

Dole discusses health concerns

Reforms, screenings are focus as Providence hospital changes name.

By KEVIN Q. MURPHY Staff Writer

If only health-care reform were as easy as health-care screening.

Sen. Bob Dole said Saturday that challenges facing a national task force on health-care reform are considerable but that people can easily look after their own health by getting screened for problems such as prostate cancer.

Dole is a member of a task force headed by first lady Hillary Clinton that is expected to ask Congress and the president for changes in the health-care system.

"You ask, 'Should we improve the health-care system?' and they all vote aye," Dole said. "But that's where the unanimity ends. How do you do it and how do you pay for it?"

Dole spoke at the newly named Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., where a series of programs is being started to test for medical problems such as prostate cancer. Dole was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991.

The Kansas Republican has given his name and time to numerous efforts to encourage men older than 45 to get annual checks for prostate cancer.

"I've sort of become the prostate pinup boy in Washington," Dole told about 200 people at a program Saturday. "If caught early, it can be treated very successfully."

Providence Medical Center will offer free prostate screen-



JIM McTAGGART/The Star

Sister Ann Marita (far right), president of Providence Medical Center, and Therese Horvat, vice president, greeted U.S. Sen. Bob

Dole on Saturday with a flower for his lapel. Dole was at the hospital to talk about health-care reform and prostate cancer.

ings the weeks of March 29 and April 5. Screenings for breast cancer, excess cholesterol and other problems are planned for future months.

The high cost and availability of health care are among problems the task force is addressing.

"It's one of those issues that should be totally nonpartisan," Dole said. "There ought to be a political timeout. Even that is going to be difficult because different people have different

ideas."

Dole said one idea he does not support is controlling prices that health-care providers and insurance companies charge. That was tried under President Nixon in 1971, he said.

Dole predicted that developing and passing health-care reform will take at least a year.

Dole said President Clinton has a lot at stake by putting his wife in charge of the reform effort. A failed plan could be especially costly to Clinton, he

said.

Before Dole's remarks Saturday, Providence Medical Center President Ann Marita, a nun, announced the change in the center's name. It has been known as Providence-St. Margaret Health Center.

Marita said the new name is an outgrowth of the hospital's reaffiliation with the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Providence Hospital was founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1920.

Salina, Kansas

Wednesday, April 7, 1993



Ben Harris/Salina Journal

Ken Barnard (left) shows Sen. Bob Dole an airplane similar to four Beechcraft planes that the college will purchase with a federal grant.

Dole hints at more KSU grants

Defense officials tell senator civilian funds are available

By LILLIAN ZIER The Salina Journal

Sen. Bob Dole tantalized city leaders and Kansas State University-Salina officials Tuesday with hints that a \$7.7 million grant for the college could blossom into more dollars.

Dole visited the Salina technology college briefly Tuesday to meet with campus officials regarding the grant. He was to stop in Hays on Tuesday night to discuss health care.

The U.S. Department of Defense announced last week that the balance of a \$7.7 million grant for KSU-Salina to buy airplanes and equipment had been approved. The defense department earlier approved \$1.7 million of the grant, but the remaining \$6 million remained in doubt until last week.

Dole, the Senate minority leader, said he had

talked with an official at the Pentagon who said the grant could be just the beginning.

"So if you make it work, it could mean a lot of opportunities," Dole told those gathered at the college's aeronautics building.

In an interview, Dole said he did not know what the Pentagon official was hinting at.

"If there's an opportunity, we want to follow up," he said. "Why not pursue it?"

Dan Stanley, administrative assistant to Dole, said the defense department is pursuing a list of "critical technology," which could fit in with the KSU-Salina aeronautics program.

In the interview, Dole said the grant is not "pork" to appease Kansas voters.

"This wasn't something where we just reached out and grabbed \$7.7 million. We had to work for it," he said.

The grant received approval from two presidents and two secretaries of defense, which proved its merit, the senator said.

Initially, KSU-Salina sought the money for

retraining of military personnel for civilian jobs.

"The reason we got interested was all of the people coming out of the service," Dole said. "These are good young men and women coming out of the service, and we need facilities like this so we can retrain them and get them into the work force."

When the Pentagon requested information about how the funds could be used for research, KSU-Salina officials went to work on finding research projects.

Ken Barnard, head of the college's aeronautics department, said the research angle has brought about cooperation among several of the state's regents institutions. The University of Kansas in Lawrence, Wichita State University and the main KSU campus in Manhattan have expressed interest in using the college's planes and equipment for research.

"This isn't just for Salina," Barnard said.

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Defense reverses stance on KSU-Salina grant

By Wayne Laugesen The N.Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department announced for the first time Wednesday that the balance of a \$7.7 million grant for Kansas State University-Salina has been approved.

Pentagon spokeswoman Jan Walker said Monday the grant was still under review and Defense Secretary Les Aspin Tuesday confirmed that the grant had not been approved and was only being considered.

Their comments countered a press release from Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kansas, that said the grant was a "done deal."

"The balance has now been confirmed," Walker said Wednesday.

Walker declined to say who approved the grant or when it was approved.

"I do not have details and I do not anticipate having any details," she said.

The Dole press release, dated Monday, said Dole had stressed the importance of the grant in a recent meeting with Aspin. But Aspin, while answering questions about the grant Tuesday,



Aspin Dole

said he had never met with Dole about the grant.

"The basic facts in Dole's press release are apparently true," Walker said.

Dole included a \$7.7 million grant in the 1992 defense bill, passed in November 1991, and promised K-State officials the money was on its way. He again promised that the money was on its way during an Oct. 17 fund-raising luncheon in Salina.

But the Defense Department had approved only \$1.7 million of the grant and KSU-Salina officials were expecting the full balance last year.

University officials want the money to buy new and used airplanes and three flight simulators.

The Defense Department

opposes the grant and others like it, and has been trying to kill it since the defense bill was passed. In February, Walker said the grant could be mired in bureaucracy until Sept. 30, when it would expire.

Dole's press secretary, Walt Riker, said Tuesday that Dole was given assurance by "a very high, credible source in the White House," that the grant would be approved. He said the White House assurance came sometime in February.

In a statement to KSAL radio station Wednesday, Riker said the White House confirmation came Monday.

Sources at the White House said it would be difficult to determine who made the promise.

On the radio Riker told people to "disregard the Halloween prank or April Fool's joke" in the Salina Journal.

"I can assure you, with the full backing of Senator Dole, that the KSU-Salina project is a done deal. I repeat, a done deal," Riker said. "It's official, it will happen, the funding will go through, it will be approved by the Pentagon."

THE WICHITA EAGLE Wednesday, April 7, 1993

Clinton, Republicans spar over stalled jobs measure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The jobs bill that's deadlocked in the Senate will be revised to test whether Republicans who blocked it are "committed to putting the American people back to work or just playing politics," President Clinton said Tuesday.

The Republicans deny Clinton's accusation that their delaying tactics against the \$16.3 billion measure amounted to renewed gridlock.

"We're not stopping the government, we're stopping the Democrats' deficit spending and saving the taxpayers a bundle," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas.



Dole Without spending cuts GOP won't accept the bill

The delay has left the bill's fate — and each side's tactics — uncertain for now. Democrats and Republicans alike say a compromise will be attempted between now and April 20, when the next votes on the measure are planned. Congress will be on Easter

recess until April 19.

But the exchange between Clinton and Dole showed that neither side is publicly relenting in the stiffest battle yet over Clinton's economic agenda.

Citing waste, Republicans want the measure slashed almost in half and offset by other spending cuts. Democrats say the measure, which would create 200,000 jobs this year, will help keep the economy from flopping back into recession.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said Democrats might be willing to reduce and delay some of the package's spending. Such a tactic could get Democrats enough GOP support to approve the measure, he said.

"We're in consultations right now to develop and present an alternative package that would hopefully pick off needed votes," he said.

Clinton said he would work on a new proposal addressing "some of the legitimate expressed objections" to the bill.

"We'll see when Congress comes back whether the Republicans are committed to putting the American people back to work, or just playing politics," he said at a news conference.

In talks in the last few days, Democrats have been most insistent on retaining the bill's money for jobless benefits, transportation projects, immunizations for children, summer jobs, education and Head Start.

But Dole warned that without accompanying spending cuts, Republicans would not be happy.

"When the president talks about compromise, I hope he means he'll start paying for his spending programs, just as the American people are demanding," Dole said in a written statement.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said Republicans have a still-evolving alternative that would include money for unemployment, road-building and a half-dozen other programs that would cost \$8.7 billion. All of it but the \$4 billion for jobless benefits would be offset by cuts in other programs, he said.

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said he was again circulating a possible compromise that would spend about half of the money immediately and one-fourth after Congress approves a deficit-reduction measure later this year and kill the rest of the measure.

4-D The Topeka Capital-Journal, Thursday, April 8, 1993

Dole claims public opposed to Clinton plan

By BARBARA JOSEPH The Capital-Journal

Republican Sen. Bob Dole said Wednesday Kansas unanimously are telling him they oppose President Clinton's stimulus package, which is stalled in the Senate over its recess.

But Dole, who stopped in Topeka on a two-day stump through the state, said he hoped a meeting today with Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen meant the beginning of a compromise with the Democratic administration.

"The message is to President Clinton and the Democrats who want to spend money and not pay for it is that's not what the American people want," Dole said. "They want us first of all to cut spending and then to pay for anything else. I think that comes pretty much across the board. It's not partisan or emotional."

The Republican minority leader made his remarks in a news conference at the Ramada Inn Downtown.

Dole said he had talked to more than 120 people in Salina, Hays, Russell, Wilson and Elkhart, some by telephone. And he said the calls to his Wichita office were running 10 to 1 against the \$16.3 billion package to stimulate the economy.

"I know the people pretty well, and I don't think they'd be afraid to tell me what they thought," he said.

Dole said Clinton has to compromise on the package, and indicated senators would be willing to keep some portions of the plan that would create real, not make-work, jobs. But he said the solution to joblessness lay in the private sector.

Asked if Kansas seemed concerned about congressional gridlock, Dole said: "If you're against something, you like gridlock. I don't think anybody was elected to just go back and rubber stamp President Clinton so we can say we don't have gridlock."

He said it was the liberal media, not average Americans, who were talking about gridlock.