

DOLE IS SELECTED TO DIRECT G.O.P.

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Nixon Picks Dole to Direct the G.O.P.

Kansas Senator to Succeed Morton as Party Chairman Despite Much Opposition

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—

President Nixon has selected Senator Robert J. Dole of Kansas as the new chairman of the Republican National Committee, sources at the committee and at the White House disclosed today.

Mr. Dole, a conservative with a reputation as a tough political and legislative infighter, had actively sought the post since the President announced last Nov. 25 that he intended to nominate the present chairman, Representative Rogers C. B. Morton of Maryland, as Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Morton, who is in the Bahamas, announced through his Washington office today that he was choosing a 12-man selection committee to recommend a new chairman to the national committee at its annual meeting here, starting Jan. 15.

A source at party headquarters conceded, however, that no selection committee would have been chosen unless Mr. Nixon had already made up his mind. The selection committee, which will be composed of members of the national committee, "will ask who Nixon wants and ratify his choice," the source said.

He compared the process—which will probably include a

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meeting with the President on Jan. 14—to "the mating dance of the egret."

Mr. Morton was reported to have called Mr. Dole yesterday with a one-word message: "Congratulations." The Senator said in an interview that "it looks as if it's going to happen, but I know nothing official."

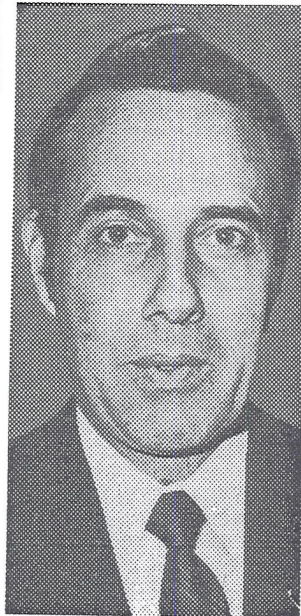
Senator Dole met twice today with Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the minority leader, one of those who had opposed his selection. Mr. Dole promised that he would remain neutral in any challenge to Mr. Scott's leadership in the future.

The selection of Mr. Dole, a 47-year-old first-term Senator, is expected to generate considerable resentment among some of his colleagues on Capitol Hill and could be a disruptive development in the party.

According to one account, 21 of the 43 Republican Senators protested to the White House last month when it became evident that Mr. Dole was the leading candidate for the post.

Some of the Senators objected to Mr. Dole on ideological grounds; his selection would make the already nervous Republican liberals even more unsure of their positions. Others objected to the lean, black-haired Kansan's abrasive style and what they consider his excessive ambition.

Mr. Dole has functioned for the last year or so as a kind of self-designated point man for the Administration in Senate combat, replying to each



Associated Press

Senator Robert J. Dole

Democratic charge and leading the fight for such Nixon projects as the nominations of Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. and G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court.

Senator Scott has repeatedly opposed the selection of Mr. Dole on the ground that a full-time chairman is needed. Mr. Dole does not intend to quit the Senate.

Mr. Dole's dual role would make him a major spokesman for the party and tend to undercut Mr. Scott's role. Mr. Dole has said that he thinks

Mr. Scott should be replaced by "younger and more aggressive leadership."

Some members of the national committee had also expressed the hope that a full-time "professional" chairman would be named.

However, no alternate candidate ever emerged, and the President concluded, according to one Republican source, that Mr. Dole "was a conservative but not a racist, and that he could straddle our divisions." A number of Senators and national committeemen were publicly committed to Mr. Dole's candidacy.

Bryce N. Harlow and Donald Rumsfeld, two White House aides who had been mentioned prominently in early speculation on Mr. Morton's successor, both declined the position.

A major question that remains unresolved is how much power Mr. Dole would actually have, especially in the conduct of the 1972 campaign. He said last month that he was not interested in the chairmanship if it was only a figurehead job.

The role of the White political staff—particularly Murray M. Chotiner and Harry S. Dent—has not been clarified. Nor is it known how the committee and the White House staff will be related to the work of Attorney General John N. Mitchell who is expected to manage Mr. Nixon's campaign for re-election in two years.

Mr. Dole, who entered politics with election to the Kansas Legislature at the age of 26, has not lost an election since.