

THE WICHITA EAGLE Thursday, January 20, 1994

Nominee's conspiracy charge baffles Dole

Issue overshadows his home-state tour

By Thomas B. Koetting
The Wichita Eagle

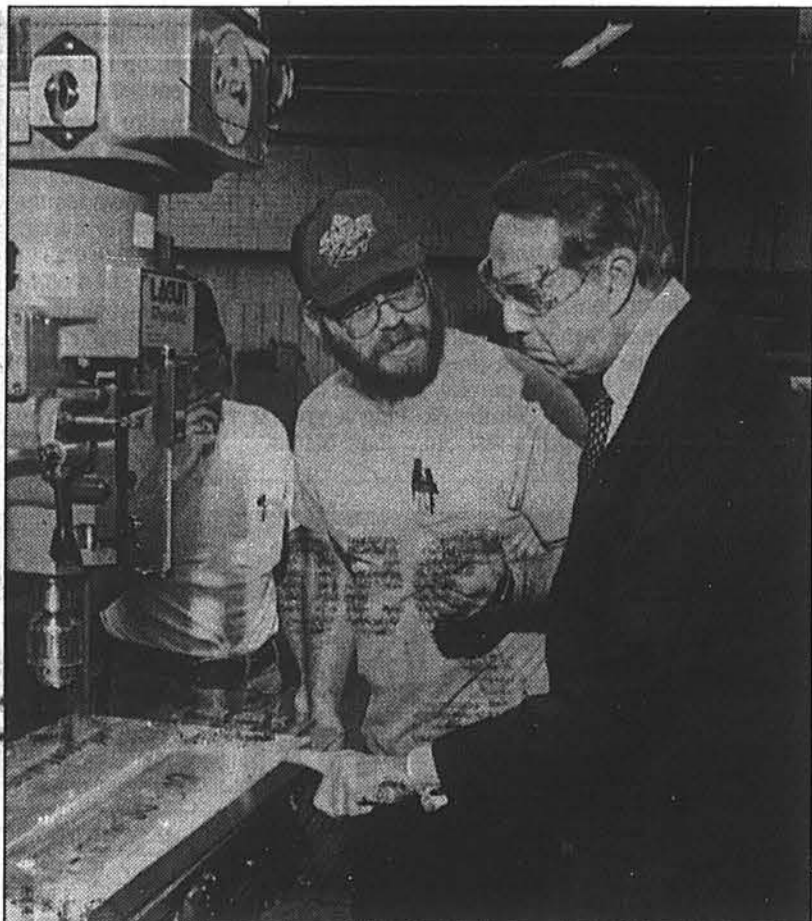
Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole on Wednesday shrugged off charges that he had conspired against President Clinton's nominee for defense secretary, saying Bobby Inman's behavior was weird and his allegations were nonsense.

"I've been around awhile, but I cannot figure out this man's behavior," the Kansas Republican said.

Inman withdrew his name from consideration for the Defense Department post Tuesday, saying — among other things — that Dole had cut a deal with William Safire of The New York Times to "turn up the heat" on the nomination in exchange for the columnist attacking Clinton for questionable land development ventures.

Dole, stopping in Wichita for a few hours during a daylong swing through the state, never directly denied Inman's charge. However, he did say that he had nothing against Inman, that he had done nothing to jeopardize Inman's nomination, that Safire was not the kind of journalist to cut deals and that Inman must have had some hidden reason for dropping out.

Dole said senators would have questioned Inman about his failure to pay Social Security taxes for a housekeeper, his history of business problems and his plans for cutting the defense. However, Dole said, Inman's confirmation was still virtually guaranteed.



Sen. Bob Dole, right, talks with Jim Morgan, center, and Jerry Hatfield on Wednesday. Dole visited Brittain Machine at 2520 S. Sheridan in Wichita. Dole was in Wichita during a daylong swing through Kansas.

"He had about 90 votes and there are only 100 senators, so I don't know what he wants," Dole said. "The Inman situation — partially — sidetracked Dole from the main focus of his visit, which was to talk about health care. However, Dole really didn't have a clear health-

care position to talk about anyway.

At a meeting with reporters in the morning, and at a noon luncheon with the Rotary Club of East Wichita, the senator said the Clinton administration deserved credit for focusing national attention on health care. He also said some health-care plan would eventually be passed; there was no chance of no action. However, beyond that, he simply said the Clinton plan could not get through Congress and that more discussion was needed.

"One thing I've learned in my time in Congress: We better make certain whatever we do in health care we get it right," Dole said. "When something this big happens — a big, big package passes — and we don't get it right in the first place, it's so hard to correct. It takes forever to change it."

On other issues, Dole said: ■ The Iran-Contra prosecutor, who issued his final report Tuesday, had "abused his power and wasted taxpayer money." "I think we need term limits on special prosecutors like Lawrence Walsh," he said.

■ Doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., examined him last week and gave him a clean bill of health. Dole underwent surgery for prostate cancer in December 1991.

■ It was too early to make a decision about running for president in 1996. Asked at the Rotary meeting, "Is it Cheney, Kemp or Dole in '96?" he joked, "Well, I haven't talked to Elizabeth, but I have talked to the other two."

Sunday, January 23, 1994
The Kansas City Star B-3

Wary Dole considers guest gig on TV's 'Saturday Night Live'

Live from New York! It's... Bob Dole?

Dole, a U.S. senator from Kansas, is trying to decide whether to appear as a guest host on NBC's comedy show "Saturday Night Live."

An invitation has been extended. The only question is whether Dole can find the time.

"The problem is, you have to go up there and spend Wednesday through Saturday. You have to rehearse so you know what you're doing," Dole said Thursday at a Topeka news conference.

The Senate minority leader said it "might be kind of interesting" to appear. But he's wary about any "off-color" humor.

The show's producers may have a solution. They told Dole he could have some control over content.

"I want to be certain what the whole program is going to be," he said.

Dole is no stranger to television



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comedy. He's appeared on "Murphy Brown" and Jay Leno's "The Tonight Show."

But he apparently isn't a huge fan of "Saturday Night Live."

"Generally, you watch a little bit of it, then you go to bed," he said.

— Steve Kraske

Tuesday, January 25, 1994 THE WICHITA EAGLE 3A

Dole to give GOP response to State of the Union address

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the third time in less than a year, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole of Kansas will go head-to-head with President Clinton on national television.

Dole will deliver the GOP response tonight to the president's annual State of the Union address to Congress. The Kansas senator will get between 10 and 12 minutes following Clinton's speech, scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. CST.

Live coverage of the GOP response will be offered on ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and C-SPAN.

Dole, who rehearsed his speech in his Capitol office Monday,

said he will focus on the same major issues as Clinton: crime, health-care reform and welfare reform.

"We're going to try to point out to the American people we are the loyal opposition," said Dole.

Dole said he hoped Clinton in his speech would endorse the Senate's version of the crime bill, which is tougher than the House version.

"That would prove he was one of these new Democrats," Dole said on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" program Sunday. "If he starts to waffle and back off of some of the tough provisions, then he's going to be in difficulty."

14 MONDAY JANUARY 24, 1994 THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

Dole predicts a scaled-down health reform plan will pass Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Republicans mounting a challenge to President Clinton's health care plan, House GOP leader Bob Michel urged today that Congress "move more slowly and reservedly" to fix problems in the medical system.

"As you get around the country and people respond to what they perceive is the Clinton plan, they say I'm not sure I want to go that far," Michel, R-Ill., said on CBS this morning.

Republicans are pushing for changes such as those that would protect health insurance coverage

for people who change jobs and make the insurance affordable to some of the 37 million who don't now have it.

The health care system has problems, he said, "but certainly not of crisis proportions to the degree that we've got to take this whole ball of wax, the entire program all at once. ... we ought to move more slowly and reservedly, maybe in an incremental sort of way of what we can afford now."

Interviewed on the same program, House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., said that with health care

accounting for 14 percent of the nation's gross national product, the country must move to overhaul the whole system now to make any significant difference in cost.

"To just take one part of it and not deal with other parts of it is not going to work," he said. "Not only will it not affect cost control but we're not going to get the kind of universal coverage (that) almost everybody concedes is what we're going to have to have to get the system under control."

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Sunday that law-

makers got "a reality check" when they met with constituents back home over the long congressional recess, "and we're not going to get that vast program that President and Mrs. Clinton want."

Dole, speaking Sunday on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," said, "We ought to take a look at it, do the best we can, but not spend all year trying to shove something down the throats of the American people, which would be a large overdose of government."

He said insurance reforms, including letting people stay covered

when they change jobs and buy policies without exclusions for pre-existing conditions, would do the job, along with vouchers for the poor. A bill that then-senator and now Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen offered two years ago would do the job, he suggested.

But Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell said he "heard just the opposite" from Dole back home. His constituents want Congress to guarantee "permanent, non-cancelable health insurance for every American."

Foley, interviewed Sunday on

ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley," rejected suggestions that health care reform is not as badly needed as refashioning the country's welfare system.

"There isn't any reason we can't work on both of them together,"

Asked if the Senate Republicans would filibuster on health reform, Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., said, "We would prefer not to go that route." But he added that the Democrats "cannot get 60 votes for a massive, government-controlled, reinvent health care, expensive, business-you-pay-for-it type program."

gress to gaining control of a majority of statehouses.

Part of the strategy, they said, was working harder to attract the votes of women, blacks and Hispanics.

"Don't be afraid of us," said Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla of Texas, who said too many Republicans believe the party cannot win the votes of minorities.

"The party of Lincoln can no longer be satisfied with 10 percent of the black vote," Kemp said.

But there was an undercurrent of frustration that Clinton was using the power of the presidency to gain the public trust on crime, welfare reform and other issues that traditionally have broken to the advantage of Republicans.

In another in a spate of recent polls showing Clinton's popularity on the rise, a Time/CNN survey

released Saturday found 54 percent of Americans favor Clinton's handling of the presidency.

Trying to regain their edge and capture early election-year momentum, Republicans opened what appears likely to be a bidding war on the crime issue — demanding tougher sentences, harsher treatment of convicts and more prison cells.

"President Clinton talks tough on crime," Dole said. "He talks tough on welfare. But nothing ever happens. We've had enough rhetoric. We believe it's time to take the gloves off."

Kemp endorsed the tough approach. But he said Republicans need to pair it with a commitment to bring jobs and better schools to inner cities so that the party's anti-crime message is "not just more prisons."

The Salina Journal Wednesday, January 26, 1994 11

Dole ready to fight over health reform

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole signaled a fierce election-year battle over health care in his reaction to President Clinton's State of the Union address Tuesday.

"Our country has health care problems, but no health care crisis," said Dole in prepared remarks released during Clinton speech.

He criticized the Clinton health care plan as "a mountain of bureaucrats between you and your doctor."

"More cost. Less choice. More taxes. Less quality. More government control," said Dole of the administration's proposals. "Less control for you and your family."

His thoughts were echoed by House Republican leader Robert Michel of Illinois, who said his party wants "to be players in finding solutions to our country's ailing health care system, but we're reluctant to support a wholesale turnover of the health care industry to government bureaucracy."

Both Dole and Michel complained that Clinton has not provided a definitive welfare reform proposal to Congress yet.

"The president promised in his campaign to end welfare as we know it," said Michel. "Then, in his first year in office, he never sent a hint of a proposal."

Dole also challenged the president to sign crime legislation that is as strong as the rhetoric of his speech.

"The president used tough language tonight — and that's good," said Dole. "But will he act on it?"

Dole, of Kansas, called for 10 new regional prisons and tougher punishment, like mandatory sentences for using a gun while committing a crime and death sentences for drug kingpins.

"Republicans want President Clinton to sign the toughest bill possible," he said.

The Senate GOP leader also said he hoped higher taxes under Clinton would not cut short the economic recovery and declining interest rates and said "Republicans would take America in a different direction."

He rebuked the president's defense policies, saying, "The one place the president has cut drastically is precisely the wrong place — national security — slashed to the lowest levels since before Pearl Harbor."

"History tells us, and many of us know firsthand, that America cannot afford to have a hollow military. Nor can we afford to let the United Nations dictate what is in America's national interest."

The Salina Journal Saturday, January 29, 1994

Dole softens stance on health care woes

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole softened his position Friday on President Clinton's push for health care reform, insisting he wants to find solutions to what he called a "serious problem."

Dole, R-Kan., said he wanted to shift the debate's focus away from the refusal of Republicans and some Democrats in Congress to use the word "crisis" when describing America's health care system.

"I think we're making too much

over whether this is a crisis or a serious problem," Dole said. "We don't want to get into a fight over whether there is a problem or a crisis."

The administration, Dole said, is contending "anybody who says there isn't a crisis isn't for health reform. If you're not with them, you're against it, somehow. I think they're losing a lot of their support, so they're getting a little testy."

In the GOP response to Clinton's State of the Union address Tuesday night, Dole had harsh words for the president's health reform plan, calling it "a massive overdose of government control" that would raise everyone's taxes and reduce the quality of care.



Dole