



SENATOR BOB DOLE

of Kansas

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DOLE'S FIRST FULL WEEK OF CAMPAIGNING "AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS"

Senator Bob Dole characterized his first full week of campaigning as "an unqualified success."

Dole, the Republican Vice Presidential Nominee, said his nine-state trip indicated there is "strong, solid support" for the Ford-Dole ticket all across the nation. "I am confident that we have made serious inroads in the areas of Carter strength and I see increasing support in our strongest areas," Dole said.

The Kansas Senator spent six days on the road last week including a three-day trip that took him to Carter's home state of Georgia, crisscrossed North and South Carolina, and back through Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. On separate trips, he visited Maryland, Delaware and Rhode Island.

"In every area, we felt a surge of support for the President," Dole said. "It leaves me with the distinct impression that we're making strong headway and the gap is narrowing. I am more confident than ever of victory in November." Dole said he had "laid to rest once and for all" the myth that the Republicans are writing off the South. "It's not 'write-off' but 'right-on' in the South," he said.

"We will continue to draw a distinct line between Carter liberalism and Ford conservatism and that makes a difference in the South," he said. "Mr. Carter may be a Southerner by birth, but that's where his identity with the South stops."

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Dole said Southern Party leaders told him Carter's strength in the South is soft. "As we take our message across the South, Mr. Carter will no longer be able to take it for granted." The Senator also utilized his trip for a Party unification mission, bringing together Ford and Reagan forces in each state. In North Carolina, he met with Ford backer, Governor Jim Holshouser and Reagan State Chairman, Tom Ellis. In South Carolina, he met with another Reagan supporter, Governor Jim Edwards. They joined with Dole in a pledge for an all out battle for the ticket in the South.

Back home in Washington Sunday Dole said, "I have a good feeling about the campaign. I think we're on our way."

This week the Senator heads South again. Monday he will go to Darlington, South Carolina for the Darlington 500 Stock Car Race and on Friday and Saturday he will be in Dallas and Austin, Texas and Hot Springs and Little Rock, Arkansas. He will be in New York City Thursday evening.

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