

Senate OKs funds for Sterling College

Chamber nearly empty for vote

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — A late-night vote on a bill to restore buildings at traditionally black colleges authorized \$3.6 million for a mostly-white school in the home state of Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole.

Sterling College in Sterling, Kan., would get the money to refurbish its 100-year-old Cooper Hall, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Some black House members opposed inclusion of Sterling because only 4 percent of its 600 students are black.

Dole, R-Kan., reached a deal with black lawmakers to authorize the money over the next three years in return for \$2 million this year to restore buildings on historically black campuses. That amount had been reduced to \$1 million in the House version.

The bill passed by an unrecorded "unanimous consent" vote in a nearly empty Senate chamber late Wednesday.

It could still run into some problems in the House, where Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minn., has not decided whether to accept Dole's provision. Vento chairs a subcommittee with jurisdiction over the issue.



The Associated Press
Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., has made certain Sterling College will receive funds to refurbish a 100-year-old building.

The original bill was intended to allow the interior secretary to make grants of up to \$65 million from a federal historic preservation fund to restore and preserve buildings at qualifying institutions over the next four years.

Language included by Dole would allow the money for Sterling College only if the school provides matching funds.

Dole has defended inclusion of Sterling in the funding bill by noting it opened its doors to students of all races decades ago, when some colleges wouldn't admit blacks.

Black college bill passes Senate quietly

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — With an unrecorded vote late Wednesday night, the Senate quietly passed a measure that provides up to \$3.6 million for a school in Sen. Bob Dole's home state.

After a day in which the Senate minority leader warned of the unknown costs of a Democratic health care bill, Dole managed to slip through the grant provision as part of a measure to aid historically black colleges and universities — even though the school in his state is mostly white.

The bill passed by "unanimous consent" in a nearly empty Senate chamber.

The school of concern to Dole, Sterling College, has only 4 percent black enrollment. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., the Senate's only black member, agreed to the provision last month as a way to get the stalled legislation moving.

The original bill was intended to

allow the interior secretary to make grants of up to \$65 million from a federal historic preservation fund to restore and preserve buildings at qualifying institutions over the next four years. The House has already passed a version of the bill.

Language included by Dole would "preserve and restore Cooper Hall at Sterling College." The interior secretary could provide up to \$3.6 million over three years only if Sterling contributes matching funds.

Another provision included in the bill by Dole earmarks \$1.5 million for grants to restore Science Hall at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

When Dole initially sought money for Sterling College, a 600-student liberal arts institution, some black House members objected that it violated the spirit of legislation intended to benefit colleges with mostly black enrollments.

Sterling would get enough money to refurbish its century-old Cooper Hall, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building has been closed since 1988 because of structural problems.

Dole camp tries to avoid PAC trouble

Campaign America was fined in '93 by federal agency.

By JAKE THOMPSON
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — In a Virginia suburb this summer, Terri Hasselman got acquainted with the multibox, the gadget that connects the main microphone at the podium with television and radio networks.

The Iowa woman and 80 others attending the "advance training school" picked up lots of useful techniques to help a politician, from building crowds to fund raising to proper lighting.

But one thing was not taught in the seminar paid for by Sen. Bob Dole's Campaign America: how to avoid renewed troubles with the Federal Election Commission.

Dole has to walk a fine line. The Senate minority leader from Kansas is striving to aid Republican candidates in this election year with Campaign America, his leadership political action committee.

At the same time, it's clear that expanding Campaign America's network now will be useful if Dole runs again for the presidency in 1996. And that has prompted complaints from one watchdog group.

Just a year ago, the Federal Election Commission fined Campaign America — which lawfully can help only congressional and state candidates — \$12,000 for illegal campaign activities that aided Dole's 1988 presidential quest.

At the advance school in June, Dole's organization tried to show that the lesson had been learned. A large banner hung behind the podium: "Seven more in '94."

That emphasized the number of seats Republicans need this fall to win back control of the U.S. Senate and probably again make Dole majority leader.

At the seminar, Dole and others talked solely about helping Republican candidates, especially those running for the Senate, Hasselman said. Yet speakers included some who had helped set up political visits around the country for former Presidents George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

"Many there were the cream of

Dole campaign legacy passed on

A tiny piece of Bob Dole's 1988 presidential campaign lives on.

In May, the Kansas senator closed out a special 1988 fund by donating the remaining \$14,000 to a Lisa Mack scholarship fund at Iowa State University.

Mack was a 24-year-old Iowa State graduate who volunteered for Dole's presidential campaign. She drove Dole around Des Moines when he was campaigning and made telephone calls at nights and on weekends.

After doing volunteer work for Dole in Minnesota and visiting her family in Waterville,

Mack headed back to Des Moines on Jan. 24, 1988, in a heavy snowstorm. She was killed when her vehicle and a dozen others piled up after a semitrailer truck spun out of control.

Since then, Dole has telephoned her family several times a year and sends a Christmas card each year. Richard Wirthlin, Dole's pollster from the 1988 race, also gave \$6,000 to endow the scholarship.

It will be awarded next year to a student from Minnesota attending Iowa State who has demonstrated leadership and caring for others, said Lois Mack, Lisa's mother.

cause he is "so cautious and conservative" with Campaign America.

"I'm making so many extra efforts to make sure our skirts are clean on this," Coe added, "while at the same time others are out there, potential candidates, making no bones about what they're doing preliminarily."

Asked by *The National Journal* in June about his thoughts on running again, Dole said: "I know Phil Gramm is running. I know Lamar Alexander is running. But we're doing things that would indicate we might be moving ahead. You've got to move ahead. We've got field people now working for Campaign America. We're going to have a school (the advance training group)."

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Dole: Congress needs to ask voters about health reform

By Ray Hemman
The Hutchinson News

Congress needs to take its August recess and then come back to write health care reform legislation after talking with constituents, the Senate minority leader said Friday.

"My view is everybody is trying to cobble something together at the last minute," said Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., during his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists. "We ought to be out talking with the people who will have to live with it. Somebody said this may be mainstream inside the Beltway, but it's not mainstream America."



Dole

"And I'm not sure how we think we can at the last minute come up with something without any hearings, without any information."

The rush to put some sort of health care reform together is forcing Congress to write legislation "in the dark" without the benefit of cost projections or other numbers.

Dole said that when he talks with constituents, he is asked why, if only 15 percent of the health care system is broken, Congress is attempting to overhaul the entire system.

Currently, the Senate is reviewing some 7,000 pages of health care reform in any of a number of different bills. Dole said he doubted that any Capitol Hill staffer, much less a senator, had read all the pages of all the bills.

On another front-burner issue,

Dole said he would prefer to allow mayors and governors to decide how best to use money in the crime bill rather than mandate the use of the funds.

The senator also said there were numerous elements within the bill that concerned him. The conference report of the crime bill, for example, took out the sexual predator provision, which would have alerted communities when such individuals locate there.

Dole also objects to provisions that might lead to the early release of up to 16,000 drug dealers. He would like to see the bill include mandatory sentences for anyone convicted of a federal crime involving a gun.

Even if a crime bill passes, don't expect it to provide much help on local crimes, Dole said.

Dole accuses Clinton attorney of trying to intimidate Starr

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader

Bob Dole accused President Clinton's attorney Sunday of trying to intimidate Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr, hoping the Republican lawyer will step down.

Bob Bennett, representing Clinton in two separate legal cases, has led a Democratic assault against Starr, who was appointed by a federal court panel of three judges. He said Starr should step down.

"My view is that Bob Bennett, the president's lawyer — they're trying to intimidate Starr, trying to make it impossible for him to do the right thing. I hope he stays," Dole said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"That is partisan nonsense," Bennett responded in an interview. "All I want is fairness for my clients, whether they're Republicans or Democrats."

It was unclear whether Dole, R-Kan., directed the remark only at Bennett or at Democrats and administration officials who have criticized the appointment.

In a related matter, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman damaged his credibility with his congressional testimony on Whitewater. Asked whether Altman should resign, Mitchell told NBC, "That's a decision for him and the president and the secretary of Treasury should

make."

An administration official said Altman is expected to resign sometime after he returns from a family vacation today. The official, who stressed that Altman has not made a final decision, said Senate Banking Chairman Donald Riegle, D-Mich., and his likely successor, Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., have told the White House Altman should leave.

Starr is replacing another Republican, Robert Fiske, who had cleared the White House of any criminal wrongdoing in its contacts with the Treasury Department over the confidential Whitewater inquiry involving President and Hillary Clinton. The court said Fiske's appointment by Attorney General Janet Reno raised the appearance of a conflict because she was appointed by Clinton.

Starr is an active Republican and was U.S. solicitor general in the Bush administration. He publicly criticized Clinton's claim of immunity in a sexual harassment lawsuit being handled by Bennett, and had agreed to donate his time to a conservative woman's group to prepare a legal brief on the issue.

"I want to know why Fiske was removed," Bennett said. "The only thing Fiske has done is he's made some preliminary findings that were helpful to my client, the president. Then, at great further expense and at great delay, he's

been yanked."

He said it did not make sense to remove Fiske for being appointed by Reno or for being a friend of former White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum, given Starr's close GOP ties and the fact that Reno had considered Starr for the job.

"Something doesn't pass my smell test," Bennett said, without elaborating.

Democrats have expressed concerns that one of the judges who appointed Starr, Judge David B. Sentelle, met before the appointment with Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., a conservative who led efforts to remove Fiske.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell on Sunday called it "a very unwise action."

The White House has kept its distance from Bennett publicly, saying Clinton has not called for Starr's ouster. Privately, aides were upset by the appointment and acknowledged that Bennett probably could not speak without Clinton's consent.

A steady stream of Democrats has voiced concerns about Starr, although all said has a reputation for fairness and integrity.

"If the standard is the appearance of independence — and that's what the court said the standard is — then it seems to me there is a greater appearance of the absence of independence in his case than there was in Mr. Fiske's case," Mitchell said on NBC.

Mitchell, Dole snipe over health care plans

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate's leading Democrat and Republican tore into each others' health care plans Sunday, casting new doubt on their ability to forge an agreement this year to reform the medical system.

"Is there an opportunity for compromise? Maybe," Minority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Sitting elbow-to-elbow with Majority Leader George Mitchell of Maine, Dole said Mitchell's sweeping proposal amounted to government-run health care. It would raise taxes and fail to contain costs, he predicted.

Mitchell said offerings by Dole and other Republicans would do too little to provide health care coverage to all Americans. He chided GOP lawmakers for accepting a government-based insurance plan for their own health care, yet refusing the same for other citizens.

With his plan Mitchell dead, President Clinton has embraced Mitchell's proposal as the least he could accept. It aims to cover 95 percent of Americans by 2000, requiring employers to pay part of their workers' premiums if the goal is not reached.

In another sign of the health care divide, Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Nebr., said Mitchell's bill does not restrain costs and gives too much power to Washington. Pledging to heavily amend the bill, Kerrey suggested that the Senate may need to override a Clinton veto.

"It should be clear the president does not have a vote in Congress. We need to do our work. He didn't do a very good job on the crime bill, and now we're trying to do our work on health care," Kerrey said on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

Another Democrat, Sen. David Boren of Oklahoma, said of Mitchell's bill, "I think it's dead and we can't even amend it." Appearing on the same CBS show, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta rejected Boren's scaled-down proposal aimed at wooing GOP senators.

Despite all the mixed signals, Mitchell and Dole insisted health care reform could be passed by Congress this year.



Dole



Mitchell