

Wednesday, August 9, 1995 THE WICHITA EAGLE 5A

Senate decides to not attempt welfare reform until September

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans, caught in a crossfire of conservative criticism and Democratic opposition, on Tuesday postponed until next month their drive to dismantle the federal welfare system.

Some Republicans blamed Democrats for the delay, but Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said only that there was "no way we could do it. Too many amendments, too many people hadn't been heard."



Dole

Dole had kept the Senate in session this week, as the House began its summer recess, in the hopes of pushing through his plan to overhaul the nation's welfare system and put the states in charge of dozens of welfare, job training and child-care programs.

But his bill, introduced late last week, quickly ran into criticism from some conservatives who said it did little to discourage out-of-wedlock births, and from GOP moderates who worried that it failed to pump enough money into child care for women who would be required to work.

Democrats, united behind their own welfare overhaul legislation, had kept up a drumbeat of attacks on the GOP's bill. They asserted that it punished children, replaced job-training programs for middle-class workers with make-work programs for welfare recipients and cut spending on the nation's social programs far too deeply.

Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said he agreed with Dole's decision to postpone the debate.

"The reasons why make sense," Daschle said. "The next three weeks could be the most meaningful in terms of asking people outside Washington what they think. Having their input, review, ideas will even better prepare us to come back and conclude the work on this very important piece of legislation in September."

In a statement, President Clinton called on lawmakers to "put partisanship and politics aside and to get the job done."

"The American people deserve real welfare reform and have been kept waiting long enough. We need a bipartisan bill that ends welfare and replaces it with work."

Both Dole and Daschle said negotiations over the legislation would continue. Dole promised to reach out to GOP critics this week, and said that by Friday, when the Senate begins its summer recess, "we would be hopefully, very, very close to having every Republican on board."

Dole's bill has the backing of 33 of the Senate's 54 Republicans. One of his chief critics has been Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, who is also one of Dole's rivals for the GOP nomination for president.

Gramm said Dole has asked to meet with him, to "see if we can work out provisions that would strengthen the bill on dealing with

illegitimacy and ending the economic incentives for people on welfare to have more and more children."

He said he and Dole would also attempt to work out an agreement "on denying welfare to people who come to America with their hand out instead of their sleeves rolled up, coming to get welfare instead of working."

Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., said Dole's decision to pull the bill and negotiate with his critics marked the "first time that Senator Dole has realized that the American taxpayers demand and want real welfare reform and not tinkering around the edges."

Faircloth contended that the American people are insisting on stopping "the cycle of illegitimacy, and you stop that by not subsidizing young women to have children out of wedlock any longer."

Dole makes concessions on welfare

Move designed to pick up 20 votes

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole made concessions to Republican conservatives and moderates Friday in an effort to muster enough votes next month to pass a welfare bill that gives states unprecedented responsibility for their poor.

"We're very close to having the votes we need for a good, complete overhaul of this system that has obviously failed," said Dole, R-Kan., as he unveiled 21 modifications to his bill.

The changes reflected the views of up to 20 senators, he said. However, lawmakers in both wings of the party, who had forced Dole to set aside the bill early this week for lack of votes, were continuing to press for changes.

Several changes were aimed at winning the support of conservative Republicans led by Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, Dole's rival for the GOP presidential nomination.

One major change would ban benefits for five years to immigrants who enter the country after the bill is enacted. Another would



File photo

Sen. Bob Dole says senators are close to having enough votes to pass welfare reform.

set annual goals for reducing out-of-wedlock births. Earlier in the week, Dole adopted a Gramm provision requiring states to reduce welfare benefits to recipients who refuse to work.

"We're good on immigration, we're good on work," said Larry Neal, a spokesman for Gramm. "We're not even close on bureau-

crats and not even close on illegitimacy."

Gramm has insisted the bill require states to deny cash benefits to new immigrants and unwed teen-age mothers and permit no additional money for babies born to mothers already on welfare.

He also wants a dramatic reduction in the number of federal workers who now administer welfare programs that, under the Dole and Gramm plans, would be turned over to states. Dole on Friday added general language ensuring that "all excess positions" would be eliminated.

Despite the remaining differences, "we will pass a bill in September," Gramm said at a news conference earlier Friday alongside Dole, other Republican senators and Republican Gov. William Weld of Massachusetts.

Democrats and moderate Republicans are worried about guaranteeing child care for women who would be forced to work under the GOP plan. They also say states should have to spend some money of their own on the poor, as they do now.

Dole on Friday added an option allowing states to exempt families with a child under age 1 from

work requirements. He also would require that for the first two years of the new welfare system, states spend 75 percent of what they spent on Aid to Families with Dependent Children in 1994.

But an aide to one moderate Republican senator said the sides were still far apart on child care and state contributions. Moderates want a five-year commitment of state money, for example, rather than two years.

Differences will be worked out over the August congressional recess and on the Senate floor, Neal said. The Senate is scheduled to begin debate on welfare Sept. 6.

Dole said some Democrats had expressed interest in the bill, and that Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., was a supporter. However, Tim Warner, Baucus' press secretary, said Baucus' support was conditioned on the inclusion of a child-care guarantee for mothers required to work.

Dole, Gramm and others sought Friday to portray a united front against the Clinton administration, holding up Massachusetts as an example of why Congress must pass a bill that gives the states broad authority over welfare spending and eligibility.

Hutchinson News Sunday, August 13, 1995

Dole: I can beat Clinton

By Chris Koger

The Hutchinson News

WICHITA — The area's top Republican supporters paid \$1,000 each Saturday night to meet the man they hope is America's next president, just as he was returning from a Ross Perot-sponsored political forum in Dallas.

Sen. Bob Dole, the GOP's front-runner in the 1996 presidential election, stopped at the Wichita Marriott Hotel for a private fund-raiser sponsored by Jordan Haines, retired chairman of the Fourth Financial Corp., and Russ Meyer, Cessna's chairman.

"I will tell them that I think I

can beat Bill Clinton in 1996, and that's what the nominating process is all about," Dole said at a press conference before the fund-raiser. "I think I am the one candidate who can beat President Clinton."

Dole said Clinton, who will likely get the Democratic nomination, will not win a single

southern state, but will still be a tough competitor.

Although sounding confident about winning the Republican nomination, the Kansas senator said he will still have to work hard for it.

"I haven't thought much about running mates. First you have to win the nomination," said Dole,

standing next to Gov. Bill Graves.

"I think one thing we have in the Republican Party is an outstanding number of governors and others in this country who would be, if I were the nominee, acceptable running mates."

Perot hasn't thrown his hat

See DOLE, Page 11

Dole

Continued from Page 1

into the political ring, and Dole said the GOP will benefit if he doesn't.

"Seventy percent of the Perot supporters voted for Republican candidates in the 1994 election, so we believe there is an opportunity there for us, because these people have Republican leanings," he said. "We tried many of the things in Congress that Ross Perot ... had challenged us to do — term limits, campaign reform, lobby reform, the balanced budget, fix Medicare, fix Medicaid. So we think they're fairly receptive to the Republican message."

Dole said people attending the Perot event this weekend "asked Democrats and Republicans to work together, and he chided Democrats who 'vote against everything I thought the American people said they wanted us to do.'"

Responding to a question about the death of Grateful Dead singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia, Dole said he knew Garcia had an impact on young people. Dole said he hopes Garcia's death serves a warning to young people about drug use.

Nelson Warfield, press secretary for Dole, said the fund-raiser netted \$125,000 for his campaign.

Kansas ranks third in the amount of contributions for the campaign, with \$1.2 million raised at the end of July, Warfield said. New York and Florida contributions rank

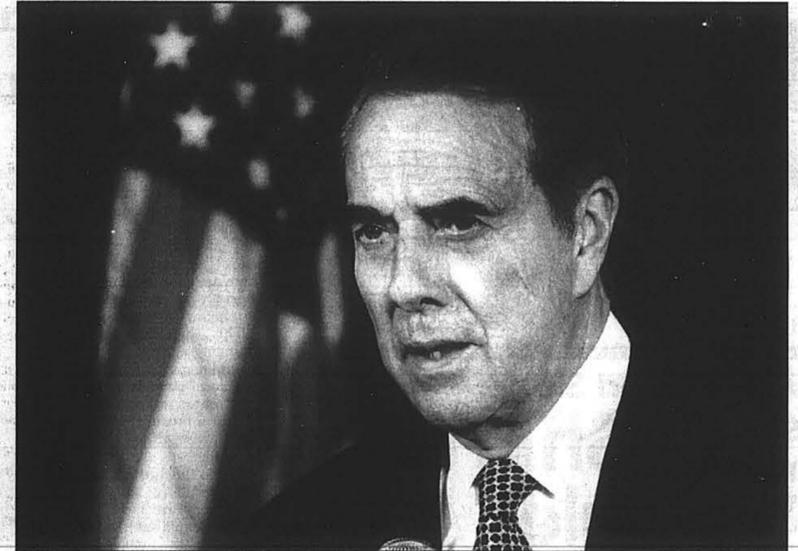


Photo by Melissa Lacey

Sen. Bob Dole chided Democrats for ignoring wishes of the voters during his brief news conference Saturday night in Wichita.

higher.

Dole, who has attacked Hollywood values depicted in movies and music, said the more conservative presidential candidates, including Rep. Alan Keyes, won't have an effect on the nomination or the election.

Several other Republican members of Congress attended the

fund-raiser, including freshman Reps. Sam Brownback and Todd Tiahrt, Rep. Pat Roberts and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum.

Several young members of the Farha family, at the hotel for a family reunion, waited outside the conference room in the hopes of meeting the presidential candidate. Garrett Farha, 11, of Concordia, said he

wanted to meet Dole because "he might be the oldest president."

His sister, 9-year-old Kelsey, said she had one question to ask the candidate: "Do you really want to be the president?" Unfortunately for the children, Dole was rushed into a side door and into the fund-raiser suite before they could talk to him.

Hutchinson News Monday, August 14, 1995

Dole taking middle road

By R.W. Apple Jr.

N.Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — These days, almost as many roads lead to Bob Dole's office in the Capitol as to that Oval Office down the street.

Bosnia, Medicare, welfare reform, the budget, the ethical troubles of his colleague, Bob Packwood — all of those subjects and many more traced paths through his shorthand conver-

sations with aides Thursday as he pressed the Senate toward its summer adjournment Friday.

And without missing a beat, he simultaneously told a visitor about his other current preoccupation, the 1996 Presidential campaign.

His message was plain: Republicanism with an ideological edge, a la Gingrich, a la Gramm, was not for him and not, he thought, for the

American people. In private, he said, they took a balanced view of federal programs, recognizing that many were beneficial, "but if you ask them in a big group, they all want to get up and shout about how awful the government is."

He seemed sufficiently confident about his reading of the electorate to suggest that if he was nominated, Gen. Colin Powell, whom he described as

"probably moderate on social issues and fairly conservative on economic and defense issues," would be eminently acceptable as a running mate — even if party conservatives worry about his views on abortion and affirmative action.

"He's a great guy," Dole said. "I've been out to see him once, hope to go out and see him again. Just to go out and sit down and talk."

Majority leader (and hence chief traffic cop) in the Senate, vocal champion of the Bosnian Muslims, clear front-runner for the Republican nomination to oppose President Clinton, the 72-year-old Kansan is playing a lot of major roles at once.

More, in fact, than anyone in recent memory, more even than Lyndon B. Johnson when he was the nearly omnipotent honcho of

See DOLE, Page 14

Dole

Continued from Page 1

the Senate. It is made no easier, of course, by the reality that the Republicans' majority is too thin to override vetoes or close off debate without Democratic help,

or by the fact that three members of his flock — Phil Gramm of Texas, Richard Lugar of Indiana and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania — are running against him, or that he is trying ever so hard to

hold his famously tart tongue, which has gotten him in big trouble during past national campaigns.

"There's no doubt about it," he said. "We're getting a few darts now."

He thought, early on, about stepping down as leader in favor of his deputy, Trent Lott of Mississippi, Dole said, but he has decided that he has the tactical advantage where he is now.