

The Russell Daily News, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1993 - Page 3

# Remarks by Bob Dole Senate Republican Leader to the National Governors Association Tulsa, Okla.

I know you already have heard from my former colleague, Vice President Gore, and your former colleague, President Clinton.

First, I want to join the president in recognizing the tragic loss of your former colleague and my friend George Mickelson. Gov. Mickelson was a good man and a distinguished public servant with a bright future, and I know he is missed here, as he is in his native South Dakota.

As the Republican Leader of the United States Senate, I am always eager to visit with our nation's governors. You and I share a common concern about the direction of the federal government. That concern is rooted in our mutual interest in seeing the federal government focus on its most fundamental responsibilities — to ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty, for ourselves and our children and generations yet to come.

Too often, however, the federal government loses its focus, dreaming up new ways to involve Washington — by federal mandates — into the daily lives of the states and your citizens. I noticed in a Sunday newspaper that one of you declared "the problems we've got are members of Congress who don't have a clue what's going on in the states and who consistently try to solve their problems by pushing the burdens and the responsibilities back to the states." While I do have a clue, I certainly don't have all the answers.

But one thing I do know is that the federal government must do a better job of fulfilling its fundamental responsibilities. This decade of the 1990's presents us with a unique opportunity to do just that, if we want to secure our claim to what can be called "The American Century."

## The American Century

In 1941, just as World War II was about to commence, it was Henry Luce who declared that this was "The American Century." He was right in two ways:

America was a large, powerful force for good and for freedom in the great struggles of our century, and the American way of freedom, democracy, and capitalism has been the model and dream of people everywhere oppressed by tyranny.

But, this destiny has never been inevitable. And, as we stand here today, it is not assured. Our experiment in government, our contributions of science and technology, our pioneering of industry and mass production, do not in themselves guarantee that we will indeed live up to the promise of "The American Century."

Our duty now — those of us entrusted by the citizens with the general welfare of America — is to secure that place in the history of this century, and to leave our United States prepared for what might become known as "America's Millennium."

Much remains to be done in these 7½ years. There must be a new commitment to the most basic principles upon which America was founded — a government secure in its future by providing security for its people. Too many have come to look to government not just to secure the blessings of liberty, but to also hand them out. Yet, it's ironic that the American people have grown more cynical about government as the government has grown larger. As the government promises more and more, the people have come to respect it less and less. So, as the challenges ahead are great, our commitment must be greater.

I'm not here just to review the Congressional agenda, but I do want to touch on several matters that I know are of concern to you.

## Health Care

Yesterday, President Clinton discussed one of our greatest challenges — health care reform.

I agree with the president, reforming our nation's health care system should be a bipartisan effort. And considering that there is so much that we agree upon, I am hopeful it will be. Just about everyone agrees on the primary goals of reform: To reduce health care costs; to ensure that everyone has access to affordable health care; to create a fair insurance system, so people don't have to worry about being rejected when they are sick or when they change jobs; to maintain our current high quality of care, to improve access to it in rural and inner city areas; to reduce paperwork and administrative costs; and, to fix the medical malpractice laws to get bad lawyers out of the doctors office, and to get bad doctors out of the practice of medicine.

But, while we agree on the goals, we lack a consensus on how to solve our health care challenges. And the outline of the president's plan does raise genuine concerns for health care consumers, providers, taxpayers, businessmen and women, and yes, state governments. Our primary concern centers around the role of the federal government as a regulator, especially the prospect of the government imposing employer mandates. And if federal regulations mean a one-size-fits-all health care policy, there may be fewer opportunities for states to test approaches of their own. And so often it is the states that are the major innovators in developing new solutions to old problems.

In view of Senate Republicans who are working on proposals of our own, employer mandates would damage the economy, and hurt those who need help the most — new hires, small businesses, and low income workers. That's not to suggest that we don't agree that we need to look at how best to share the responsibility between the public and private sectors on providing access. Like the administration, we also believe we must build on our employer-based private insurance system wherever possible.

Make no mistake, we all still have much to learn on this issue. After all, we have not yet heard from con-

sumers, providers, businesses or governors at congressional hearings on this issue. But, considering the many areas of agreement we share, I remain hopeful that we will be able to overcome our differences in approach. However, there are already signs that "bipartisanship" may mean picking off just enough Republican votes to pass a plan, rather than a truly two-party effort. That's not the kind of bipartisanship I, or the American people, have in mind.

## Education

To truly claim this as "The American Century," we must have an education system second to none. As with health care and so many other paramount issues of this time, the states are lighting the way, and Washington must not derail your efforts. The six education goals you devised — by working in a non-partisan manner — set the national agenda for change in education for the rest of this century. They are based on the need for a community by community, school by school effort by parents, teachers, the localities, and the states.

But, those goals are jeopardized in my view by a bill making its way through Congress. The House version seeks to reverse local control of our schools and impose what are called "national delivery standards," which would be overseen by a "National Education Standards and Improvement Council." In a nutshell, rather than concerning ourselves with whether our students are actually learning, the federal government could dictate class size, the number of computers per student, possibly even the textbooks to be used. That bill even prohibits any federal money from being used for national testing to determine if these new federal standards were doing any good.

It's a prescription for control and ruin of Washington, and we need bipartisan help in defeating it. While some of you would disagree, I believe the direction of education should be moving just the opposite way, toward initiatives like California's proposition 174, which would provide vouchers to parents so they could decide where to send their children. This competition in the field of education would certainly bring us more results than anything Washington would mandate.

## Crime and Immigration

Yet, how can we expect our children to learn when so many of our schools and streets have become battlegrounds. "The American Century" cannot tolerate a violent crime rate that has increased 500 percent in the past 30 years. We cannot allow the young, the poor, the elderly, or any other American, to be terrorized by criminal predators. Two weeks ago, Republicans unveiled a major anti-crime initiative, and the president followed up last week with his own. And there's one major difference between the two that should be of interest to governors of both parties. To keep career criminals off the streets, the Republican plan provides \$3 billion for prison construction, and \$2 billion of that would be used to construct 10 regional prisons for both federal and state offenders. Those prisons would be available to states that adopt truth in sentencing laws, mandatory minimum sentences, pretrial detention, and victims' rights laws. Furthermore, our bill proposes that \$1 billion would be used for matching grants to states for prison construction and operation.

Now, domestic security also must extend to our borders. America is a generous country, the land of opportunity. But, we are not a land of unlimited resources, and we can't allow our generosity to be compromised by an unchecked influx of illegal immigrants, who swell lines for public assistance and put new burdens on our state and local governments.

## Small Business

No nation is secure in its hopes and dreams without economic security. In America, our economic security always has been driven by our private sector employers, led by small business men and women. Of the five million employers in America today, 4½ million have fewer than 20 employees. Regrettably, when the federal government is not over-regulating the products manufactured by Main Street businesses, it is often overtaxing the very success that drives our economy.

You heard yesterday from John Motley of the National Federation of Independent Business, who laid out the real concerns of these Americans: These providers of jobs are concerned about the increased burdens being placed on them by the federal government — their unfunded mandates. Adding even more to that burden is the last thing small businessmen and women need. That's one reason why Republicans fought so strongly against the tax bill just enacted. To protect job creation in America, we need to protect small business.

## NAFTA

We are on the verge of taking a great stride toward enhancing our nation's economic security. I'm talking about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which I hope Congress will approve this fall. You understand as well as anyone how the American economy and the international economy are linked. You know how important foreign markets are for the products made in your states, for jobs, and for local economies. As a result, I know many of you have led trade and investment missions overseas — some of you even have offices abroad. I also know NAFTA isn't perfect — the U.S. didn't get all it wanted, but neither did Canada nor Mexico. However, Canada and Mexico are our first and third largest trading partners, and represent growing markets that mean jobs — jobs here in the United States. I believe a majority of Republicans are ready, ready to move quickly in approving NAFTA, before the 1994 election dashes all hopes of securing its passage. If NAFTA fails, we will have a new political term — "borderlock" or "tradelock" — and Korea, Japan and the European Community will be the winners.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., poses for a photo in New Hampshire recently. Dole acknowledged that he is interested in running for president in 1996.

## Dole: out of the closet

By FRANK BAKER

Associated Press

WOLFEBORO, N.H. — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said today that he's "up here looking around" during his vacation in the state that holds the first primary in the 1996 presidential election.

Dole, who lost the 1988 New Hampshire Republican primary to George Bush, opened up a bit about his interest in running for president.

"We're not going to kid anybody, we're up here looking around," Dole said in an interview in Wolfboro, a lakeside resort community.

"It's fair to say that like a lot of people, I know what the calendar is and I know what's coming up in a couple of years," he said. "I haven't made any judgments yet,

but it's not illegal to come to New Hampshire to take a look at politics."

Many saw Dole's 1988 New Hampshire loss to Bush, then vice president, as the beginning of the end of his campaign that year.

Since arriving in New Hampshire on Saturday for a weeklong vacation, Dole has acted like a candidate, crisscrossing the state to attend various functions.

On Wednesday alone, he appeared on the three broadcast networks' morning news shows, went before a newspaper editorial board, spoke to a chamber of commerce, held a news conference with New Hampshire's Republican Sens. Judd Gregg and Bob Smith, and wrapped up the day with a reception at an inn owned by Rep. Bill Zeff, also a

Republican.

Dole said whether President Clinton is unseated in 1996 will depend upon the economy. If the economy improves, Clinton will be difficult to beat, he said.

When asked what type of Republican could defeat Clinton, Dole offered a description that could apply to himself.

"The American voters will look for someone with experience who's tough enough to stand up to Congress and somebody who has ideas about deficit reduction, growth and jobs," he said.

He also predicted the recently enacted Clinton budget plan would hurt the economy.

"We just don't believe you can raise taxes and stimulate the economy," he said.

THE WICHITA EAGLE Friday, August 20, 1993

## Dole redefines 'working vacation'

In New Hampshire, senator goes fishing for presidential votes

By Ann Devroy

Los Angeles Times/Washington Post Service

WOLFEBORO, N.H. — "Doing any fishing?" a local man asks Bob Dole. "How's the fishing?"

Dole, the Senate Republican leader who has coyly selected New Hampshire, his presidential heart-break state, for a one-week summer

vacation, looks incredulous. Could anyone think fishing is what he's been doing here?

After all, he has just returned from giving the Republican view of the world at the National Governors' Association conference in Tulsa, completed three network morning news interview shows, chatted through interviews with local newspapers, appeared on the one New Hampshire television station, given an interview to a Boston television station that reaches much of New Hampshire, addressed a sellout

chamber of commerce luncheon, highlighted four political receptions and is about to launch into a talk show call-a-thon to eight or more radio stations, most of them in New Hampshire.

"Ah, well, fishing," Dole says to the man, "fishing. I'm not really much on fishing." Nor, it seems, is he much on anything remotely resembling a vacation from politics, either.

There is, to be sure, a vacation

From Page 1A

setting — Wolfboro bills itself "The Oldest Summer Resort in America" — including a rustic rented "cabin" nestled in isolation in the trees with a wide screened porch overlooking the serene Lake Winnepesaukee and the majestic White Mountains. Elizabeth Dole is there along with the senator's daughter from his first marriage. Dole, however, mostly is not.

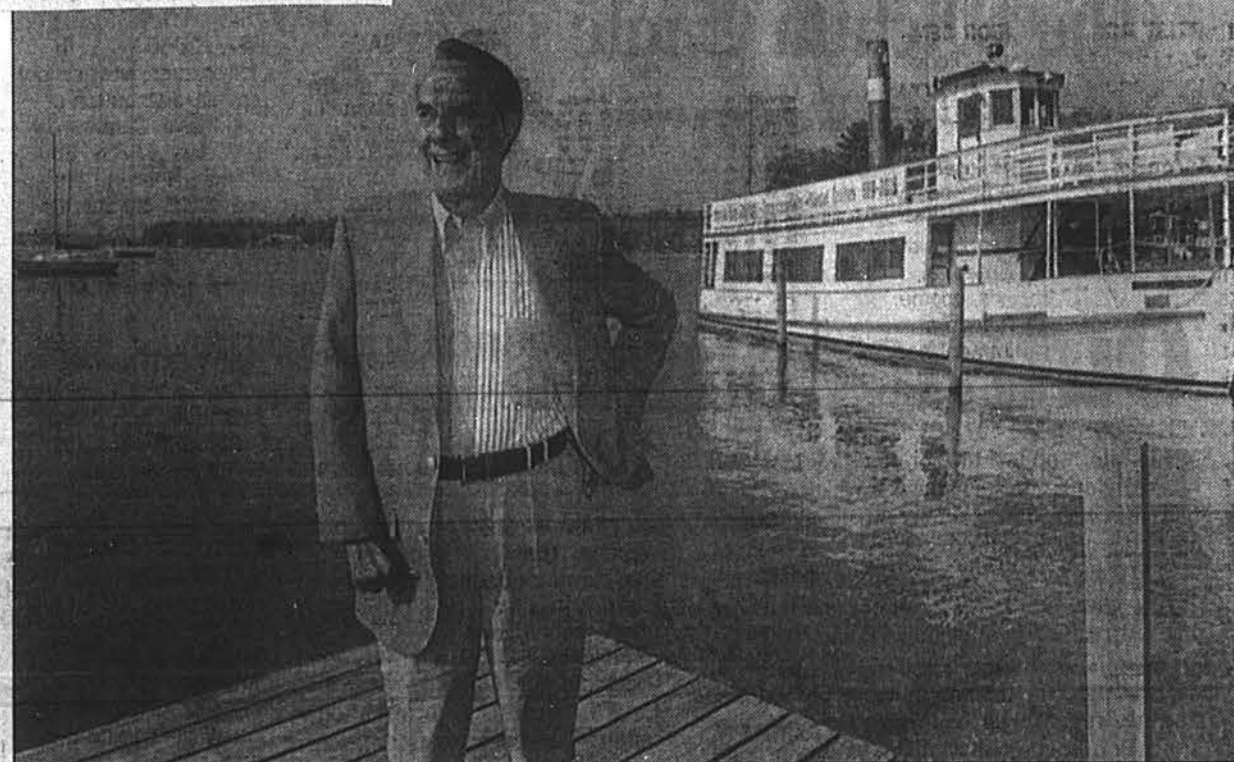
Wednesday morning the Kansas senator emerged as the sun came up, dressed in what could pass for genuine vacation clothes, khakis, sneakers and a baseball cap. He wore them for his interviews on the three morning network news shows. But he soon switched to his more familiar blue suit uniform and headed for Portsmouth and a chamber of commerce luncheon. The theme was bipartisanship with President Clinton, but only if the results don't ruin the country.

This week in New Hampshire — and two earlier visits this year to the state — is about Dole's continuing dream of the presidency, killed in the Republican primary here twice, in 1980 and more bitterly in 1988. Now, at age 70, he is at it again, telling audiences that he is "keeping my options open" for 1996.

The GOP leader calls himself the "senior advance man" for the crowds of GOP contenders beginning to show up in the state. He jokes with a photographer to get "a good picture" of him posed against the New Hampshire scenery: "I can use it on my Christmas card and send it to all my New Hampshire friends this year." He shows off his first presidential endorsement, from Tuesday's Olathe, Kan., Daily News. "Bob Dole in 1996" the lead editorial says.

He is just a touch defensive about the image of a campaign seven months after the new president has taken office, or about the obvious conclusion — all talk of bipartisanship aside — that Clinton's failures are the fuel for Dole's political success. Citing the record of Democrats showing up here only months after the 1989 inauguration of President George Bush, Dole says that, if anything, he has been restrained. "If it happens and I'm in the race," he adds, "New Hampshire will be very important."

But mostly, Dole is Dole, enlisting his audiences in the politics of this



Associated Press

Sen Bob Dole looks at Lake Winnepesaukee from the dock of his vacation hotel Thursday in Wolfboro, N.H. On Wednesday, Dole wore a similar outfit for several appearances but then changed to his campaign uniform, a blue suit.

vacation. When he told his chamber of commerce audience "how nice it is to vacation in New Hampshire," they broke into guffaws. Greeting an acquaintance who told him her husband was off on vacation, Dole cracked, "Oh, what's he running for?"

Dole's visible position as the opposition leader is a blessing and a burden. Unlike other early GOP starters who have or may venture into this first primary state, he needs no introductions to New Hampshire voters. But unlike the others, he can thwart Clinton and has; he can help Clinton get things done in Washington and mostly has not. And his personification by Democrats as the symbol of gridlock, as the ultimate Washington player seeking to protect the status quo, is not a plus.

Outside Dole's chamber of commerce speech in Portsmouth on Wednesday, Democratic activists were sporting signs, "Welcome, Senator Greedlock," and "President Dole. Not."

Inside the hotel ballroom, Dole was talking bipartisanship, but he wanted his business audience to un-

**When Sen. Bob Dole told his chamber of commerce audience "how nice it is to vacation in New Hampshire," they broke into guffaws. Greeting an acquaintance who told him her husband was off on vacation, Dole cracked, "Oh, what's he running for?"**

Agreement; it is the Democrats Clinton will have to bring along on that one. The GOP, Dole said, wants welfare and education reform and better efforts against crime, but in each of these areas, he said, Clinton will have to have "true partnership" with the GOP, not after-the-fact efforts to pick up enough votes to offset lost Democrats.

In an interview Thursday morning, Dole said the White House "talks bipartisanship" but has shown no sign of it yet. "They are fairly competitive and pretty good at that. They're not too good at working together," he said.

The Clinton White House, Dole said, still displays an "amateur's" skill at the Washington legislative process and needs "to mature." If it seeks bipartisanship, the opposition, he said, has a right to oppose wrong policy.

Understand what he means by that, Republicans, he said, want health-care reform; but not if it includes major new mandated costs for small businesses, not if it means significant reduction in health choice and not if it reduces the quality of health care overall.

Republicans, he said, will support the North American Free Trade