

Sen. Dole Suggests Ford Drop 'Boy Scout' Image

Post 101-71-74

Associated Press

President Ford has "sort of a Boy Scout image" and will have to toughen up if he hopes to win the White House in 1976, former Republican chairman Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said yesterday.

Dole, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," (WTOP) also predicted Cabinet changes in the near future but would not name specific ones.

If Mr. Ford hopes to stave off a possible battle for the Republican presidential nomination in 1976 and then win the election he is going to have to cure the ailing economy and might have to battle with Congress to do it, Dole said.

Mr. Ford has to "toughen up a little between now and '76. I think he has sort of a Boy Scout image," Dole said.

What is needed is "leadership, making the tough decisions—taking the Congress on if he must, whether we're Republicans or Democrats," Dole added.

"If President Ford can succeed in helping the economy, in bringing down inflation, he's going to be tough to beat in 1976," Dole said. But he added that if the economy continues to decay, "any Republican is going to have trouble in 1976."

Dole said he did not see the election which strengthened the Democrats' control of Congress as a mandate but rather as the public punishing GOP candidates for the "sins of the Nixon administration."

Asked about Cabinet changes, Dole said "many Cabinet members plan to leave in the spring."

He said that one man who should go is Andrew E. Gibson, who has been nominated as head of the Federal Energy Administration. It has been reported that Gibson will receive \$88,000 a year for the next 10 years from an oil company he left in May.

As for Nelson A. Rockefeller's nomination as vice president, Dole said there are many questions to be answered about the former New York governor's gifts to politicians, but he said he hopes Rockefeller is confirmed this year.

Meanwhile, on NBC's "Meet the Press," (WRC) Sen.-elect John Glenn (D-Ohio) said he did not view the increase in Democratic control of Congress as a mandate. Glenn said it was a "repudiation" of what people had become "disenchanted with through the past year or more than anything else."

Glenn also said the United States should have a broad-based policy of international relations, which he said will center around food and fuel for the next few decades.

It should "hopefully" be with the support of and in cooperation with Congress instead of relying on the one-man diplomacy of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger " . . . so we're not just running out of a brief case and depending on one man and his personal relationships with other leaders," Glenn said.

Meanwhile, California Gov. Ronald Reagan has told U.S. News & World Report in an interview that he would not run as a third-party presidential candidate in 1976.