

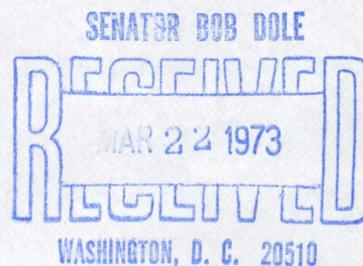
ALF M. LANDON

P.O. BOX 1280

March 20, 1973

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66601

Hon. Bob Dole
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510



Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a copy of the Forum piece I mentioned.

Have you heard any talk of the possibility that Miller might change his party in his gubernatorial ambitions?

Of course, Docking is going to keep his options open. In my previous letter, I was simply quoting what Ray Morgan said -- not that I agreed with him.

Ray Morgan also said at the Schlesinger lunch that Owen, Concannon and Bell were the Republican gubernatorial field at the present time. They are the only ones so far you hear any talk about among the Republicans -- with no enthusiasm.

Best, as ever -

AML:j

s - ste

Gilbert Bond

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RIPON FORUM

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Party Life in Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sarcastic to the end, Republican National Chairman Bob Dole turned over the party's reins to George H. W. Bush on January 19 at a meeting of the Republican National Committee.

The day before, Dole had told Republican state chairmen that in his meeting with President Nixon at Camp David prior to his resignation, he "had a nice chat with the President while the other fellows went out to get the rope."

His remarks at the RNC meeting were almost as cutting. Said Dole, "I've friends in Massachusetts, which is more than Nixon can say."

Dole's verbal barbs doubtlessly went unappreciated at the White House, where the Senator's humor was never held in high regard.

Meanwhile, Bush made two appointments which may be indicative of his intentions to take strong control of the RNC. He appointed Donald Kirkpatrick "Pat" Wilson as national finance chairman to succeed Maurice H. Stans and Congressman William A. Steiger as head of a "Rule 29" committee which is to find ways to broaden the party's base.

Wilson is chairman of the Cherokee Insurance Company in Nashville, Tennessee, and was a heavy contributor to the campaigns of President Nixon and Sen. Bill Brock (R-Tn.). The conservative Wilson was made co-chairman of the RNC finance committee in 1971 and was active in the 1972 campaign of Sen. Howard Baker, Jr. (R-Tn.).

The 53-year-old Wilson has said that he considers presidential talk about Brock "premature" and that regardless of Brock's intentions, he will not become embroiled in an "intra-party struggle."

Since both Wilson and Steiger are friends of Sen. Brock, it is unlikely that either appointment was greeted with enthusiasm by Vice President Agnew. Both, however, are reported to be friends of Bush. In accepting his

new post, Bush told the RNC that he expected to be ideologically neutral in pre-1976 Republican politics. "I do not intend to be some kind of ideological spokesman for all Republicans. It is our party that believes in federalism and it is our party that must welcome diversity," said Bush.

In an interview with the *Washington Post's* Lou Cannon, Bush stressed that he would not be a White House puppet in his new role. "We are going to have a sizable budget and we are going to spend money recruiting attractive, articulate candidates and in doing the nuts-and-bolts work necessary

to assist them," said Bush, who added that, "the White House is simply not going to control the budget."

The appointment of the 34-year-old Steiger, who was active on the losing side of the delegate-appointment fight at Miami, did not please Mississippi Republican Chairman Clarke Reed who cornered Steiger after the meeting. Reed had a few words as well for the Ripon Society's suit challenging the delegate-allocation formula adopted at the convention. He criticized Ripon by suggesting that one does not sue members of one's own family. ■

In Between the Candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Reading between the lines of newspaper accounts about possible Republican presidential aspirants is a frustrating experience, particularly if there is nothing between the lines. Take a sampling of recent news stories:

Environmental Protection Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus told a group of reporters that President Nixon told him that former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally, not Vice President Agnew, will be the Republican standard-bearer in 1976.

Asked about that story at his news conference on January 31, President Nixon said that he would be "out of my mind if I were to be endorsing anybody for the presidency at the present time . . ." He suggested that he might give reporters a list of possible candidates after the 1974 elections and make his own selection after the 1976 primaries. Interestingly, the President said, "I assume that several governors might be interested."

The previous week, New York State Chairman Richard M. Rosenbaum told a reporter that Gov. Nelson Rockefeller would make a good presidential candidate, despite the Governor's age. A spokesman for Rosenbaum said later that a press report about Rosenbaum

expressing disapproval of Vice President Agnew's friendship with Frank Sinatra was inaccurate.

And then another possible candidate, Sen. Edward W. Brooke, said he doubted if Connally or Rockefeller could get the nomination.

Said Brooke on Rockefeller: "It's too late for that. I love Nelson but to a great degree this has been the cause of some of our moderate plight. He's been starting and stopping, and here we are."

Said Brooke on Connally: "I just don't think a converted Democrat is going to get the Republican nomination."

Said Brooke about himself: "Moderate Republicans have to keep their options open for 1976 so that Vice President Agnew does not receive the nomination by default."

And finally, another reporter revealed that at the Republican Governors Conference in December, Sen. Robert Dole had been asked in a "background session" whether Agnew was competent to be President. There was a pregnant pause; then Dole said: "John Connally is competent to be President."

All of which means that in between the candidates you can see 1976. ■

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March 28, 1973

Dear Governor:

Thanks for your note and the copy of
the article from the RIPON FORUM.

At this point, any number of alternatives
seem possible. In fact, I don't know who will be
running against me, but it will be interesting to
see who finally emerges.

Thanks again -- hope to see you soon.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
U. S. Senate

Honorable Alf M. Landon
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