

THURSDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 2, 1993 ■ THE HAYS DAILY NEWS ■ 3



Sen. Bob Dole addresses constituents Wednesday during a stop at the Hays Municipal Airport.

Dole promotes NAFTA in Hays

By ADELE SHAVER
Hays Daily News

The North American Free Trade Agreement has one of the nation's most prominent Republican leaders agreeing with Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kansas, stopped in Hays Wednesday in the midst of a tour to promote the treaty.

He visited Mexico on Sunday and Monday. Since then, he has stopped several places in Kansas to speak with people already doing business with Mexico and others interested in expanding such trade.

The treaty affects the United States, Canada and Mexico, but other Central and South American nations are also interested in opening up trade.

His purpose has been to explain "how important it is to Kansas and how important it is to get it passed," he said.

Reducing trade barriers would particularly benefit Kansas agriculture, Dole said, and nearly all national farm organizations have come out in support of the treaty.

"It's one area where President Clinton and Bob Dole are on the same side," he said.

The United States is already Mexico's biggest trading partner. For every dollar they spend on foreign products, 70 cents comes to the United States.

Kansas itself has increased sales to Mexico from \$125 million in 1987 to \$313 million in 1992. Those figures include an increase in agricultural sales alone from \$89 million to \$148 million.

Dole also argued that opening trade could reduce the United States' problems with illegal immigration: If people now streaming to the

United States had more opportunities in their own country, they would be more likely to want to stay there.

In helping less developed countries, the shift from aid to trade is much more positive, he said.

"These are good people. They will create good opportunities," he said.

The strongest opposition to the treaty has come from organized labor, which is worried that jobs will move to countries with lower wages.

Dole said the administration's figures predict that even though some sectors could lose jobs, the treaty would stimulate enough new economic activity everywhere to create 200,000 new jobs in the United States.

Dole predicted passage of the treaty, with 37 Senators now supporting it and 17 "leaning."

The Senate has 90 days to act on the treaty, but cannot amend it.

Dole touched on health care and a variety of other topics in questions from more than 50 people at the Hays Airport.

He predicted "no health care bill will be passed this year."

"It's a big big issue," Dole said, adding that both parties were split on what to do.

Clinton has scheduled a speech on his health care proposals Sept. 22, which will be followed by numerous hearings before legislation can be passed.

Cost will be an important factor. With the recent tax hike and efforts to index the minimum wage, new mandates for health care could cause many small businesses to cut jobs, Dole said.

A priority for everyone seems to be coverage for up to 15 million children who do not have

health insurance and for senior citizens below the poverty line.

"There's a lot we agree on," he said.

Many legislators also agree on increasing coverage for mental health, long-term care, portability of coverage from one job to another and allowing self-employed people to deduct premiums.

Still, more than 1,000 items are open, Dole said.

Dole stressed another area where he agreed with a member of the Clinton administration.

"Janet Reno is right," he said, in stressing the importance of the family in long-term solutions to problems such as crime.

Reno visited Wichita and spoke on the topic earlier this week.

Dole's wife, Elizabeth, was scheduled to join him later and the two were planning to spend the night in Russell, where he said he was looking forward to a home-cooked dinner.

Elizabeth Dole heads the Red Cross and has been busy with flood relief.

"Don't forget the Red Cross," he plugged.

On another personal note, Dole reminded men in the audience of free screenings for prostate cancer that will be available at the Kansas State Fair. The screenings are recommended for men over 50 or those over 40 who have a history of the cancer in their families. Last year, 2,500 tests were done and 80 cases were discovered. Dole has himself been treated for prostate cancer.

"Early detection is the name of the game." Today, he was scheduled to tour his hometown with a "60 Minutes" crew.

He quipped that he would have to see the finished program before he knew if they were doing "a piece on me or a job on me."

CHARLIE RIEDEL / Hays Daily News

Dole, Kassebaum open to compromise

By Patrice Gravino
Associated Press Writer

Republican Kansas lawmakers gave President Clinton's health care plan a critical reception Wednesday night, but each said a compromise with the Democratic administration is possible.

"While everyone agrees on the diagnosis, we have some disagreements on the prescription for reform," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole. "Clearly, those disagreements start with the administration's insistence on job-killing employer mandates."

Republicans are committed to working with the president and our Democrat colleagues to give America the right dose of reform, not an overdose of government control," Dole said.

"In debating health care policy, let's not lose sight of the fact that we are really talking about people and the health of our nation," he said.

No Democrats from the Kansas congressional delegation were immediately available for comment.

Clinton's plan calls for most Americans to be covered through insurance with employers paying up to 80 percent of the premiums. Employees would pay the rest. The government would pay premiums for those who are not covered by work plans. Self-employed people would pay both portions.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum said the plan was "bold and thoughtful," but said she has "serious reservations" about it.

Kassebaum said she dislikes the idea of creating regulatory bodies "to manage nearly everything in the health care system, from deciding which health plans people can choose right down to pre-approving health care advertising."



Dole Kassebaum

Kassebaum said she's also concerned that the cost of the plan remains unknown, as does the way to pay for it. She said it could be "potentially damaging" to employers, particularly small businesses.

U.S. Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Dodge City, called Clinton's plan "dangerous medicine" that would devastate rural America.

He predicted that more than 60 hospitals in rural Kansas would close if the plan were passed, because of the Medicare cuts it contains. Kansas has 60 Medicare-dependent hospitals and 84 hospitals with 50 or fewer beds, Roberts said.

"Americans, and particularly rural Americans, will lose their choices in health care," he said.

"The numbers just do not add up," Roberts said. "Spending \$700 billion on health care, cutting \$298 billion from Medicare and Medicaid, and increasing taxes on the American people do not equal savings or better health."

Roberts also questioned creation of "a vast, new regional government accountable only to seven people appointed by the president."

"The unelected members of the (proposed) National Health Board will have a budget that is predicted to quickly grow larger than that of the federal government," he said.

Saturday, September 25, 1993 THE WICHITA EAGLE 9A

Dole tells GOP to be players, not nay-sayers, on health care

Los Angeles Times/
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senate GOP leader Bob Dole, who fought President Clinton's budget to the bitter end and led the filibuster that killed his economic stimulus package, is now urging Republicans to work positively with Clinton to achieve comprehensive health reform.

Dole calls health reform the most important issue he has dealt with since coming to the Senate in 1968 and says Republicans should be "very positive about trying to figure out something ... that's going to do the very things" that Clinton outlined in his health-care reform speech Wednesday night.

While not endorsing Clinton's blueprint, the Kansas senator said Congress should pass health reform, "maybe with some fairly major

changes and some compromises. If we can't do it, let's don't step back too far. Let's do as much as we can."

Interviewed Friday at a Los Angeles Times Washington bureau breakfast session also broadcast on C-SPAN, Dole said that Clinton, in tackling health care, has taken up an issue President Bush should have focused on in last year's election.

"I agree with the president," he said. "... certainly he gets credit for bringing it to the forefront. Something we should have done in the last election, but certain advisers of the president didn't think it was an issue."

Dole said he also shares Clinton's belief that universal care should be a non-negotiable goal of reform.

Although known as a tough and highly partisan opposition leader,

Dole sees "a new atmosphere" of cooperation in Washington. Such an atmosphere, if it persists, would mark a sea change from the recent past, which many longtime leaders of both parties recently have described as more mean-spirited and bitterly partisan than at any time in their memories.

Dole himself said the new atmosphere may be "only temporary," adding, "We'll have our differences on other issues." But on health care, he said, "I think there is a willingness to cooperate. I think that's got to be good news for the president."

The public, Dole said, wants the two parties to work together on health care. What that means for Republicans is that, "if we're going to be worth our salt as a party, we've got to have ideas, we've got to have alternatives, we've got to be players and not just nay-sayers."

B-2 Sunday, October 17, 1993
The Kansas City Star

Bob Dole? Just call him Mr. Genial

In case you missed it, summer's Dr. Gridlock has given way to autumn's Mr. Genial.

After months of being in full cry against President Clinton's jobs-stimulus package, national service plans and budget proposals, Sen. Bob Dole has toned down his rhetoric.

He even sounds nice.

In the debate over Somalia last week, the Senate Republican leader from Kansas was the one urging bipartisan support for the Democratic president, even as senators in Clinton's party were heatedly demanding a hasty exit for U.S. soldiers.

"He is our president," Dole said humbly. Just as he backed President Bush in sending troops for the Persian Gulf war, he explained, he was behind Clinton now.

Dole also has found himself in Clinton's corner recently on the

POLITICAL SCENE

North American Free Trade Agreement, and he has been making cooperative noises on the need for health-care reform.

Still skeptical? Then consider this:

Dole is one of three Republican senators and several broadcast journalists scheduled to appear soon on "Murphy Brown," the Monday night sitcom that eagerly skewered former Vice President Dan Quayle after he used the show to make a point about Hollywood's low regard for family values.

But some observers say there is nothing calculated about Dole's conciliatory tone on such issues as NAFTA and health-care reform.

"I don't think there's anything planned about it," said Kim Wells, chairwoman of the Kansas

Republican Party and a former Dole aide. "These are just issues that the president agrees with Senator Dole on."

— Jake Thompson

A call for morality

Leaders of the Assemblies of God have sent a letter to President Clinton and U.S. senators calling for the country to return to its "biblical foundations."

The 14-member Executive Presidency of the church, based in Springfield, Mo., pleaded for morality in government in its letter, sent last week.

"We believe there are problems facing you and other leaders which are insurmountable, unless once again there is an effort to affirm and support the Judeo-Christian ethics upon which our country was built," wrote the Rev. G. Raymond Carlson.

Carlson is the outgoing superin-

tendent of the presbytery.

The "call for morality" outlined concerns that "homosexual radicals are setting our nation's social agenda," and the appointment of homosexuals to public service positions is "an attempt on the part of those in power to lead a cultural revolution in this nation," said the Rev. Thomas E. Trask, who becomes general superintendent in November.

The statement also reaffirmed the Assemblies of God's stance against abortion rights.

"We are not out-of-step, backward-looking fanatics," the statement said. "We simply believe in basic goodness and that there is no substitute for tried and proven standards of morality this nation has known and lived by for more than two centuries."

The Pentecostal denomination lists U.S. membership at 2.5 million people.

— The Associated Press

Salina, Kansas

Wednesday, September 15, 1993

More join Mideast peace move

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The historic Israeli-PLO accord bore further fruits of peace Tuesday as Jordan and Israel signed a framework for negotiations and Morocco moved toward formal recognition of the Jewish state. Yasser Arafat, once condemned as a terrorist, was warmly received in Congress.

"We will continue now rapidly to break down the barriers between Israel and other nations," said an approving President Clinton.

Jordan and Israel signed an "Agenda for Peace" at a relatively low-key State Department ceremony. The agreement lays out a framework for future negotiations. Ambassador Fayez Tarawneh, who signed for Jordan, said he hoped it would establish an agenda for discussions and lead to "a comprehensive peace that will transform the lives of all our peoples."

The product of painstaking diplomacy, the pact could lead to settlement of the border between the two countries and launch joint efforts to harness water resources, protect the environment and develop the Dead Sea region. Negotiations would seek a "mutual commitment not to threaten each other by any use of force" or terrorism.

While that ceremony took place, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was in Morocco for a surprise meeting with King Hassan II, who has long taken a moderate position toward Israel. The meeting was expected to lead to diplomatic relations.

Rabin said it would not happen instantly. "But the fact that from Washington we are coming to Rabat and are meeting with the king perhaps is another step forward in everything that is linked to establishing relations," he said.

In Washington, a senior official said Secretary of

State Warren Christopher had sent letters to some 10 U.S. embassies in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, suggesting the host governments "provide political and financial support" to the Palestinians.

The official said appeals had earlier been made to the European Community, Japan, Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states.

Arafat, denounced in America for nearly three decades as a terrorist, said he was not ready to shuck his military uniform. But he was clearly relishing a new Washington role of good-natured statesman.

"I am not a chameleon," Arafat said, proudly asserting he still was commander-in-chief of a Palestinian army. However, he said that when Palestinians get a state and control over East Jerusalem, Jews would be welcome to keep living there.



The Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell reaches to shake PLO leader Yasser Arafat's hand as Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole extends his hand during Arafat's visit with congressional leaders.