

Pg. 136-1993

Dole measure would outlaw gang membership

By Tom Webb
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday adopted Sen. Bob Dole's get-tough anti-gang amendment, which would make it a federal offense to belong to a gang, recruit for a gang or commit a gang-related crime.

The Senate voted 60-38 for Dole's amendment, which now becomes part of a far-ranging crime bill that is growing tougher by the minute. If it becomes law, the Dole amendment would become the first explicitly gang-related federal statute.

"Not long ago, the Washington

Post ran a front-page story on the problem of youth gangs in Wichita, Kansas," Dole said on the Senate floor Monday. "Anytime crime in Wichita, Kansas, is front-page news in Washington, you know there's a big problem out there."

Dole's amendment, featuring ideas first proposed by George Bush's Justice Department, is described as a two-pronged effort to address gang problems. First, it makes it a federal crime to commit these crimes as part of a gang: murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, robbery, obstruction of justice and illegal drug activity. It also makes it a federal crime to be a gang member or to recruit others to join gangs.

Any adult convicted of trying to recruit a gang member would face a mandatory 5-year federal prison sentence. If the recruit were a juvenile, the mandatory penalty would be 10 years.

Dole's staff said the addition of the new penalties would give federal prosecutors the opportunity to prosecute gang-related cases. But critics, such as Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., criticize it as "a sweeping federalization of crimes that are more properly handled by the states."

Citing the 10-year mandatory sentence for recruiting, Biden said, "We do not have mandatory 10-year sentences for people in the federal system who do a whole lot worse than that, or at the state level. (The amendment would require) a mandatory 10-year sentence to a kid who steals a transistor radio one day and breaks into a car the next day in trying to gain admission into a gang."

Besides Dole, the anti-gang measure was supported by Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, also a Kansas Republican.

Another amendment adopted Tuesday by the Senate would authorize the death penalty for carjacking when a death occurs, whether or not a weapon was used. That amendment passed 65-34.

Once the Senate passes the crime bill, it was considered likely that many of the more controversial provisions would be dropped during House-Senate negotiations to resolve differences between two versions.

Contributing: Associated Press

To see how the pact would benefit the U.S., just look at Kansas.

By BOB DOLE
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

As the North American Free Trade Agreement heads for a showdown vote in the Congress this week, I am concerned that we may overlook the

PRO

important implications of the agreement for America's economic future, and the economic future of our area. NAFTA not only means jobs, it means America's global leadership in world trade.

Up to now, NAFTA's consideration has been dominated almost entirely by short-term, narrowly focused and emotional assertions about projected winners and feared losers. While arguments like this certainly have their place in the overall debate, we must

not neglect the larger national interests represented by this free trade accord. Our inability to see the big picture will be very costly if we fail to approve NAFTA and the U.S. forfeits its economic leadership in an increasingly integrated global economy.

Make no mistake: The rest of the world is watching closely. The outcome of NAFTA will speak volumes about whether we are ready to lead or ready to follow our competitors in the global economy.

Rejection of the pact would show the world that we fear the future, and are incapable of giving up the status quo. Our leadership role in world trade will certainly pass to nations — Japan, the European Community — that welcome the opportunities and challenges of global competitiveness and that understand that prosperity in the 21st century will require market openness, innovation and economic dynamism.

The U.S. is the largest, most powerful economy in the industrial world. NAFTA will help keep it that way. Opening up an expanding, newly industrializing market such as Mexico, with our technology, our highly skilled and productive workforce, and our know-how, will mean exports and jobs for Americans.

To see how NAFTA will benefit America, first look at how NAFTA will benefit Kansas. Canada and Mexico are Kansas' first and third largest export markets. Kansas' combined exports to Canada and Mexico in 1992 were a whopping \$977 million, 148 percent greater than 1987 exports of \$394 million.

Manufactured exports to Canada and Mexico support an estimated 17,000 jobs in Kansas. Approximately 10,000 of these have been created since 1987 by growth in Kansas' manufactured exports to Canada and Mexico. We've achieved all of that without NAFTA.

However, the reduction of trade barriers under NAFTA means more business for Kansas' leading



Sen. Bob Dole

export industries. For food products, NAFTA will reduce tariffs of 10-20 percent. For transportation equipment, NAFTA will open up Mexican government procurement and eliminate Mexican tariffs, quotas and local content requirements on auto parts. Kansas aircraft manufacturers see Mexico as a vast potential market for multimillion-dollar businesses and commercial aircraft, and telecommunications equipment and services companies will gain access to Mexico's \$6 billion market. For electric and electronic equipment companies, NAFTA will eliminate tariffs of up to 20 percent, open up Mexican government procurement, eliminate non-tariff barriers in technical standards, and increase intellectual property protection.

As Mexico has begun to emerge as a modern economy over the past few years, U.S. exports to Mexico have more than tripled — from \$12.6 billion in 1986 to \$40.6 billion in 1992, making Mexico the third largest market for American products. And that success has been achieved with tariffs that generally are double at the Mexican border what they are for entry to the U.S. With NAFTA, those lopsided barriers will come down, and the Mexican market for U.S. goods and services will only expand.

Increased exports mean more jobs here at home. But some have criticized NAFTA because they fear companies will move to Mexico. The fact is that foreign companies looking for new manufacturing locations have been choosing to locate here in the U.S.

For example, look at what happened when an auto manufacturer like BMW had to choose a location for a major new plant. BMW did not choose Mexico, it chose South Carolina. Mercedes-Benz also recently needed a new plant. Where will that new plant, and those jobs, be located? Not in Mexico. They will be in Alabama. The reason is that U.S. workers are among the most productive, highly skilled in the world, U.S. transportation is first-class, and access to technology and supplies is assured.

NAFTA does not undermine these reasons for choosing the United States, it reinforces them. And Mexico is only the beginning. Nations throughout Latin America are lining up to reap the rewards of free trade. In fact, NAFTA has always been seen as the first step in opening up a massive block of geography to free trade — from the Yukon to the tip of Tierra del Fuego, securing open economies and democratic governments throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The potential for economic growth and political stability is enormous. Failure to approve NAFTA will not only spoil the immediate potential of such an opening, it will discredit the U.S. economic leadership role in this hemisphere. NAFTA's defeat will justifiably be regarded as a snub throughout Latin America, shutting off an opportunity that may not again be seen for a generation.

Mexico and other Latin American nations such as Chile and Argentina are now on track for sustained economic growth. They are throwing off the shackles of statism and over-regulation, and looking to the American model of enterprise and open trade as the only way to ensure a rising standard of living. It would be a cruel irony to spurn these countries at the moment of their emergence.

Sunday, November 14, 1993 The Kansas City Star K-5

The Salina Journal Saturday, November 20, 1993 7

Dole wants police jobs for displaced soldiers

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Soldiers discharged because of defense cutbacks could get hired as police officers under an amendment Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole attached to the crime bill approved Friday.

"The bottom line is that our fighting men and women have discipline and weapons training — two key skills necessary for effective law enforcement," said Dole, R-Kan. "The talents of these young men and women should not be wasted."

The so-called "troops-to-cops" amendment directs Attorney General Janet Reno to use a portion of the \$8.9 billion authorized for local and state police grants for the hiring of former military personnel. The exact amount isn't defined.

Priority should be given to areas that were hit hardest by the recent round of military base closures. The measure applies only to former armed services personnel discharged involuntarily because of defense cuts.

Dole said the intent isn't to replace existing police officers with new military hires but to add to existing police forces.

"It will add another powerful weapon to our arsenal in the war against crime while giving our veterans another opportunity to serve their country," he said.

A second Dole amendment to the crime bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to study and recommend ways to deal

with the breakdown of the two-parent family.

Statistics show two-thirds of black children and a quarter of white children are born to unwed mothers. Dole said there is a "clear link" between family breakdown, poverty and crime.

"Obviously, government is not the nation's nanny," Dole said. "No government agency can implant personal morality."

"But if we're really serious about addressing the root causes of crime, we need to go to the deepest root of all: the family."

The Senate passed the crime bill with the Dole amendments on a 95-4 vote Friday. It goes to a House-Senate conference committee early next year, where differences between the House and Senate versions will be worked out.

The Salina Journal Monday, November 22, 1993

Dole gives as Democrats wait on gun legislation

Democrats used political advantage

By ADAM CLYMER

WASHINGTON — Pronounced dead on Friday night, the Brady bill was brought back to life Saturday.

The political CPR was accomplished by George Mitchell's stubbornness and Bob Dole's flexibility, personality traits that have not made either of them famous.

Mitchell, the majority leader, had the simpler objective: passing a bill that would impose a waiting period of five working days on handgun purchases.

But if the Maine Democrat could not get that, he could settle for the political advantage of two months of political heat that would be put on the Republicans.

Dole, the minority leader, had potentially conflicting goals. The Kansas wanted to get the issue off the political screen, but he wanted that done with enough political sugar coating so Republicans who hate gun



Sen. Bob Dole helped create a compromise for the Brady bill.

controls could swallow hard and accept it.

Friday night, when a second try at bringing debate on the bill to an end failed by three votes, it looked as though the legislation was finished

for this year. Mitchell offered eulogies on Saturday morning.

And then he and the bill's other principal Democratic supporters, Sens. Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio and Joseph Biden Jr. of Delaware, sat back and waited.

At least, they were sure they would get the political advantage of having supported a popular bill and saying Republicans had played the primary role in killing it.

That was not what Dole had expected from them.

He said in an interview Sunday that he expected the bill's sponsors to offer concessions after he had successfully held Republican supporters of the bill behind the filibuster, and that things could be settled quickly.

Instead, Mitchell said, the supporters waited to hear from Dole. They wanted to see if he would cave in.

At first he did not. His first proposal, in early afternoon, was to let the bill come to a vote if its provision that the waiting period would be in

effect for five years was reduced to three years.

He also wanted it changed to ease the rules for exempting states from the waiting period if they had computer background checks in effect.

The bill's supporters knew Dole was hardly negotiating from strength. And they had more than their own political logic behind that belief; when Mitchell had lunched in the senators' private dining room, seven Republican senators had urged him to get the matter settled. Most of them had voted with Dole on the filibuster.

In late afternoon, Mitchell said, "I finally went to Senator Dole and said this has gone on long enough and I said this must be brought to a conclusion in the next 15 minutes."

So Dole came back with a suggestion that the waiting period be in effect for four years, and a tacit understanding that if the House insisted on keeping the expiration time at five years when the bill was discussed in a conference committee, that the Senate could give in.

Metzenbaum came back and

raised the stakes, proposing that four years would be all right, if the attorney general had the power to decide that a fifth year was needed.

Dole agreed, although the difference between that version and the basic five-year duration was described by Mitchell to Democratic colleagues as "a fig leaf so small it wouldn't cover a midget."

Still, Dole voted against the bill after Biden indelicately tugged the fig leaf away by announcing to the Senate that a House-Senate conference committee would surely decide a straight five-year decision was the best answer.

But Dole made it clear Sunday that he had no intention of delaying action on the legislation that emerges from the conference committee.

He said he hoped the Senate could agree without another roll call vote, and could do so this week by agreement among leaders in the remaining sessions.

"Let's get the best deal we can and move on," he said.

Hutchinson News Thursday, November 25, 1993

Brady bill OK'd at last

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ending years of stalemate, Congress passed the Brady handgun control bill Wednesday and sent it to President Clinton who hailed "a wonderful Thanksgiving present for the American people."

With most lawmakers already gone, Congress set adjournment for Friday.

Republican Dole senators gave up their blockade of the bill, which will require a five-day waiting period and background check on handgun buyers, on condition the Democrats agree to take up a GOP proposal to modify it when Congress returns early next year.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said the bill would be a significant step in fighting violent crime, though he added that supporters were well aware it "will not by itself end violence in America."

The Senate's Republican leader, Bob Dole, had no praise for the bill but said it was bound to pass eventually and he was getting calls from all sides to "get

it settled."

Dole, R-Kan., did have kind words for the man whose name the legislation bears. "After a long, long, hard fight, Jim Brady has won," he said.

Press Secretary James Brady was severely wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan and has campaigned for gun control since the mid-1980s with his wife, Sarah.

Brady attributed passage of the bill to "people saying enough is enough."

"Will this totally end carnage on the street?" he asked. "I don't think so, but even the longest journey begins with a single step."

Senators opposing the bill have expressed sympathy for victims of handgun assaults. But they have argued that the bill would do little or nothing to stop such crimes and would only keep handguns from law-abiding citizens.

Clinton, listening to Sarah Brady with tears in his eyes during an Oval Office meeting with her and her husband, said he hoped to sign the bill next week. It will take effect 90 days after that.

The president had pressed Congress to pass the measure,



publicly supporting Mitchell's talk of summoning the Senate back to the Capitol after the holiday weekend if the issue were not settled.

"It is a wonderful Thanksgiving present for the American people," Clinton said. "It will be a beginning — a beginning in what must be a long and relentless assault on the problems of crime and violence in this country."

Democrats were careful not to predict quick victories against street crime. But Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., said, "Today's action was a recognition that the tide has turned in favor of those who support a common-sense step towards getting guns out of the hands of convicted felons."

"Americans are tired of living their lives in the shadow of violence and they want the Brady bill," he said. "Now we have it."

Passage followed intense negotiations between gun-control advocates and opponents.

Separate versions of the bill had passed both houses of the Democratic-controlled Congress earlier, but Republicans were blocking a final Senate vote on the compromise. The Democrats had been unable to gain the 60 votes needed to force a vote, and most lawmakers had left town.

Only a handful of senators were on the floor at the end. Vice President Al Gore was presiding when Mitchell and Dole announced agreement. Mitchell then asked that the bill be passed by voice vote. No "nays" were heard.

"We can now leave for Thanksgiving and for Christmas and return next year, refreshed and ready to roll," said Mitchell.

The agreement that led to passage requires the House and Senate to consider early next year a Dole proposal to alter portions of the bill. And Dole said Clinton had agreed to sign it if it passes.

bill. But we are committing ourselves in good faith to having a product and debating it."

"The Republicans caved in," said Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., the bill's main House sponsor. He said the National Rifle Association "was sent home to lick its wounds."

Dole's measure, introduced Wednesday afternoon, includes:

- Changing the five-year phase-out of the waiting period to four years, giving the attorney general the option of adding a fifth.

- Requiring firearms dealers, within two years of enactment, to contact the national computer system to check the background of a handgun or long-gun purchaser before selling the weapon.

- Making it possible for a computerized, instant background check system to replace the waiting period before the bill phases out and possibly as soon as two years after Brady takes effect.

The Brady bill already calls for developing such a system but would still keep the waiting period in effect for five years.

The system would be deemed operational when states containing 80 percent of the nation's population and reported violent crimes have 60 percent of felony cases computerized.

- Requiring states to submit the records of those found by a court to be mentally defective and those committed to a mental institution. Neither may buy firearms, under the 1968 Gun Control Act.

Senate passage of the bill ends a long and difficult path since it was first introduced in early 1987.

Both chambers approved a version two years ago that gun-control advocates liked more than this year's version. But it was attached to a crime bill that died when Republican senators threatened a filibuster over another issue.