

Dole Attacks Carter on Pardon for Draft Evaders

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND
Special to The New York Times

SEATTLE, Aug. 25—Senator Robert J. Dole, the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee, took Jimmy Carter to task today before the American Legion's national convention here for having promised "a blanket pardon" to all Vietnam draft evaders.

Where Mr. Carter, the Democratic Presidential nominee, in an otherwise well-received speech, was booed by the legionnaires yesterday, Mr. Dole received a loud, standing ovation from them when he declared:

"Let there be no confusion as to President Ford's position on this issue. It is unequivocal, and applies equally to draft evaders and deserters, no blanket pardon, no blanket amnesty, no blanket clemency."

Mr. Carter had told the convention:

"I do not favor a blanket amnesty, but for those who violated Selective Service laws, I intend to grant a blanket pardon.

"To me, there is a difference. Amnesty means that what you did was right. A pardon means that what you did, right or wrong, is forgiven. So pardon, yes; amnesty, no."

Mr. Dole, a decorated severely wounded World War II Army captain who is a member of American Legion Post 99 in Russell, Kan., recalled Mr. Carter's remarks, but did not name him.

Having said that a speaker, "whoever he was," yesterday had "provided his own definitions" for amnesty and pardon, Mr. Dole said that he had checked Webster's New World Dictionary and found that it "makes no such distinction."

"It defines 'amnesty' as 'a general pardon,'" he said.

In replying to Mr. Carter, a former navy officer who also is a member of the legion, Mr. Dole said:

President's Offer Recalled

"Today, we have those who would signal weakness and generate strife by declaring that those who served this nation in her armed forces deserve no greater consideration than those who turned their backs and scurried away.

"President Ford extended the hand of mercy to those who fled America when she needed their service. He offered them a chance to earn clemency, and I say earn clemency, by proving their right to resume their place in this nation. The offer was extended to draft evaders and deserters alike, on a case-by-case basis. Some accepted. Some 19,000. Some refused. Some 80,000 or 90,000. As far



Associated Press

Senator Robert J. Dole, Vice Presidential nominee, telling the American Legion in Seattle of Republican opposition to blanket pardons for draft resisters.

as I know, the effort is finished."

That drew some of the loudest applause from 4,000 to 5,000 legionnaires and their wives, about half the audience Mr. Carter had in the coliseum yesterday.

At a news conference following a breakfast meeting with local Republican leaders, Mr. Dole was asked how President Ford could reconcile his pardon of former President Richard M. Nixon and decline to pardon draft evaders.

"I think you go to the case-by-case basis," the Senator said, suggesting that Mr. Nixon's pardon had been handled in that manner.

"At the time I thought it was a premature decision," Mr. Dole said, "but it did get Watergate behind us."

In his Legion speech Mr. Dole recalled that four wars in this century had been fought under Democratic Presidents.

"We know that wars become self justifying once they've begun," he said, "but the harsh light of history reveals that they rarely begin for reasons that are self justifying, but rather because of weakness,

wishful thinking and bad leadership."

Then sounding what may well be a theme of the Ford-Dole campaign this fall, he said:

"No one hates war more than those who have had to fight. And none have a greater right to insist upon leadership that understands how to prevent war, to protect liberty and to preserve peace, than those who have had to fight.

"I say to you, and the record shows, that we have such leadership in the White House, and I believe the American people will keep it there."

Defense Cuts Attacked

Attacking the Democrats as a party that would allow the defense posture of the country to grow weaker, Senator Dole said:

"Yet on any day in the Congress, you can hear representatives of our people condemn this nation's efforts to remain strong—to keep the power that keeps the peace.

"They tell us what we need to reduce our defense budget even further, while increasing spending even more for well intentioned, but ill conceived,

domestic programs. Certainly our cities need help, certainly we cannot turn a deaf ear to the poor and the needy. The question is not whether we should act, but how."

Mr. Dole argued, however, that the Republicans were not unaware of the needs of people, saying:

"There are those today who say we care nothing for the people. There are those who say we spend too much on planes and tanks and warships and troops, and not enough on people. They say we are callous. They say we are indifferent.

"And I say I would rather spend a million dollars, or a billion dollars, to preserve peace, than to expend a single human life to pursue war."

This brought loud applause from the legionnaires.

"We must be clear in distinguishing between being as strong as we have to be," he went on, "instead of determining how weak we can afford to be."

At the morning news conference, Mr. Dole was asked about a report in The New York Times that he had declared as campaign expenditures in his 1974 Senate race in Kansas funds that were spent to attack his opponent on the abortion issue. Recently, he has said that he had disavowed several advertisements that were run on that issue, saying that they were sponsored by right-to-life groups without his knowledge.

"I didn't claim them as a campaign contribution, I did disavow them," he said. "Some of the pro-life groups who thought they were helping us, I guess, ran some very despicable ads showing a skull and crossbones and saying vote for Dole and save babies. I thought

it nearly cost us the election at the time."

He said that the decision to list expenditures for these advertisements as part of his campaign spending must have been made by a subordinate who was accounting for the funds.

"Some of the pro-life groups showed some very bad judgment," he said.

Mr. Dole later flew to Des Moines to attend the Iowa State Fair there tonight and tomorrow, once again following in the footsteps of Mr. Carter. The Senator will fly later tomorrow to Vail, Colo., for discussions with Mr. Ford and his advisers.