republican nominee for President in 1980.

"I think many of his friends are as disappointed as he is," said Everett Dumler, secretary of the Russell Chamber of Commerce. "But we know in this country we survive disappointment."

"CARTER IS OUR next President. What the heck — we've got to wish him well and hope he does a good job."

Townpeople reacted in many ways to the Carter victory.

A customer at a motel restaurant told a waitress, "I didn't think Carter could do it."

"I didn't either," replied the waitress. "But I'm sure glad he did."

Another waitress said, "I think it's just terrible."

Some Russell residents expressed surprise at the outcome, while others said they had expected it.

NORMAN STAAB TOLD listeners around his breakfast table, "I guess Ford and Dole were just popular in Russell."

"Well, I didn't want to go to the inauguration anyway, damn it. I'd have to get me a new suit — and a bodyguard."

Staab joked that he may now spend a couple of months in the South learning the language, so he can understand what Carter says after he becomes President.

Mayor Roger Williams answered softly and slowly when asked his reaction to the Dole loss.

"It's real disappointing as far as our community is concerned," said the mayor, who supported only one successful candidate this year — a municipal judge.

County Clerk Betty Laubhan said she was surprised by the election results but that "Bob's still got a job to do" during his next four years as a U.S. senator.

MRS. LAUBHAN AND other Republican residents expressed concern, however, that conservatives will be fighting an uphill battle now that the Democrats control both Congress and the White House.

"We are very proud of Bob," Mrs. Laubhan continued. "He'll be back. . . . It's a great democratic process."

But Mrs. Laubhan said she really didn't want to talk about it, yet.

"Disappointed? Yes I am, naturally," said Don Arnold, president of the chamber of commerce, which only Tuesday helped arrange the celebra-

tion for Dole's return to vote during "Bob Dole Day" in Russell.

"But I'm sure a Democrat would say the same thing if it had gone the other way."

Arnold said he was surprised that the entire South, including Texas, went to Carter. "I thought Texas was going to be awfully awfully close, but I did expect it to go Republican."

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