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(Butler) DG

August 19, 1976

*Mr. Bennett
Mr. Pearson
Mr. Keith Johnson*
*West Bend City
Dodge City*
*Cattle
Wheat
Oil*

TALKING POINTS FOR VISIT TO RUSSELL, KANSAS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

It's a great pleasure to be here in the hometown of the next Vice President of the United States.

*Al Hansen
Bob Carlson
Bob Dole*

When I asked Bob Dole to join me on the ticket for November, he expressed great pleasure. But he also made it clear that he had one personal favor to ask -- that I should come with him to Russell, Kansas.

It wasn't hard to decide.

I remembered how another famous man from Kansas, Dwight Eisenhower, used to say that he came "from the heart of America." The heart of America is still strong today because of men like Bob Dole.

I also knew how much Russell, Kansas has come to mean in Bob's life. This is the home that has nurtured him and given him the strength to be a great soldier and a great senator; you are the people who have shaped his life and his principles.

So I accepted his invitation with pleasure, and I am delighted to be here today.

I might add that I feel especially happy to be here because you and I share the same high opinion of Bob Dole.

You saw his enormous potential several years ago when you elected him
your county attorney.

Then you sent him to the Kansas state legislature, and then to the United States Congress from Kansas' Big First district.

Anybody who has to cover 45 or 50 counties every two years to get elected knows the kind of hard campaigning we intend to wage against the Democrats this fall--and Bob Dole is just the man to do it.

He's been an outstanding member of the United States Senate for the past eight years. As ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, he is one of the foremost experts on farm policy in this country.

He has disagreed with me when he thought I was wrong, supported me when he thought I was right, but he has always stood up first of all for the farmer and the people of Kansas.

With Bob Dole's nomination, I am sending a clear signal to every farmer in America. I want your help, I want your support, I want you on the Ford-Dole team.

As I said last night in Kansas City, we will carry out a farm policy which assures a fair price for the farmer, encourages full production, leads to record exports, and eases the hunger within the human family.

We will never use the bounty of America's farmers as a pawn in international diplomacy. No more embargoes! Bob Dole and I will see to that.

We will tell the American farmer that the Republican Party has a record on agriculture they can support with enthusiasm.

Farm income is up. Exports are up. Sixty million new acres have gone into production over the last three years.

I remember how President Eisenhower used to say that no one could plow a very straight line sitting behind a pointy-headed pencil in an office back in Washington. I agree with him. Bob Dole agrees with him. And we intend to turn our vision of the future into hard reality.

Our campaign will appeal not just to farmers, but to all Americans-- Republicans, independents, and as many Democrats as we can get.

We will go to the American people with a message of hope, a message of confidence, a message of good performance over the past two years.

We have cut inflation in half. More Americans are on the job now than at any time in the history of this country. America is a strong Nation at peace--and Bob Dole and I intend to keep it that way.

We have a few more speeches planned between now and November 2, so I won't try to say everything here.

The one thing I do want to say, and say very emphatically, is this: I thank the people of Russell, Kansas, for giving America Robert Dole, and we won't let you down in the next four years.

Thank you very much.