

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 1976

Office of the Vice President  
(Rochester, New York)

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
AND SENATOR BOB DOLE  
ROCHESTER/MONROE COUNTY AIRPORT  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

AT 11:30 A.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, the Senator and I are thrilled to be here in Rochester. I have a special tie; he is developing new ties. We think it is one of the great spots, and we will be glad to answer any questions.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, do you think the President supports every part of the Republican platform?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We have discussed this, now, for quite a while. This was a platform -- and Senator Dole was a member of the Platform Committee -- which was hammered out by the delegates with both of the two candidates each putting forward their own views through their own representatives. It resulted in compromises to get a platform. Therefore, obviously it doesn't reflect the totality of the positions of either of the two candidates. But it does reflect a broad consensus regarding our concept as a party. On individual items, no.

QUESTION: Mr. Vice President, the NBC News poll shows that New York State is fairly firmly in the Carter camp.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Four points.

QUESTION: There are different polls. You state New York looks much closer. How much of a roll are you going to play personally in the campaign, and will that be able to carry the State?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: If this is an illustration, you've got a pretty good idea. Here we are, Bob and myself and Malcolm Wilson. He and I got started here quite a few years ago. Of course, your man, your own hometown boy, Dick Rosenbaum, has been one of the key figures in this. I tell you, we are all out all the way from right now until election day. And he is going to win, and they are going to carry New York, President Ford and Senator Dole.

QUESTION: You have talked about the qualities Senator Dole brings to the Ford ticket. What did he bring that you wouldn't have brought?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, he is taller than I am and he is younger than I am and he is handsomer than I am.

(Laughter)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: He is a very good friend of mine. I think he will be a terrific Vice President, and

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I think the President is lucky to get him. He has had broader experience. He was in local government, State government. He has been in national government. He is a war hero. You know, you name it, and this guy has got everything -- the man of the future.

QUESTION: Senator Dole, given the experience of all the men who have served as Vice President, what makes you think that your election is going to change those 200 years of experience generally regarded as less than rewarding?

SENATOR DOLE: The question is whether or not my experience, if elected, would be less than rewarding. I think that is a summary of it.

(Laughter)

SENATOR DOLE: That is not the answer; that is the question. But I don't know. I haven't talked to the Vice President on my right here, but I think he has certainly performed a great service for America, and I would guess that if you asked Vice President Rockefeller and my good friend Senator Humphrey and others who served in that role, even though at times there may be less than optimum opportunities, there may be some frustrations, I think most Americans would look upon it, and these two men would look upon it as a great honor and obligation to serve your country and a great opportunity.

Now, beyond that, you know, it is pretty hard to predict what may happen once we are elected, but I am going to draw on the experience of my friend on my right and others who understand the office fully.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I would summarize it by saying, don't knock him; you might need him.

QUESTION: Senator Dole, several Congressmen have said that the northeast, and particularly New York State, is not getting their fair share of the tax dollar. What can the Ford-Dole ticket commit for the northeast, and particularly New York State?

SENATOR DOLE: I don't have any specifics. I might let the Vice President speak. But as far as revenue sharing, which is an area I strongly support, one of the original cosponsors of this legislation -- I might add, legislation Mr. Carter says he doesn't like and that if we have it at all, we ought to bypass the States. That may not be the position of some of these areas you are talking about.

That bill was passed by the Senate. It is strongly supported by President Ford and this Administration.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I can just say, when I took office, New York State was getting back five cents on the dollar. In the eight Republican years, New York State has quadrupled that in the amount of money it is getting back. The Republican Administration, the last two have done more for this State than all of the other Administrations put together.

QUESTION: Senator, would you say you and the Vice President now pretty much agree that the President disagrees with parts of the platform?

SENATOR DOLE: No, I would only say that unity doesn't necessarily mean unanimity.

QUESTION: What do you mean? Could you amplify?

SENATOR DOLE: I mean what I said; you can figure out the details.

QUESTION: Do you propose to run on the platform?

SENATOR DOLE: We are.

QUESTION: On all parts of the platform?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think you are making too much out of this platform stuff. You know the history of platforms. Some of you are old enough to remember President Roosevelt and what he was going to do. That platform said they were going to get a balanced budget. We never went into a period of as much spending in the history of this country. Let's keep in perspective.

QUESTION: Is there a parallel there, that President Ford says --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No. I am just saying that don't overemphasize the platform. I have said frankly what the situation was. It was thrashed out by the delegates representing two points of view. They nominated Ford, and he is going to be our next President.

QUESTION: I would like to know if the two of you agree.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Of course we agree. We are standing together. It is a question of how we express it.

QUESTION: You both have been criticizing the Democratic platform.

SENATOR DOLE: We should.

QUESTION: I think the Vice President is saying don't put too much stock in platforms.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I don't see how they can, because I have told you the position -- for instance, on atomic power, they are against atomic power except when it is needed to produce electricity. That has got to be one of the most beautiful positions I have ever heard of. You have got all the people against atomic energy with you because you are against it. All those who want atomic energy for electricity and are going to use it are with you, too, because you are going to use it. Would you run with that?

QUESTION: Did you talk with the President about that platform since the convention?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, I did.

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QUESTION: What did he say to you?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Just exactly what I have told you. I told him exactly what I have said, and this is the position.

QUESTION: Did you tell him you were going to mention this on the road?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Which on the road?

QUESTION: When you are out here, that you were going to mention that he doesn't agree with every part --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I told him I had said that. I said it before in Vermont, campaigning with a colleague of the Senator's, Bob Stafford, a great guy. He was a governor.

QUESTION: Did you tell him you were going to say that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Of course I did. I don't think there have been a Vice President and President closer than President Ford and myself, with total openness and total freedom.

QUESTION: There is a welfare crisis in Monroe County. The county legislature is going to have to borrow something like \$2 million. If Ford is reelected, what is he going to do to help Monroe County that can't afford to pay the welfare debts?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We have dealt with this welfare problem for a long time. You know it has got to be reorganized. I know that. We all know that. There are different ways of doing it. The President has suggested some; I have suggested some.

I believe the Federal Government ought to take the whole thing over, consolidate all welfare payments of all kinds, different services, and put them into one service and make it cash. That happens to be my position. There ought to be a national standard with variations for the different costs of living, different areas of the country. Now, that happens to be my position.

I have said it doesn't happen to be the President's position, but it is something that has got to be dealt with. This is a democracy and you don't dictate something; you work it out. When you have got problems like you have, they have got to be considered in Washington. With revenue sharing, you can use that money for welfare.

QUESTION: Senator Dole, do you believe in the federalization of --

SENATOR DOLE: We can have a debate here. I don't believe in federalizing the welfare system. We have different views in the Republican Party, and we encompass those views. We try to work them out, as we did in our platform. I think the platform speaks for itself. We can disagree on the platform, but the President is the nominee

of our party. It is his platform, it is my platform. And the same is true of welfare.

We tried welfare reform once in a Republican Administration not many years ago, and it went nowhere in the Congress. We have tried to take the tough look, the hard look. Everyone talks about reform, but I don't see much action in the Congress. '

And the same with food stamp reform. I have worked on that program, which we are talking about the same people, with Senator McGovern. We thought we had a good welfare reform program. Others disagreed.

But the point is, we are making the effort. We understand that there is a great deal of administrative costs that could be reduced and administrative error, whether it is in welfare or SSI or whatever. We have problems.

And I see now Mr. Carter is saying we are responsible for the fraudulent use of Medicare and Medicaid. He knows that is not the case. In fact, Georgia has one of the worst records, when you get down to abuse and cost and error rate. He ought to talk about that. And that was true when he was governor.

QUESTION: Have you talked to President Ford about changing Secretaries of State if you win in November?

SENATOR DOLE: No.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I can speak on that. He said he wants him there as long as he is there. He is the greatest Secretary of State we have ever had.

QUESTION: Senator Dole, some pundits have characterized this ticket as President Ford traveling the high road and you, with an ability for combative debate, traveling the low road. Would you care to recharacterize that?

SENATOR DOLE: Well, I don't know who makes these characterizations. You know, they come from somebody out there. We don't know who it is. They tag us as someone, and you run around, if you want to play their game, trying to disprove it the rest of the campaign.

I have got a great deal of work to do to help President Ford be elected -- or reelected, because he was elected by the Congress, so reelected is really the proper word. I think our campaign will continue on a very high road. We are concerned about the future of America.

Now, while some would characterize a candidate in some way, I think we have to look at his performance. That certainly hasn't been our performance. We are going to carry the fight with Mr. Carter and Mr. Mondale, but not on a personal basis. There are enough issues out there to last us until November 2nd. I just believe that when it is all over, you can make a judgment. But those who make daily judgments based on one comment or one remark or one speech, that really isn't very --

QUESTION: UAW President, Leonard Woodcock, says politics should not enter into the Ford strike. Will President Ford be able to avoid any Federal action in the Ford strike with the general election approaching?

SENATOR DOLE: I hope so. They are going back and negotiating on Monday. They are still in a give-and-take position. I don't suggest we get any government interference in collective bargaining.

QUESTION: Would a long strike hurt the election on your side?

SENATOR DOLE: I think it cuts both ways.

QUESTION: Do you know the status of the effort to get Ronald Reagan out to campaign and such as Vice President Rockefeller is doing?

SENATOR DOLE: I don't think the word "effort" is a characterization. It is not an effort. He is going to be working for the Republican Party, the Republican ticket all across the country. I am not certain when his first date is. Like a lot of candidates who run for a year and a half, he wanted to take a vacation. He went to Mexico. You say, "Where is Reagan? Why doesn't he show up?" People are allowed to take a break without clearing it with the media.

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(AT 11:45 A.M. EDT)