

Dole, Clinton to offer competing welfare bills

By Robert Pear
N.Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — President Clinton and Senate Republican leader Bob Dole will offer competing proposals Monday to overcome a political impasse that has stalled welfare legislation for two months.

The two men are scheduled to outline their proposals in speeches to the National Governors' Association, meeting in Burlington, Vt. Gov. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, a Republican who is the group's incoming chairman, said he would work to line up support for Dole's plan.

Administration officials said Saturday that Clinton, in an effort to recapture the initiative on welfare, would announce steps to encourage

states to move more of their welfare recipients into jobs. At present, fewer than 10 percent of the 5 million adults on welfare are employed.

He will offer states incentives to meet an ambitious new goal of putting substantial number of welfare recipients into jobs or programs that prepare them for work. States could choose a variety of strategies, including "workfare" or subsidies to private employers to hire welfare recipients.

A senior administration official said Clinton would also give states more flexibility in running their welfare programs, a priority for governors from both parties as well as for Congressional Republicans.

Dole, the front-running candidate for the Republican presidential nomination,

has for several weeks been struggling to broker a compromise on welfare legislation. Bills approved by the House of Representatives and by the Senate Finance Committee are, in general, much tougher than Clinton's proposals and would set more stringent work requirements.

Dole's proposal builds on the measure approved in May by the Senate Finance Committee. A bloc of 24 conservative Republicans led by Sen. Phil Gramm, the Texas who is one of Dole's chief rivals for the party's presidential nomination, rebelled against that measure, forcing Dole to move to the right in his search for a Republican consensus.

Aides to Dole said his plan would place him in the middle, between a conservative bill drafted by Gramm and a

liberal alternative to be offered by Senate Democrats.

Dole's proposal, like the bill passed by the House in March, would give each state a lump sum of federal money, known as a block grant, to assist poor people. State officials would have far more discretion than they now have in deciding how to use the money.

But poor people would no longer have a legal right, or entitlement, to assistance, and the federal government would put a cap on total spending, regardless of economic need.

As they gathered in Vermont, governors of both parties said they favored welfare reform that left states with the most money available and the fewest restrictions on how to use it.

Los Angeles Times/
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Dole for president campaign recently received a letter from a potential contributor who wanted to know how the game worked.

"I know I can't afford enough to get Italy," the author wrote, referring to the ambassador's post there, "but how much would I have to give for New Zealand? Could you please send me a complete price list?"

"We don't know if he was joking or not," said Howard Wilkins, one of the national co-chairmen of the Dole finance committee.

Probably not, and Ambassador Wilkins should know.

Wilkins, a prosperous Wichita businessman and real estate investor, was named envoy to the Netherlands in 1989 after contributing \$100,000 to the Republican Party during George Bush's 1988 presidential campaign.

Requests for favors as blunt as the recent letter are rare, but they are emblematic of the enviable position Dole finds himself six months before the first presidential primary. The well-oiled Dole money machine is raking in cash at a rate of more than \$100,000 a day, far outstripping the fund-raising of any of his GOP competitors.

Dole's fund-raising prowess demonstrates once again that while love can generate modest amounts of political money, only the prospect of success — and spoils — brings in the really big bucks.

"People read the papers and watch TV; they know who's going to win," said Zachariah P. Zachariah, an enterprising Fort Lauderdale, Fla., cardiologist who serves as Dole's top Florida fund-raiser.

"It's not about emotions. It's all about who's winning and they want to be part of the winning team."

That team has attracted a blue-chip list of Republican luminaries, corporate titans and accomplished GOP fund-raisers, all of whom see in Dole the party's best chance to recapture the White House.

Some of them were Dole supporters when he last ran for president,

in 1987-88 as an insurgent challenging the presumptive nominee, Bush.

But the bulk of the list are emissaries from the chamber of commerce and country club center of the Republican Party, with a strong contingent from Wall Street.

The honorary chairman of the Dole finance committee is Max Fisher, an 87-year-old Detroit financier who deserted the Democrats in 1968 to support Richard Nixon and who has been a major GOP cash raiser ever since.

The chairman, John Moran, a former Californian with interests in oil and manufacturing, joined the Dole campaign this year after serving two years as the finance chairman for the Republican National Committee. He raised \$115 million for the party during his tenure.



Dole

His senior lieutenants include Lodwick Cook, the chairman of Arco; Philip Anschutz, a Denver billionaire who is trying to buy the Los Angeles Kings hockey team; Henry Kravis, the New York investment banker who recently hosted a Long Island fund-raiser to celebrate Dole's 72nd birthday — taking in more than \$300,000; Donald Marron, chairman of the brokerage house PaineWebber Inc.; and Gergette Mosbacher, aspiring makeup magnate and wife of Robert Mosbacher, Texas oilman, former commerce secretary and Bush's 1992 campaign chairman.

The senior fund-raising group also includes oilman T. Boone Pickens, CEO Leslie Wexner of The Limited Inc., former Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis and Russell Meyer, a longtime Dole friend and Cessna Aircraft Co. executive.

To a greater extent than Democrats, Republican donors — and those who solicit their donations — view their contributions as investments rather than as signs of ideological solidarity with the candidate, Dole aides say. The contributors want a stake, not a statement.

"We're in a strong position since Senator Dole is the clear front-runner, and contributors are more likely to view writing a check as a sound investment," Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said.

Dole introduces estate-tax relief measure in Senate

Farms, businesses being sold to pay taxes, he said

WASHINGTON (AP) — Estate taxes would be reduced on family owned businesses, ranches and farms under a measure introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas and co-sponsored by Sen. Christopher Bond of Missouri. At a news conference Friday, Dole said too

many businesses and farms were being sold, rather than passed on to heirs, to satisfy federal estate taxes as high as 55 percent.

"The family loses its livelihood, the family business employees lose their jobs and the community suffers," he said.

The first \$600,000 in assets in an estate now are exempt from estate taxes. Dole's bill would exempt up to \$1.5 million of assets in a family business in which the heirs will have continued involvement. Family business assets over that limit would be taxed at half the rate as other assets.

Bond, chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, has been urging several tax cuts for small businesses, including estate taxes.

"By targeting meaningful tax cuts for small business, the engine of job growth in America, Congress can be responsible for stimulating the creation of new jobs and economic growth," Bond said.

House Republicans already have passed a broader-based estate-tax cut, raising the exemption limit for all estates to \$750,000, an estimated tax cut of \$6.8 billion over five years.

Sen. David Pryor of Arkansas, the chief Democratic sponsor of the bill, said the Senate estate-tax bill would cost about \$5 billion over five years.

He said he was hoping the Clinton administration would support the bill, which is backed by a broad-based coalition of farm groups and business interests.

As of Friday, Dole said he had 26 co-sponsors in the Senate, including Bond and his fellow-Missouri Republican, Sen. John Ashcroft, as well as Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan.

Governors partisan about welfare

Clinton, Dole favor different reforms

By VIC OSTROWIDZKI
Hearst Newspapers

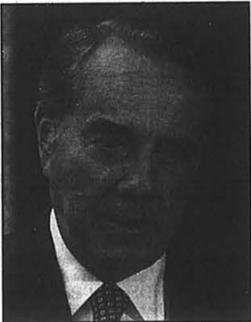
BURLINGTON, Vt. — President Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., squared off Monday over welfare, offering opposing blueprints for reform, and the nation's governors reacted to the plans along party lines.

In speeches before the National Governors' Association, both Clinton and Dole said states should be allowed greater flexibility in experimenting with ways to reduce the welfare rolls.

But the two political leaders diverged over the duties of the federal government. Dole, the GOP presidential nominee front-runner, said states should have practically unlimited leeway in spending federal money, while Clinton said some federal restrictions are necessary.

Clinton said he was "opposed to (Republican) efforts in Congress now to cut child care" and was against "giving the states more mandates and less money."

The president, who served as Arkansas governor for 12 years, said congressionally sponsored welfare reform is taking too long. He has approved giving states in-



Sen. Bob Dole wants states to have free rein and to cut out a legal right to welfare.



President Clinton believes some federal oversight is needed in welfare reform and programs.

centives to move more welfare recipients into jobs or programs that prepare them for employment.

He said welfare rules would be altered to speed federal approval of state reform plans. Approval takes about 120 days. Clinton said he'll cut the time to 30 days. He also said new federal rules would prevent welfare recipients who refuse to work from getting increases in food stamp allotments.

Addressing the governors earlier, Dole attacked the president for not trusting the states with admin-

istering welfare programs. "President Clinton has said that giving you control will incite a 'race to the bottom,'" Dole said. "I wonder which states does he believe can not be trusted with welfare, education and protection of their people."

Dole said his proposal would give states more discretion than they have now in deciding how to use the money, with each state receiving a lump sum, known as a block grant, to assist poor people. Dole said that under his plan

welfare recipients no longer would have a legal right to assistance, and that Congress would provide a fixed amount of money each year, regardless of economic need.

Dole would require welfare recipients to meet strict work requirements. In addition, states would have the option of banning cash aid to mothers under 18 and women who have children while on welfare.

While some Democratic governors endorsed aspects of Dole's plan, most attacked it as a cut-and-run approach that would hand over to the states welfare responsibilities without providing additional federal assistance.

Tom Carper of Delaware endorsed the president's plan, saying his party's governors want the federal government to continue a partnership with the states.

"What Senator Dole proposed is less help on health care and child care," Carper said. "What we see coming with the Dole plan down the pike is the mother of all unfunded mandates, and that is leaving the states with the responsibility for families in poverty when the times are bad."

A typical Republican response came from New York's George Pataki who said Dole's plan would "strengthen the ability of individual states to fashion welfare programs that best meet the needs of their citizens."

Western Front

Hutchinson News Thursday, August 3, 1995

Questions for Dole

Because of a last-minute time change made by the representatives of the Dole Mobile, we were unable to meet with Bob Dole's representative. Therefore, we use this method to address Mr. Dole.

No. 1. Is it fair for Canadian custom harvesters to come to the United States and hire help without paying the high employment taxes that the American Harvesters have to pay? Would you rather work for a Canadian and get paid the full salary in cash or an American and receive what is left after all of the withholding is taken out?

No. 2. Why did Bob Dole approve a \$20 billion bale-out of the Mexican peso when we only do \$1 billion a year of business with that country?

No. 3. Why have we not heard about a voting scam being investigated by the FBI?

No. 4. If Bob Dole is interested in the American public, why doesn't he stop motor voter legislation?

No. 5. Why does Bob Dole wish to stop the London Times from telling the truth about Bill Clinton?

No. 6. Since the national health care

plan failed last year, why does Bob Dole persist in supporting national health care? Are there other avenues to explore that would better support the free enterprise system that made America great?

No. 7. Can Bob Dole explain why three of the items from the Contract with America failed in the Senate? Three misses out of 10 calculates to about a C- grade so far!

No. 8. Why did Tyson foods and other Arkansas corporations decide to drop Bill Clinton to support Bob Dole? Will he now be working for Tyson rather than the American people? Won't this implicate guilt by association?

Sorry you were gone when we got to the meeting. We missed being able to meet face to face. This letter expresses a few of our concerns.

Concerned voters of Ness County,
DAVID LAWRENCE
DARRYL SCHULER
ALBERT ALBERS
DON HARLESS
THOMAS SEKAVEC
SUSAN CRANSTON
Ness County

Dole, Clinton crack jokes about each other's health

Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The health care debate took a whimsical turn Monday, with the nation's governors focused on a pair of rising statistics: President Clinton's cholesterol level and Bob Dole's heart rate.

Dole, the Senate majority leader, whose age of 72 could be a factor in the presidential race, got things started by telling the National Governors Association he won't make health an issue in his Republican presidential campaign.

"My cholesterol is lower than Clinton's, and my weight's lower than Clinton's, and my blood pressure," he joked. "I'm not going to make health an issue in 1996, no."

Addressing the same group a few hours later, the president took mock offense at Dole's remark, but admitted his cholesterol count didn't get any lower with the Vermont ice cream he had before the speech.

"My standing pulse rate is much lower than Senator Dole's. But that's really not his fault. I don't have to

deal with Phil Gramm everyday," Clinton joked.

Dole, who just turned 72, and Clinton, who is about to turn 49, appeared before the governors to debate welfare reform. Dole faces daily grumbling from the more conservative Gramm, a Texas senator who also is a GOP presidential candidate.

"I think in matters of health, age and political anxiety, we have come to a draw," Clinton said of Dole.

With his cholesterol count in mind, Clinton ordered a turkey breast sandwich for lunch at the Oasis restaurant, a classic chrome diner owned by a prominent Democrat.

The president didn't fall to the temptations of the diner's specialties — french fries and burgers — but he had trouble keeping to a sensible diet afterward.

"My," he said, looking wide-eyed at a shelf near the counter. "The pies look good."