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Dole gives Ollie North his blessing, and \$5,000

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four days after snubbing Ollie North's candidacy, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole bestowed an endorsement and a \$5,000 campaign contribution on his party's nominee for a Senate seat from Virginia.

"I told Ollie that I will do everything possible to assist in his election to the U.S. Senate," Dole said Thursday in a statement issued after an hourlong meeting. "Including, of course, campaigning for him in Virginia."

Dole's comments marked a change from Sunday, the day after North won his party's convention to challenge Democratic Sen. Charles Robb in November. Asked in a televised interview whether Republicans should unite behind North, Dole replied, "I think it's going to take a while to sort that out."

He noted that two independents — one Republican and one Democrat — might enter the race — and said, "It makes it very difficult for some in the Republican Party."

Dole's weekend comments drew criticism from some Republicans.

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who said a principal political objective for the party this fall is to gain a Senate majority.

In a brief statement issued after his meeting with North, the GOP leader said: "We need 51 Republicans in the Senate so Republicans can help set the agenda for America, and help change course from the Clinton administration's big tax, big spending, big government programs."

For his part, North issued a statement saying he and Dole had a "very productive, cordial meeting this morning. I welcome his full support and look forward to having him join me on the campaign trail."

North's campaign office disclosed the \$5,000 contribution from Dole's political action committee.

North lags Robb in public opinion polls in a race that shapes up as one of the most volatile in the country. Former Democratic Gov. L. Douglas Wil-

der and former GOP Attorney General Marshall Coleman are considering independent candidacies, raising the possibility of a four-way race.

Dole met privately with Coleman on Wednesday, and issued a statement later saying he could not "offer any encouragement and support" to a prospective candidacy.

The controversy surrounding North dates from his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal of the Reagan administration. As a Marine lieutenant colonel serving on the National Security Council staff, North was a key player in the affair, and later was convicted of aiding and abetting the obstruction of Congress by helping prepare misleading statements for other officials.

His convictions of that and other charges were set aside on appeal on grounds they were tainted by congressional testimony for which he had been granted immunity.

Virginia's other senator, Republi-

can John Warner, has emerged as North's chief Republican detractor. "No flip-flops, no midfield reverses," he told reporters on Wednesday after his own meeting with Coleman.

"Oliver North has made it his principal campaign plan to trash the Congress by day and then by night he

calls looking for support of individual members," Warner said. "What does that say about this man's integrity?"

Republican Sen. John Danforth of Missouri also criticized North.

"They blew what should be a Republican seat," Danforth said. "It's damaging to the Republican Party."

Dole threatens to block health plan

By Robert L. Jackson
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — As President Clinton urged Americans on Saturday to press a slow-moving Congress to enact universal health-care coverage this year, the Senate's leading Republican threatened to block any plan requiring businesses to pay for it.

In his weekly radio address, Clinton declared that major health-care reform is "closer than ever before," and he commended the work of Democratic Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, who are moving legislation through their respective commit-

tees. He said everyone needs the security of health insurance coverage.

"The only way all of our people will be secure is when every American knows that, whether they lose their job, change jobs, move their home, get sick, get injured or just grow old, their health care will be there," the president said.

But Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said in a speech at the Republican National Committee's Northeast regional meeting in Boston that he was prepared to block passage of health-care reform and put the issue at the center of this fall's political campaigns

if the Democrats insist on requiring employers to pay for their workers' insurance.

Dole said he wanted to explore bipartisan compromises but acknowledged that Republicans have been unable so far to settle on a single plan. He said more than 90 percent of Americans, however, could be covered without the so-called employer mandates and suggested that he would not yield on that Democrat-favored feature.

With time running short as Congress eyes adjournment for the fall elections, Dole could orchestrate a GOP filibuster in the Senate or use his position on the Senate Finance Committee, a key panel

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considering health-care reform, to block a Clinton plan.

The statements by Clinton and Dole came as five congressional committees — two in the Senate and three in the House — are running weeks behind schedule in crafting health-care reform legislation. However, Kennedy's Labor and Human Resources Committee gave Clinton's program a boost last week by becoming the first panel to approve a bill that meets the president's basic goal of guaranteeing health-care coverage for all.

Some key House Democrats, notably Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John D. Dingell of Michigan, whose panel is

deadlocked on health care, have been taking a position similar to Dole's — that Democrats should take the issue back to voters in the midterm elections this year and try again in 1995.

Clinton, however, said he remains optimistic about substantial reforms in the near future.

"For weeks we've been told that health-care reform is dead, that America will continue to be the only advanced country in the world that spends more than anybody else on health care and does less with it," he said.

"Let's cover everyone," the president urged. "Let's get the job done this year."

The Salina Journal 12 Wednesday, June 15, 1994

Dole reports 23 expense-paid trips in 1993

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole gave more than \$89,000 in speaking honoraria to charity last year and took nearly two dozen trips paid for by others, according to records released Tuesday.

Dole's wife, Red Cross president Elizabeth Dole, also was in great demand on the speaking circuit, often commanding fees of \$20,000. Much of her income from those speeches went to the Red Cross, the annual financial disclosure forms show.

Forms also were released for Kansas' junior senator, Republican Nancy Kassebaum.

Dole went on 23 trips paid for by others last year, accepting air fare for speaking engagements from companies such as Archer Daniels Midland, Philip

Morris and John Deere; GOP candidates such as Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison; and organizations such as the Jewish Community Relations Bureau in Kansas City, Mo.

Elizabeth Dole listed 33 expense-paid trips for speeches in 1993, some of it paid as an in-kind contribution to a Red Cross program for at-risk youth. The rest went for taxes, a retirement plan and speechwriting expenses.

Dole donated \$89,450 in honoraria to charity last year, including \$41,950 to charities based in Kansas. The largest single beneficiary was the Lake-Marie Center in Paola, which received \$13,450.

"I'm pleased that some of the speeches I enjoy making to fine groups can benefit so many needy causes in Kansas," Dole said.

The Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington was given \$13,000.

Included in the honoraria is \$400 from two appearances on NBC's "The Tonight Show."

Since 1981, Dole said he has donated \$909,914 in honoraria to charity.

The Doles listed a variety of stock, bank and real estate investments in addition to the senator's salary of \$148,400. He rents the basement of his home in Russell, Kan., and receives an Army pension of \$17,700 annually.

Dole got Ethics Committee waivers for five gifts — two crystal bowls, a crystal etching and a silver eagle — worth between \$340 and \$855 from groups such as the American Medical Association and Republican Party of Florida.

Kassebaum took no trips paid for by others, accepted no gifts and had no honoraria. Kassebaum's annual salary is \$133,600.

She listed as assets several stocks in companies such as Exxon, General Electric and General Motors, and investment in a Liberal, Kan., radio station. She also owns land in Morris County, Kan.

Dole keeps open door for '96 presidential bid

By The New York Times

Taking a clear step toward a race for the Republican nomination for president in 1996, Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas said Tuesday that he had instructed his advisers to seek commitments from political strategists and fund-raisers around the country before other candidates locked them up.

Dole emphasized that he had not decided whether to run.

But he said he gave the go-ahead for his advisers to move quickly because he did not want other contenders to get an edge in building organizations, as happened in his bid to wrest the Republican nomination from then Vice President George Bush in 1988.

While he has not assembled a preliminary campaign operation and described the contacts with strategists as informal, Dole's political

action committee, Campaign America, has hired more than a half-dozen field workers in important primary states, including Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Whether or not I do it, you've got to be prepared," Dole said.

Dole, 70, said he would decide in February.

A-12 Sunday, June 12, 1994
The Kansas City Star

Dole set to fight on health reform

If Democrats push employer mandates, the GOP leader will make it a campaign issue.

By JOHN KING
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said Saturday that he was prepared to block passage of health-care reform and put the issue at the center of this fall's political campaigns if Democrats insisted on requiring employers to pay for their workers' insurance.

Speaking at a GOP meeting in Boston, the senator from Kansas also criticized President Clinton's handling of the nuclear inspection standoff with North Korea and said Republicans should campaign on the theme that Clinton has failed to show global leadership.

Dole predicted death for two Clinton-style Democratic health-care plans now moving in the Senate. One, which was drafted by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, was passed 11-6 by his Senate Labor Committee.

"That's as far as it is going to go," Dole said of the Kennedy plan, which would finance universal health coverage through an employer mandate.

The second plan Dole spoke of is the work of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat. It also requires most employers to provide health coverage to their workers.

If there is to be a bipartisan deal on health-care reform, most believe it will originate through negotiations between Dole and Moynihan in the Finance Com-

mittee. Dole has his chief of staff exploring possible compromises, and he acknowledged that one roadblock to any bipartisan agreement was that Republicans had been unable to settle on a single GOP plan.

Still, Dole said, such issues as coverage for those with pre-existing conditions and insurance portability could be resolved quickly if Clinton would drop his demand for employer mandates and government oversight of the health-care system. Dole said more than 90 percent of Americans could be covered without any mandates, and he suggested he would not yield on the issue.

"In my view, we've reached a point where I'm prepared to say, 'OK, let's have a referendum on this in 1994,'" Dole told the Republican National Committee's Northeast regional meeting. "Let's let the voters decide. If they want the Clinton health-care plan, then they'll vote for their candidates. If they want something else, they will vote for Republicans."

Whether he can hold moderate Republicans to that stance is unclear. Several are negotiating with Democrats on plans that would trigger mandates in several years if universal or near-universal coverage is not achieved through other reforms.

On foreign policy, Dole offered no suggestions as to how he might have handled the standoff with North Korea differently.

Dole set to block reform

GOP may campaign on health-care issue

By The Associated Press
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Sen. Robert Dole (right), R-Kan., is greeted by a New England supporter Saturday after his speech addressed the Republican position on health-care reform.

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Dole suggests election fight on health care, foreign policy

By JOHN KING
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dates. If they want something else, they will vote for Republicans."

It isn't clear whether Dole can hold moderate Republicans to his stance; several are negotiating with Democrats on plans that would trigger mandates if universal or near-universal coverage were not achieved through other reforms.

Speaking about North Korea, Dole said Clinton started out with diplomatic overtures and now has turned to demanding international sanctions, while insisting that Pyongyang allow international inspectors to monitor its nuclear program.