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Sen. Dole unmoved by Clinton appeal

By EDWIN CHEN
and KAREN TUMULTY
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The political rhetoric over health-care reform took on an even harder edge Wednesday as President Clinton proclaimed that he "desperately" wants a bipartisan bill but said Republicans retreat each time he reaches out to them.

GOP leaders were unmoved by Clinton's plaintive entreaty during a South Lawn rally commemorating the enactment of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"If we didn't pass it, my view is there might be a big sigh of relief around the country," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., as he emerged from a GOP strategy session.

The exchange came as Democratic leaders in both houses raced to complete separate health care reform bills for floor debate early next month.

With the broad outlines of the House Democratic leadership bill already known, the focus is riveted on efforts of Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, D-Maine, to craft a compromise that stands some chance of passage — "a difficult task," he said Wednesday.

In its current state, Mitchell's bill would seek universal coverage without imposing an employer mandate unless voluntary measures failed to provide coverage to at least 95 percent of the population, perhaps by the year 2001. Even then, sources said, it would exempt some small businesses — the most vocal opponents of an employer mandate.

Sources also said Wednesday that a competing provision being floated privately would impose an employer mandate only on a state-by-state basis. Just states that hadn't reached a target for coverage — probably 95 percent of their populations — by a certain date would be subject to an employer requirement.

The House bill, being assembled by Majority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., is a virtual clone of that produced by the Ways and Means Committee and could be ready Friday.

Mitchell said Wednesday his bill will be ready either by the end of the week or early next.

Mitchell declined to reveal specifics of his emerging bill, but said it will offer the country a "coherent, rational program" to overhaul what is one-seventh of the U.S. economy.

With a scheduled monthlong recess to begin on Aug. 13, time is running out on Congress to debate and enact comprehensive reform, a fact Mitchell and Dole addressed Wednesday.

Once debate begins, Mitchell said, he intends to keep the Senate going six days a week and "stay in session until we finish — however long it takes."

Dole predictably took a different tack. He demanded Republicans be given a week off "without interruption" to study the Democratic proposals.

"What's the rush on this bill that's not even going to take effect for five years?" Dole demanded.

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"You've got bad people on the fringe of every group, that sort of gives everybody else a bad name," he said.

Asked about delays in passing a new health care reform package and about news reports that people are dying while waiting for care, Dole said, "We could have passed it (a health care plan) a year ago, but President Clinton has been playing politics for the past 15 months."

"President Clinton is insisting I've got to have everything; I want it all, even though it was a big-government health care system. Eight months ago, we (senators) were prepared to help," Dole said.

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Dole's PAC closes in on No. 1 as bottom line swells rapidly

By Tom Webb

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — With money pouring in like a Kansas harvest, Sen. Bob Dole's political action committee has become the second-largest PAC in America, and is poised to soon overtake No. 1, run by the Teamsters union.

Dole's Campaign America PAC has raised \$6.2 million since January 1993, according to Federal Election Commission records. That ranks it far ahead of such legendary fund-raisers as the National Rifle Association, the United Auto Workers and the American Medical Association.

Dole's PAC functions primarily as a middleman, collecting money mostly from wealthy executives and corporate PACs, then funneling it to Republicans running for the U.S. Senate and other posts, including legislative races in Kansas. Dole also uses Campaign America to pay for his extensive cross-country travels as he prepares for a possible presidential race.

But there is a chance the money could stop flowing. The Senate has passed a campaign finance reform bill containing a ban on leadership PACs such as Dole's Campaign America. The House passed a bill

TOP 10 PACs

- (Money raised since Jan. 1, 1993)
1. Teamsters union, \$6.8 million
 2. Campaign America, \$6.2 million
 3. Emily's List, \$6 million
 4. State, county and city employees union, \$3.9 million
 5. American Medical Association, \$3.7 million
 6. National Rifle Association, \$3.2 million
 7. National Education Association, \$3.1 million
 8. United Auto Workers, \$3 million
 9. Realtors, \$2.9 million
 10. Trial lawyers association, \$2.8 million
- Source: Federal Election Commission

that is silent on leadership PACs. So the topic will be addressed in a conference committee.

"It's up in the air in the conference report," said Michael Mawby, vice president of legislation for Common Cause, a self-described public interest group. "The Senate bill does ban leadership PACs and

the House bill does not, and it is not clear how this issue will be resolved. Frankly, the leadership PAC issue is one of the outstanding issues."

Any ban on leadership PACs — used by top Democrats and top Republicans alike — would take place after this November's elections. But that's a long way off, with any ban facing objections in a conference committee, delays in the House and a filibuster in the Senate.

For now, the only PAC that has raised more money than Dole's is the Teamsters union PAC. And Dole is closing that gap, too, as he hopscoches across the country, collecting an average of nearly \$120,000 a week. In the past 12 months, he has out-raised even the Teamsters. The only other PAC of comparable size is Emily's List, which funnels money to pro-choice female Democratic candidates; Emily is an acronym for Early Money Is Like Yeast.

Like all PACs, Dole's Campaign America must obey strict limits both on the size of contributions it can accept, and on the contributions it can make, generally \$5,000 per federal election. That \$5,000 limit extends to any presidential campaign Dole might undertake.

As of June 30, Campaign America reported \$3.4 million in the bank.

As a nation, let's go slow on WTO

By Sen. Bob Dole
Special to The Wichita Eagle

The message I am hearing from Kansas on the proposed World Trade Organization (WTO) is a lot like the message I am hearing on health-care reform — be careful and do the job right. The WTO will replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as the world trade watchdog organization. It is implemented under legislation Congress is now considering. When it comes to trade policy, Congress must be certain not to trade hasty action for the American people's right to know what is in the agreement.

Calls and letters have been flooding my office — and I am sure my colleagues' offices, too — on the subject of implementing the WTO. People are concerned. Many are afraid they do not have enough information, and many are just outright opposed to the idea of the United States joining the WTO.

In fact, my office in Wichita is receiving more calls in opposition to this trade agreement than we received on the North American Free Trade Agreement. I do not know whether opposition will build to the same national level, but I do know that the Clinton administration has done a poor job of explaining what this trade agreement will mean for the American people.

I favor free trade and the opening of foreign markets. I fought hard for the

North American Free Trade Agreement. In general, I favor the Uruguay Round agreement because I believe it will help the American farmer and the American manufacturer by providing greater access to global markets. It will also help the American consumer by lowering tariffs worldwide and, in turn, by lowering the prices of products.

However, there's more to this approximately 500-page agreement. People have a right to know how the WTO will function, what powers it will have and what authority it will have to tell the United States what to do. People have a right to know how the agreement will be paid for, and how it will benefit them in the long run.

In addition, people have a right to know how this trade agreement fits into President Clinton's long-term trade strategy. In implementing the bill, the president wants the authority to negotiate trade agreements in the future. His proposal includes linking trade to all kinds of other policies, such as environment and labor. People want to know whether his strategy is one of protectionism through our environment and labor laws. For example, does he want the United States to be able to impose trade sanctions on other countries if their environment and labor laws do not match our own? Will our trade laws be turned over to environmental groups to be used as clubs over the heads of less-developed countries? Will labor

unions determine with whom we should trade?

What disturbs me and many Kansans I've heard from is the failure of the administration to allow adequate time for the American people to get answers to these and other valid questions about this trade bill. There is plenty of time for Congress, and the American people, to take a close look at the trade bill and the results of the Uruguay Round.

If the United States implements this trade agreement, it will have a profound impact on our trade relations with every nation on Earth, on our rights as the largest trading nation on Earth, and on our ability to resolve trade disputes as they arise with other countries. We should not race to complete a major trade bill until we know what awaits us at the finish line. There is no reason we cannot address this important issue next year.

Bob Dole represents Kansas in the U.S. Senate.

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Monday, August 8, 1994

Dole's health plan reflects his rural past



Major points in Kansan's proposal focus on providing care in small towns

By PEGGY KRENDL

Objects often hold a silent history. Limestone fence posts that supported barbed wire in the late 1800s line the streets of Russell. Embedded in the gray

rock are fossil imprints of sea-shells — a reminder of the past. Perhaps etched in Senator Bob Dole's health-care proposal are reminders of his past.

His childhood years in Russell during the Depression and Dust Bowl era and his struggles to recover from World War II injuries may have shaped many of his ideas.

As a child, Dole remembers having his tonsils removed. He went to the doctor's office where they were pulled out and then went home without any

hospital stay.

Dole grew up before antibiotics and advanced medical procedures were developed, when doctors often traded health care for chickens.

Doctors in Russell often provided care without regard to cost, say long-time residents. "People would bring (the local doctor) a chicken or a dozen eggs," said Bub Dawson, a retired businessman.

Dean Banker, a local busi-

ness man, recalls similar exchanges for health care. And if the patient didn't have a chicken or a dozen eggs, the doctor still treated him.

"We had a local doctor who treated you whether you had money or not," Banker said.

He remembers one childhood morning when he woke up feeling ill. As most children, he appealed to his mother for a day off but she insisted he wasn't sick. Later that morning the school nurse called Banker's mother and asked her to pick up her ill child.

Banker's mother relented a bit and told the nurse that Dean could walk home during lunch. The nurse said she thought Dean needed to go home immediately — he had just vomited on the girl who sat in front of him.

"Well, I guess he really is sick," said his mother. Banker laughs at the memory.

"Back then you didn't go to the doctor unless you were dying or close to it," Banker said.

Dole gained a lot of respect for doctors as he grew up. As a teenager, he worked at Dawson's Drug store scooping ice cream and mixing soda for two dollars a week. He also met doctors and patients when they came in for prescriptions.

"I marveled at doctors," Dole said. "They were able to make people better."

At the University of Kansas, Dole studied to become a doctor but was sidetracked when he went to serve in World War II.

In Italy, Lt. Dole was severely injured when he was hit by a bullet or shell shrapnel in the back and shoulder.

For months doctors weren't sure he would live. His body was immobilized in a cast, he suffered a high fever, kidney infection and a blood clot — he spent 39 months in hospitals. He had to learn to walk again and worked to overcome his injuries by walking around Russell, lifting a special weight set created in his back yard and squeezing a rubber ball in his left hand. But he needed more help.

A Chicago doctor offered to operate on Dole to repair damage done



Dole

The Salina Journal Saturday, August 6, 1994

Dole says Clinton inherited economy

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton cannot legitimately claim his tax and deficit-reduction bill led to the nation's economic recovery, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Friday.

"The truth of the matter is, the president inherited a good economy when he came in," the Kansas Republican said.

"All he had to do was make sure he didn't mess it up. He has to re-

strain from taking credit for a lot of things he didn't do," Dole said.

The bill passed last summer by Vice President Gore's tie-breaking vote in the Senate raised taxes on the wealthiest Americans and promised to reduce the deficit by \$500 billion over five years.

Clinton said Friday the administration deserves credit for creation of thousands of jobs, a lower federal deficit, improved world trade and low inflation.

Dole told reporters the economic recovery began during the last year of President Bush's term. He said many of the jobs created during Clinton's tenure have been

low-paying and that other high-paying jobs have been forever lost.

"President Clinton is saying he raised taxes and that made the economy run better," Dole said. "I think that's a pretty hard sell."

Dole also said the economy has lately showed some distressing signs, such as rising interest rates, lower housing starts and a weak dollar.

On another issue, Dole said there is "bipartisan opposition" to the attempted compromise health reform bill unveiled this week by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell.

Dole's health plan reflects a rural past

Continued from page 1-A

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A Chicago doctor offered to operate on Dole to repair damage done

to his right arm. Although Dole's arm would never be completely repaired, the doctor was able to restore some of its movement.

The government didn't pay for the operation, and Dole's family didn't have the money. The doctor donated his work and the town of Russell raised about \$1,500 to pay for additional expenses and a hospital stay.

At Dawson's Drug Store a Santa Fe high-grade cigar box was placed on the counter. It was the Bob Dole Fund.

"I guess people wanted me to have good health care so they raised money so I could go to Chicago," Dole said.

Residents of Russell came in Dawson's and dropped change or bills into that cigar box, said Bub Dawson, a friend of Dole's whose father owned the store when the money was collected.

"He was a real war hero," Dawson said. "Anyone who had a nickel would drop it in that cigar box." Dole still has the cigar box, he keeps it in his desk drawer. Inside are the slips of how much people donated. The first donation was of 50 cents, the next six dollars. One man even donated a duck, another gave \$100.

Dole's proposal pays attention to some of the problems rural areas like Russell face:

- It offers incentives to encourage nurse practitioners to work in rural areas.
- It offers self-employed businessmen like farmers tax incentives to buy health insurance.
- It calls for more medical clinics in rural areas.
- It designs a program for rural doctors to consult with urban specialists through telecommunications.
- It encourages people who don't buy health insurance, such as younger people who don't foresee themselves becoming ill, to buy catastrophic insurance.

The plan ought to cover about 92 percent of the population, Dole said.

"I don't disagree with the president at all (about universal health coverage)," Dole said. "I don't think anybody does in America."

But practically, it may not be possible without hurting small businesses and causing job loss, Dole said.

Hutchinson News Saturday, August 6, 1994 Page 3

Dole blames Clinton for health reform delay

By Alan Montgomery

The Hutchinson News

Bob Dole has to hand it to Bill Graves, who just won the Republican gubernatorial primary in Kansas.

Told of reports that Graves' campaign was closely linking Democratic challenger Jim Slattery with the views of President Bill Clinton, Dole said he was all for that tactic.

"It's excellent strategy for Graves to align Slattery with Bill Clinton," Dole said Friday, during a telephone conference call with Kansas reporters. "There's nothing unique about this, or new about this. It is how it works. When President Bush's popularity was low, they tied Republican candidates to him."

Dole spoke on a variety of issues during the morning press



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briefing. Health care came up several times.

Next week, Dole said, the Senate will tackle the health care reform measure unveiled Tuesday by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, which includes abortion in the basic benefits package.

"We've been given copies of it," Dole said. "It has 1,400 pages; it weighs 14 pounds. We're trying to digest it, analyze it, understand it the best we can by next week."

The people of Kansas should understand that the bill has a lot of "new taxes and big government" in it, and "there's a lot of bipartisan opposition to this bill," he said.

Asked about delays in passing a new health care reform package and about news reports that people are dying while waiting for care, Dole said, "We could have passed it (a health care plan) a year ago, but President Clinton has been playing politics for the past 15 months."

"President Clinton is insisting I've got to have everything; I want it all, even though it was a big-government health care system. Eight months ago, we (senators) were prepared to help," Dole said.

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