

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Monday, April 18, 1994

Dole misguided on Clinton health reform plan

Sen. Bob Dole's contention that there is no health care crisis facing America seems to be on the wane. Just a look at statistics in Kansas alone should convince naysayers that the current health care system demands immediate reform.

According to researchers at Families U.S.A., nearly a third of Kansas families had at least one uninsured member for part of 1993. One in nine Kansas families spent a tenth or more of their pre-tax income on health care, insured or not. Even people with employer-paid insurance have watched their family premiums, co-payments and deductibles increase drastically over the past few years. And many Kansans are in danger of losing health coverage altogether if the current system remains unchanged.

President Clinton's health care proposal was designed to alleviate these and other burdens placed on Americans' shoulders by the existing system. While it isn't flawless, the president's plan contains important elements like coverage for every American, employed or not, and effective containment of now-skyrocketing health care costs. It

allows consumers to choose their own health care providers and covers things like prescription drugs for the elderly, now paid for out of most seniors' pockets.

Despite these dramatic improvements on the current system, Dole has expressed four main concerns with Clinton's health reform proposal — concerns which are easily put to rest.

■ *Dole thinks the Clinton plan is too ambitious.* Consider, then, a "less ambitious" health plan now before Congress, the one proposed by Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn.

The Cooper plan would let individual employers decide which lucky few get good insurance, let insurance companies decide how much a basic health insurance policy costs, and let a vague government commission decide at some future date what the policy covers.

Finally, the Cooper plan would give many Kansans less health care coverage than they now have for more money. That's because employers would be taxed heavily for providing anything other than bare bones coverage. So if less ambitious means taking choices away from consumers, then ambition — in the form of Clinton's plan — is the way to go.

■ *Dole thinks the Clinton plan is too complicated.* Quite the contrary: only two principles guide the president's proposal.

First, Clinton's plan guarantees coverage for each and every American citizen, with no exceptions.

Second, employers and not individual fam-

On Health-Care REFORM



ilies are responsible for shouldering the bulk of the cost of health insurance.

In fact, the existing system is much more complicated than Clinton's plan. Up to 1,500 private insurance companies offer a baffling array of policies to individuals and employers. By requiring that all insurers provide the same package of comprehensive benefits, the Clinton plan will end the confusion that now accompanies the complicated search for health insurance.

■ *Dole complains that the president's proposal involves too much big government.* He thinks the problems within the current system could work themselves out with just a little tinkering around the edges, and that alliances are just more government on a power trip.

But the president's plan provides something we don't have now — an advocate for consumers when they run into problems with providers or insurance companies. These advocates would be housed in the alliances, which are there to make life easier for the average consumer, not harder.

■ *Dole sees the president's plan as too risky.* But whereas the Senate minority leader says that Clinton's plan is a complete overhaul of the current system, in reality, it builds directly on that system.

A far riskier plan for consumers is Rep. Cooper's plan, which gives employers the option to provide health coverage for their workers. When presented with a choice to insure their workers or not, many employers will scale back coverage to save money, while others may discontinue health insurance plans altogether, leaving their employees out in the health care cold.

The Clinton plan, on the other hand, will install a mandate that requires employers to provide coverage for every Kansas worker and his or her family. What it will not allow is the exclusion of any American, even those who are unemployed, from the health care system. Where is the risk, then, in getting rid of the health care discrimination that runs rampant under the system as it presently exists?

The most important thing that Dole has conceded is that health care is a pressing concern for all Americans, from Kansas

farmers to Washington bureaucrats. Now he needs to realize that his four concerns about Clinton's plan — that it is too ambitious, too complicated, too bureaucratic and too risky — are misplaced. Perhaps then we can get down to business and implement a plan that gets at the heart of what's really wrong with health care today.

Linda Lipsen is legislative director for the Consumers Union's Washington office.

"On Health Care Reform" is a guest column to provide readers with an opportunity to discuss what has emerged as the top domestic issue of 1994, national health care reform. Do you support President Clinton's plan? Are you in favor of a single-payer system like Canada has? Think the country cannot afford universal health care coverage for all its citizens? Concerned you may lose the right to choose your own doctor? Let us know. Submissions should be about 500 words, 600 maximum, typed and double-spaced. The newspaper reserves the right to edit. Please mail to the Features Department, The Topeka Capital-Journal, 616 S.E. Jefferson St., Topeka, KS 66607, or via fax at 913-295-1230.

10-A SUNDAY APRIL 24, 1994 THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

Dole: Watergate wounded GOP for decades

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole was one of Richard Nixon's strongest supporters during the turmoil of Vietnam and Watergate, but shortly before the president's death Dole recalled the damage those struggles caused their party.

"It almost destroyed the party," Dole said Friday, just hours before Nixon's death. "A lot of people voted against any Republican."

Nixon died Friday night at New York Hospital, four days after suf-

fering a major stroke that had left him in a deep coma. He was 81.

Dole, who was Republican National Committee chairman during Watergate, told reporters the scandal stalled a GOP drive led by Nixon's re-election victory in 1972.

"The irony is, we were building the party, had an emerging majority. Then bingo, they were gone because of Watergate," Dole said. "It's taken a long time to rebuild the party."

Dole, then in his first Senate

term, was handpicked by Nixon as national GOP chief in January 1971. From that point on, Dole was one of Nixon's staunchest defenders on issues such as Vietnam War policy and the burgeoning Watergate scandal.

Dole, R-Kan., left the RNC post in December 1972, to be replaced by George Bush. At the time, Dole said the party had no role in the break-in of Democratic Party headquarters

at the Watergate office building and hotel in Washington.

But in July 1974, Dole and other Republicans were calling on Nixon to "lay his cards on the table" about Watergate and the cover-up. A month later, Nixon resigned in the face of almost-certain impeachment.

The scandal haunted Republicans throughout the 1970s, costing them 48 House seats and five Senate seats in 1974. Dole nearly became one of the casualties, finding his once-strong support of Nixon had become a millstone.

During one interview in October 1974, he criticized then-President Ford for granting Nixon a pardon.

"I don't need any more help of that kind before November," Dole said.

Now at the pinnacle of his political career — only a 1996 presidential victory would top it — Dole stressed Nixon's accomplishments in opening up China to trade, ending the Vietnam War and for several lesser-known domestic accomplishments, such as revenue sharing with local government.

"All in all, people are going to look back and say Watergate, the resignation, a lot of these things were bad and shouldn't have happened," Dole said. "I think history will, with a few exceptions, say that this man made a difference. You add all that up and he comes out ahead."

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

Despite the shadow cast by Watergate, the nation will long admire Richard Nixon's "courage and perseverance," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole.

Dole, who was scheduled to deliver a eulogy at the former president's funeral this evening, said history "will reflect the fact that America is better prepared to meet our great challenges because of the life, the career and the accomplishments of Richard Nixon."

Dole, R-Kan., was to follow

former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in delivering remarks at the funeral, scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. CDT Wednesday in Yorba Linda, Calif.

President Clinton and California Gov. Pete Wilson also are scheduled to deliver eulogies. The Rev. Billy Graham is to officiate.

Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is also expected to attend.

In Senate floor remarks Monday, Dole said few presidents "have made more history or shaped the history of their times more than Richard Nixon."

"Dole cited Nixon for foreign policy accomplishments such as opening the door to China and for lesser-known domestic achievements such as creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Yet the 37th president never can escape the dark cloud of the Watergate scandal and his resignation from office in 1974, Dole said.

Dole served as chairman of the Republican National Committee as the scandal grew and was one of Nixon's staunchest defenders at the time.

Dole said last week that Water-

gate halted a growing pro-Republican movement that didn't pick up steam again until the 1980s. Dozens of GOP officeholders were turned out in the 1974 elections, and Dole himself survived a close race against Democrat Bill Roy.

"There are some who are still unwilling to forgive him for Watergate," Dole said. "But in the past few years, I think more and more Americans have come to appreciate President Nixon and his accomplishments."

Since Nixon's death Friday, Dole said people repeatedly have told

him how much they admired the former president, despite the scandal.

"They admired him not because he was perfect, but they admired him because of his courage and perseverance," Dole said. "Plain and simple, Richard Nixon believed in America."

Roberts' father, Wes Roberts, was director of the Citizens for Eisenhower campaign and played a role in Nixon's selection as the Republican vice presidential candidate in 1952.

2 WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 1994 THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

Dole to discuss Nixon accomplishments during eulogy

Hutchinson News Monday, May 2, 1994



Kansas Sen. Bob Dole talks about President Clinton's foreign policy problems during an interview.

Dole questions Clinton's foreign policy judgment

BEDFORD, N.H. — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole questioned Sunday whether President Clinton is willing to make tough foreign policy decisions, and he said the administration relies too much on polls to determine American policy.

"He has to have the ability to make tough decisions and stick with them even though the American people might not be with him at the outset," the Kansas senator said at a news conference.

Clinton makes the more popular foreign policy decisions instead of the ones that will most benefit the country, Dole said. He said the administration spent more on polling in its first year than the Bush administration did in four years.

"We're trying to have foreign policy by poll," he said. "My view is America has to provide leadership. ... That means being able to persuade your allies and sending a clear signal."

The signal too often has been mixed, Dole said. He cited crises

in Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia and North Korea as examples of places where the administration has failed to clearly define U.S. policy.

This week he will introduce a bill to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. He said it has bipartisan support and should be backed by the administration because Clinton called for the lifting of the embargo when he ran for president.

"It seems to me that we're in effect choosing sides in favor of the Serb aggressors," he said.

12A THE WICHITA EAGLE Thursday, May 5, 1994

Dole to propose postponement of next round of base closings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Wednesday that he will introduce a bill to delay the next round of military base closings for two years.

Fort Riley is among the bases considered a candidate for closure in the next round of cutbacks.

Dole said increasing dangers around the globe, coupled with questions about the savings from previous

base closings, are good reasons to delay any further closures until 1997. Current law calls for another round in 1995.

"With escalating costs to pay for environmental cleanup and to assist communities hard hit by the loss of their bases, we simply don't have the money to take on another round of base closures at this time," Dole said.

"We ought to pause and assess the world situation. There is a lot of danger and instability out there with North Korea, Bosnia, Iraq, Iran and Haiti — all potential powder kegs."

The Clinton administration on Tuesday indicated it may defer some base closings until after the 1996 elections.

Pentagon officials have estimated that base closings in 1995 could

equal the combined impact of base closure rounds in 1988, 1991 and 1993. The earlier rounds will result in the loss of an estimated 150,000 civilian and military jobs.

Clinton will be up for re-election in 1996, and Dole is among the GOP names mentioned most often as a potential challenger. Such a massive upheaval could have an impact on those ambitions.

Fort Riley is home to 14,400 soldiers in the "Eng Red One" 1st Infantry Division and employs 3,600 civilians. Local officials say its closure could trigger a combined loss of over \$79 million to the economies in Geary and Riley counties.

Dole said the potential cost of more base closings isn't worth it, particularly since savings probably won't be realized until after 2000.

2 Thursday, May 5, 1994 The Salina Journal

Base closings may be delayed to '97

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The cost of closing military bases is the main reason the Pentagon is considering delaying some base closure decisions, an administration official told lawmakers Wednesday.

"Closures are extremely expensive in the first few years," Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Robert Beyer told the Senate Armed Services readiness subcommittee.

Bayer said it takes six years for the Pentagon to realize savings after ordering bases closed.

The idea of putting off base closure decisions is gaining popularity. On Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., proposed legislation that would postpone the 1995 base closure round entirely until 1997.

"We haven't realized any savings so far," said Dole, who is often mentioned as a possible presidential contender in 1996. "With escalating costs to pay for environmental cleanup and to assist communities hard hit by the loss of their bases, we simply don't have the money to take on another round of base closures."

Dole is also watching out for local interests. Fort Riley, near Junction City, Kan., is considered a prime target for the 1995 closure round.

The defense department's comments came a day after Pentagon officials disclosed that they are considering reducing the size of next year's base closure round and adding another round in 1997. Without a later round, the 1995 closure decisions could match the cuts produced by the three previous closure rounds combined.

A second concern is that the amount of cutting that needs to be done simply could not be handled in one round.



Dole

Hutchinson News Saturday, May 7, 1994

Dole recalls ruler's sting

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

While Michael Fay had his Singapore prison guard, Bob Dole had his Russell grade school teacher.

"Yes, we had a teacher who slapped us with a ruler on the back of our hands," the Kansas Republican and Russell native said Friday. "It stings. She did a



Dole

Dole talks about embargo on Bosnia.....Page 3 pretty good job of it. Marietta J. Simpson. I'll never forget her, my first-grade teacher in Russell.

"I thought it worked. We didn't do those things a second time. But caning, it seems a little barbaric. I guess maybe one other country uses it."

At the same time, Dole said he felt the Singapore government was fair by reducing Fay's punishment by a few lashes.

Dole is not the only person who

remembers Marietta Jane Simpson in Russell. A school, which replaced the building in which she taught, is named for the teacher who lived from 1858 to 1943 and taught for 50 years.

The Russell first-grader survived his bout with corporal punishment and went on to bigger and better things. Fay probably will, too.

"Overall, it probably was a fair sentence. This Michael Fay will probably make a million dollars and a movie, so he'll come out all right," Dole said.