


Hutchinson News Saturday, May 1, 1993

## Dole grilled on pork issue

The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — At the time Senate Republican leader


Bob Dole was lambasting the "embarrassing pork projects" of President Clinton's stimulus package, he was quietly pushing for federal money to convert a vacant building into a boat house back home in Kansas.

The Democrats noticed and took Dole to task Friday, calling the situation "ironic to say the least."

Dole asked the Department of Housing and Urban Development in a March 5 letter to approve Community Development Block Grant money for the

project in Wichita. "The proposed public use of the facility as well as the revitalization of this blighted area seem to be goals which fit well within the contemplated purpose of the community grant program," Dole said in the letter.

At the same time, Dole and fellow Senate Republicans were using a Clinton request for \$2.5 billion in additional CDBG funding in their argument against the White House's larger, \$16.3 billion job-stimulus package.

During the debate over the jobs bill, Dole said he was a supporter of many of the programs Clinton had earmarked for increased funding and that his opposition to the bill stemmed mostly from the fact that the measure would increase the deficit. But he did at times join other Republicans in characterizing the measure as political pork.

Republicans ultimately prevailed and killed the bill. Since then, the White House has pledged to work harder to win advance GOP support for its initiatives.

But the Democrats have continued to single out Dole for criticism.

"I'd say it was ironic to say the least that he was doing that while publicly criticizing the president's plan to make broader use of the same program," said Democratic National Committee chairman David Wilhelm. "It's just a continuation of extraordinary partisanship."

Wilhelm spoke in a telephone interview en route to New Hampshire, where he was delivering the administration's latest criticism of Dole, who visited the state two weeks ago.

"He has established himself as the principal agent of gridlock," Wilhelm said.

## Clinton health-care plan to stall in '93, Dole says

By RICH HOOD  
Political Correspondent

One down, two to go.

Fresh from success in thwarting President Clinton's economic stimulus package, Sen. Bob Dole, the country's top elected Republican, predicts that Clinton's long-awaited health-care reform package won't pass this year.

And the senator from Kansas told a group in Kansas City Saturday that the president's deficit reduction package "is hanging by a thread."

At the annual convention of the American Hotel & Motel Association, Dole said the Clinton administration may have misread the country's mood on the urgency of adopting health-care reform. One recent poll showed that only 11 percent of Americans listed health care as their top priority, he said.

The senator added that Hillary Rodham Clinton, who heads the presidential task force on health-care reform, is at least seeking suggestions from Republicans as well as Democrats in crafting the reform proposal.

In the long run, that approach will prove more beneficial than the president's attempts to ignore Republicans in shaping the jobs bill and the deficit reduction package, Dole said.

But Dole said Republicans warned the first lady during a private session Friday on Capitol Hill not to try to split Republicans away from their party to support the administration effort. That two-hour meeting was attended by lawmakers from both parties.

"Health care — it won't pass this year, in my view," Dole told the audience.

Dole said the Senate Finance Committee, on which he serves, has the best chance to derail Clinton's deficit reduction package. He urged association members to lobby the Senate to pre-

vent the tax increases that would be required for final passage. Congress has already approved an outline for the deficit reduction package.

Dole said the president and other Democrats have excoriated him and other Republican senators for opposing Clinton initiatives. "We're told we're not supposed to oppose anything that President Clinton proposes. We don't have any right to oppose it."

When Republicans oppose Clinton, it's called "gridlock," Dole said. "When you go to bed tonight, pray for gridlock. You're going to get a lot of new taxes you don't want; you're going to get a lot of other things you don't want. I think a little gridlock now and then is a good thing."

Dole said he and other Republicans call their action "good lock." It means when something's bad, we're going to stop it."

The Topeka Capital-Journal,

Tuesday, May 4, 1993

## White House backs down from Dole

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Accused of playing "petty political games," the White House

backed down Monday from President Clinton's statement that Senate Republican leader Bob Dole was trying to spend \$23 million in taxpayers' money on a boathouse project in Wichita, Kan.

The about-face came after Dole said the White House was guilty of a "\$23 million lie," and he declared: "If the White House wants to play hard ball, I'm ready to suit up."

Beating a retreat, White House communications director George Stephanopoulos said, "The president regrets the misunderstanding that may have been caused by any hyperbole in his jokes" Saturday night at dinner with White House correspondents.

Stephanopoulos acknowledged the potential cost to taxpayers "is not as high as stated in the president's joke." In mostly humorous after-dinner remarks, Clinton had cited a figure of \$23 million for the boathouse. In response, Dole said the project wouldn't require any federal money.

The flap started last week when administration and Democratic Party officials accused Dole of hypocrisy during debate over Clinton's failed economic stimulus bill.

In taking on Dole, the Clinton supporters cited a letter he sent federal housing officials supporting a boathouse project. The building originally was purchased with CDBG money for a senior citizens center that moved last year, so the city needs permission from federal housing officials to convert it to a boathouse.

But there is no new federal money involved in the project.



Sen. Bob Dole

6 MONDAY MAY 3, 1993 THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

## Dole fires at Clinton during return to NH

NASHUA, N.H. (AP) — Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole was back in New Hampshire during the weekend, calling for bipartisanship but still taking digs at President Clinton.

"We want President Clinton to be a good president, so don't misunderstand me," the Kansas Republican said Sunday. "We're Americans first and Republicans second. We want him to be this new Democrat. We want him to reduce the deficit by cutting spending. We want all those things he promised in the campaign and has somehow forgotten."

Dole, appearing at a GOP event with Sen. Bob Smith and Rep. Bill Zeff, both R-N.H., was given a hero's welcome for the work he did in ensuring the defeat of Clinton's \$16 billion economic stimulus package.

"We have a fundamental difference of philosophy when it comes to spending," he said. "The people in my hometown of Russell, Kan., say 'Cut spending first, cut spending first.' The people are saying that all across America and we got the message."

Dole said the first 100 days have shown Clinton's political support is very soft.

"There are a lot of people shifting from Clinton supporters to un-

decided. This isn't the guy they thought they were voting for," Dole said, adding later "Clinton's got real serious problems."

He said Republicans are unified and plan to focus their efforts on economic initiatives, including spending cuts, tax reduction and fewer government regulations. He said the defeat of the stimulus package shows the party is serious about its agenda.

"We finally sent a message the people understand. It was very simple. Just stop spending. Pay for it. That's the message the American people want to hear," he said.

Dole, already listed as a possible 1996 presidential candidate, was making his second visit to New Hampshire in three weeks. New Hampshire holds the nation's first presidential primary.

As he did in his previous visit, Dole played down the significance of his appearance.

"I was asked this morning ... why I was going to New Hampshire," he said. "I said, 'Well there's a lot of nice people up there.'"

Dole was greeted at the hotel where the event was held by a group of Democratic activists holding signs with messages critical of the GOP moves on Clinton's plan. Dole mocked the critics.

MONDAY MAY 3, 1993 THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

## Budget director blasts Dole, Gramm

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House budget director said two Senate Republican leaders who led the successful crusade against the administration's \$12 billion jobs bill were motivated by their own presidential ambitions.

Budget Director Leon Panetta said Sunday on CNN's "Larry King Live" that both Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., and Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, were unofficially campaigning for president while openly campaigning against

the bill. "Don't forget that both Sens. Dole and Gramm went up to New Hampshire," Panetta said. "They were talking from New Hampshire. They had already started their presidential campaign."

Labor Secretary Robert Reich, who appeared on the King show with Panetta and three other top Clinton aides, said he was optimistic about the chances of reviving some portion of the jobs-stimulus measure, based on recent talks with Re-

publicans. Asked which Republicans he believed might support Clinton on a revised stimulus measure, Reich mentioned Republican Sens. James Jeffords of Vermont and Bob Packwood of Oregon.

Dole and Gramm were among the most outspoken critics of the measure, which they said would not create as many jobs as advertised and would add to the budget deficit.

Clinton said the package would create many new jobs quickly.

Dole has not announced for president in 1996 but he has not discouraged speculation that he might run. Gramm is considered a likely candidate.

In an appearance earlier Sunday on ABC, Dole was asked whether his recent visits to New Hampshire and other early primary states meant he intended to run in 1996.

"Oh, I don't know about that," he said. "I mean, that's a long way off. But, certainly it's nice to visit these states."

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## Dole: 'The White House lied'

## Clinton claim angers Kansas senator

By William Eaton  
The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — President Clinton was forced to retreat Monday in the face of Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole's angry accusation that the White House had told "a \$23 million lie" about a project in his state.

The White House said that Clinton "regrets" any misunderstanding caused by "hyperbole" in a barbed joke the president told that brought the house down Saturday at an annual black-tie dinner hosted by White House correspondents.

Clinton had said that Dole, R-Kan., was seeking \$23 million from the federal government to convert a senior citizens' center into a boathouse, at the same time

the lawmaker was assailing Clinton for wasteful "pork barrel" spending.

Dole, who led the Republican battle that scuttled Clinton's economic stimulus package, first challenged the accuracy of the statement in a television interview show Sunday but he seemed confused about the details. Monday, he flatly denied the claim and issued a belated blast.

"The White House lied," Dole said, carefully avoiding a direct attack on the president himself. "There's no \$23 million boathouse, no deficit spending, no new money, no connection with the president's deadbeat 'stimulus' bill and no truth coming from a White House staff that is ill-serving the president with these

sophomoric attacks."

Dole said that he had sought a federal waiver to clear the way for privately funded construction of a public boathouse in Wichita.

"If the White House wants to play hardball, I'm ready to suit up," Dole concluded, sending an ominous signal that the issue could spill over into future relations with Senate Republicans.

George Stephanopoulos, the White House communications director, issued a statement late Monday afternoon.

"The president regrets the misunderstanding that may have been caused by any hyperbole in his jokes at Saturday's White House dinner," he said.

"White House Dole did make See P.25, Page 4



President Clinton says his boathouse comments were meant as a joke.



Kansas Sen. Bob Dole called the attack 'sophomoric.'

Page 6—The Russell Daily News, Saturday, May 1, 1993

## Talking With Kansans

Senator Bob Dole:

100 Days...and Beyond  
Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole  
National Press Club

WASHINGTON D.C. — Let's face it, the 100 day standard for evaluating American Presidents is arbitrary, and probably unfair. In fact, it might have received even less attention this year had not President Clinton raised the stakes himself by declaring on the campaign trail that his first 100 days would be — and I quote — "an explosive hundred day action period." Well, there's been a lot of action, but I don't believe the American people wanted the explosion of new taxes, new spending and new mandates from Washington.

That's not the kind of change Americans were voting for this past November. There is no question Bill Clinton ran a clever and effective campaign, but with only 43 percent of the voters supporting him in November, he did not come to Washington with a ringing mandate.

Healthy Two-Party System, Not Gridlock

Unfortunately, some partisans want to lock out the other 57 percent for the next three years — Republicans, Independents, supporters of Ross Perot and many Democrats, too — using the "gridlock" a blank check for the president and a green light for Congress. But the gridlock gimmick won't sell. Americans want competition, they want alternative views, and they want a healthy two-party system. So let me ask:

Do we live in a monarchy? Is the President a president, or is he a king? Are we required by some law to accept whatever the President proposes without any opportunity for discussion, debate or suggestion of constructive alternatives? And if we so disagree with some aspect of the President's plan, if we believe it truly and sincerely harmful to the long-range interests of the Country, are we somehow obligated to stand silent and adopt the president's plan lest we be accused of partisanship?

That's not Bob Dole asking those questions — that's George Mitchell, the majority leader of the Senate, on Feb. 8, 1992... just last year. I agree with his rousing defense of Senate Republicans and the two-party system. And I agree with his assessment that no president, no matter how popular, is a king.

The GOP's First 100 Days

Lets not forget that today also marks the first 100 days for Republicans. And we've had an active time too, contrary to what some folks want you to believe. We've offered constructive alternatives in committees and on the Senate floor, we've consulted with Democrats, and best of all, we've kept in touch with the people.

We may be the minority in Congress, but on many issues, we represent the majority of the American people. When it came to putting together a budget package, our alternative would have slashed the deficit by at least as much as the Clinton plan without raising one cent in new taxes. Spending cuts — that's what the American people are demanding.

No doubt about it, Republicans knew we would take some heat when we stood up for the American taxpayers and refused to raise the deficit in the name of so-called "emergency" stimulus spending. Well, we have a different name for what we did. It's called saving the taxpayers money. When the American people want protection from bad legislation — such as President Clinton's record-breaking tax increases — then it's not gridlock. When you protect the taxpayers from wasteful deficit spending, it's not gridlock.

No Mandate for Tax & Spend

Let me be clear. Republicans respect President Clinton. We want him to succeed. We want to cooperate. And we know he is trying hard, which is why I have given him a 100-day grade of "E" for effort. But if President Clinton is claiming a mandate for taxing and spending, then he is seriously misreading the voter's message and their anger.

Frankly, it's time for the White House to slow down, take a time out and get focused. And it looks like a few responsible folks down there may be hearing our Two Minute Warning. After 100 days, it's clear that the administration is trying to do too much. And unfortunately, much of what it's trying to rush into law is a liberal agenda the American people didn't hear anything about during the campaign. In fact, most of what they are seeing these days represents everything the people thought they were voting against in November.

So, the White House can't blame the voters when they say the first 100 days has demonstrated that Bill Clinton is not the "New Democrat" he said he was during the campaign. After all, he promised that he wouldn't be another "tax and spend" Democrat, yet he is pushing hard for the biggest tax increase in history. He promised spending restraint, yet even his own budget plan will increase the national debt by one trillion dollars. He promised to keep America strong, yet he is slashing the defense budget way beyond what the experts warn us is prudent, costing Americans almost two million jobs along the way. He promised deficit reduction, yet he went to the mat to raise the deficit by \$19 billion in the name of a stimulus "emergency."

That's what the stimulus battle was all about: A fundamental difference in party philosophies — Bill Clinton and the Democrat majority on Capitol Hill wanted to spend money we don't have, and Republicans wanted to cut spending and hold the line on the deficit. And make no mistake, Republicans did support certain elements of the so-called stimulus bill, including some funding for summer jobs, childhood immunizations and initiatives to support real jobs — and here's the best part, we proposed to pay for it, just like the American people are demanding.

Vote of 'No Confidence'

In Clinton's Frightening Tax Explosion

It's no wonder that businesses, not to mention the taxpayers, have been scared to death by the big tax explosion coming out of the White House. No investor, no entrepreneur, no working family wants to take a risk when all they see and hear from the White House is spending and taxing.

Just look at the 100 day vote of no-confidence the American people gave the president's tax and spend plan in the first quarter of this year — an anemic 1.8 percent worth of growth. It's a fact, consumers weren't spending, they were worrying... and with good reason.

I've talked to businessmen and women all over the country and they've told me that they are putting plans on hold — expansion, new hiring, investment — because of the chilling effects of the Clinton tax agenda.

If the White House is looking for a real stimulus, it could give working America a big boost by dumping its misguided new tax package. With the package heading to the finance committee, Republicans there will be taking it to our body shop, banging some sense into it, and putting a crowbar to the chrome-plated tax accessories. And we can start by stripping off the president's painful tax on energy users, which the last time I checked, means everybody.

So I hope the administration does reassess, and take the time to learn from its mistakes. Starting on day 101, the Clinton administration can get back on track by putting together a common sense agenda that looks more like America and less like a liberal shopping list.

Listen to Ross & Rush,  
Not to Mention Senate & House GOP

Frankly, the president and his eager high-tech staff need to readjust their satellite dish so they can hear the men and women up and down Main Street America for a change, instead of all the special interests.