

The Topeka Capital-Journal, Sunday, August 28, 1994

Dole wings through state on stump, speaking tour

By JIM BAKER
The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole, still stung by passage of the \$30 billion crime bill, on Saturday suggested Congress could revise it in 1995.

Dole was in Kansas for a series of news conferences and to attend a luncheon for Sam Brownback, the Republican nominee for the state's 2nd District congressional seat.

Speaking at Forbes Field, the Kansas Republican reiterated his opposition to the crime bill, which Congress passed Thursday with the help of six Republican senators, including Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas.

"There's a lot of pork in it. It's a bad bill, and it shouldn't have been passed," Dole said. "Maybe we can go back and change parts of it next year."

Dole was asked how he could have opposed a crime bill that promised to bring nearly \$236 million over six years — including \$110 million to hire 1,200 police officers — to Kansas.

"Well, you don't judge the value of a bill by how much it brings back to your state," he responded.

Dole said he was "disappointed" with Kassebaum's vote on the bill.

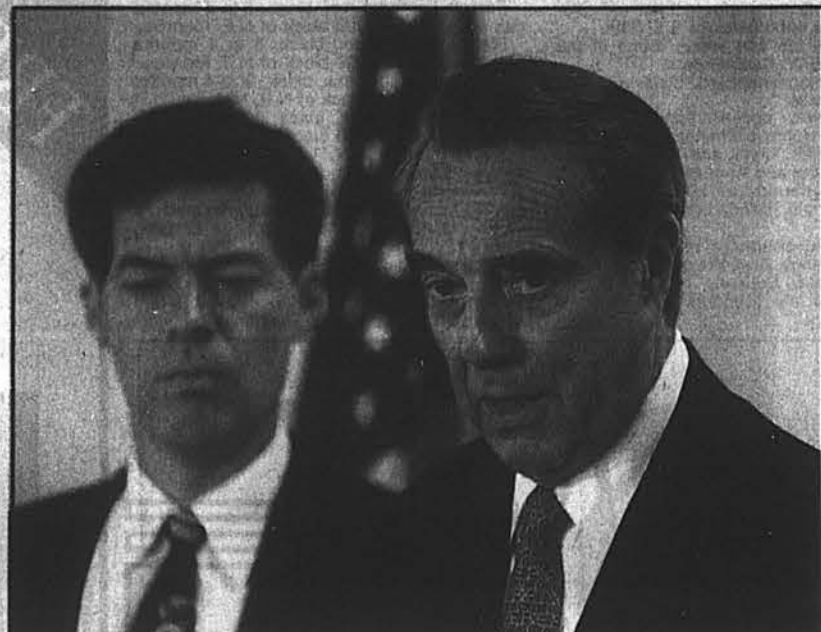
"It's a vote of no confidence in the (Senate minority) leader," he said, referring to himself.

Earlier in the day in Kansas City, Mo., Dole called Kassebaum's vote "a mistake."

"Apparently she negotiated with (Majority

■ **Senate minority leader calls crime bill vote a mistake, forecasts revisions.**

■ **In show of support for 2nd District candidate Sam Brownback, senior lawmaker predicts a banner year for Republicans.**



—Jeff A. Taylor/The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., spoke about recently passed crime legislation and health care at a news conference at Topeka's Forbes Field.

Leader) Senator Mitchell. I never talk with her about votes. I think we have a good relationship. But that's the way it goes," he said.

Kassebaum's vote won't affect their relationship, he said.

"My view as the leader is you don't look at the last vote, you look at the next vote. I think it was a mistake, but there will be another vote as soon as we get back," he said.

Dole, however, said the bill had some good

points, such as drug prevention programs, grants to help decrease domestic violence and the extension of the death penalty to 60 additional federal crimes.

Dole also used the Forbes Field news conference to criticize President Clinton's support for broad health-care reforms.

"Big government plans (for reforms) are finished. We don't want to go back and re-invent the wheel again," he said.

The senator indicated he supports more incremental reforms for the nation's health-care system. He recommends Congress take small steps, one at a time, on any reforms.

Before the Topeka session with the media, Brownback — who stood beside Dole during the news conference — said the senator planned to attend a several-hour luncheon event with Brownback supporters at a private residence in southwest Topeka.

Brownback is running against former Gov. John Carlin, a Democrat, in the general election in November.

"It's going to be a great year for Republicans in Kansas, with candidates like Sam Brownback and Bill Graves (the Republican candidate for governor)," Dole said. "It's going to be a banner year. We're in a Republican cycle."

Later Saturday, Dole was to fly to Logan — about 20 miles from the Nebraska border in northwest Kansas — to attend a picnic and social event. He was to return to Washington Saturday night.

Sunday, August 28, 1994
The Kansas City Star

Kassebaum erred on crime bill, Dole says

He is disappointed but says that it is time to 'look at the next vote.'

By STEVE KRASKE
Political Correspondent

The two senators from Kansas split over the federal crime bill last week, and Sen. Bob Dole wasn't very happy about it.

At a news conference Saturday in Kansas City, Dole called Sen. Nancy Kassebaum's vote in favor of the measure a mistake.

"I was very disappointed," Dole said about his colleague. But,

he added: "It's her choice. I never lobby Senator Kassebaum."

She was one of six Republicans who voted with the Democrats on Thursday to keep the \$30 billion crime bill alive. Without their support, Dole and other Republicans lost their fight to strengthen sentencing provisions and eliminate \$5 billion in crime-prevention programs.

On Saturday, though, the Senate minority leader dismissed Kassebaum's vote, saying it was time to look ahead.

"My view is as the leader, you never look at the last vote, you look at the next vote," he said. "You don't cut anybody off at the knees because you're unhappy with the way they voted."

"You just have to move on to the next day. I think it was a mistake, but there'll be another vote as soon as we get back."

Health care is among the issues still to be addressed after a congressional recess. On that subject, Dole dismissed as "pretty bleak" the likelihood that sweeping re-

form measures like the ones offered by President Clinton and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell would pass this year.

Dole said those bills are too complicated and expensive. However, bills that offer incremental changes, such as guaranteed health coverage for workers who change jobs, still could pass, he said.

"There still might be a chance to do a lot of things this year to help a lot of people," Dole said.

He said Clinton had not decided whether he wanted to go for incremental changes now or hold off until next year for another run at a more complete health-care bill.

Dole also made stops Saturday in Topeka and Logan.

L-4 The Kansas City Star Sunday, August 28, 1994

Bob Dole's in a bind on health care reform

Should he please conservatives in GOP or aim for political center?

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has rightly taken some heat for periodically changing his positions on issues from energy taxes to Haiti.

And he created confusion by simultaneously backing a Senate health care reform bill that would cover 95 percent of the population and reiterating his advocacy of universal coverage.

But when it comes to health care, Clinton has been a model of consistency compared with the man who might be his 1996 presidential rival, Kansas Senator Bob Dole.

While Clinton repeatedly has pushed for congressional action on a measure providing universal health care coverage, Dole has taken a series of positions on the degree of the nation's health crisis, the need for universal coverage and the importance of early congressional action.

It has prompted the Democratic National Committee to liken the 71-year-old Senate minority leader to "the elusive character in the children's book, *Where's Waldo?* because he has been hard to locate on the issue of health care."

There's a ready explanation for Dole's balancing act.

He is trying both to maintain his leadership of a Republican Party that increasingly has moved to the right and to position himself in the political center that determines most presidential elections.

By contrast, one of his potential 1996 rivals, Texas Senator Phil Gramm, has taken a position more openly critical of Clinton that seems more attuned to the conservative GOP primary electorate than to more centrist general election voters.

In doing so, he has pressured Dole to avoid any compromises that might stir enmity from Republican primary voters.

At times, Dole seems to be thinking ahead to a general election. But at others, he seems to recognize that to win the presidency he has twice sought without success, he will have to win the backing of a party that is dominated by its highly vocal conservative wing.

That means he will have to appeal to Americans who want some health reform without driving off Republicans who believe that any change is likely to be for the worse.

The balancing act has been a bit awkward, even for so adept a politician as Bob Dole.

In the fall, he said he wanted universal health coverage and set a target of the year 2000. "We had hoped to reach universal coverage by the year 2000 in our plan," he said in a Sept. 16, 1993, interview on CNN.

By February, he was calling universal coverage a "goal." But now, he is sharply opposing as too far-reaching the plan drafted by Senate Democratic Leader George Mitchell, though it doesn't anticipate universal coverage until 2002.

On another key aspect, Dole has similarly backtracked.

Last Feb. 1, he told the National Governors Association that his plan included "an individual mandate," under which individuals would be required to buy insurance, as opposed to an employer mandate, under which employers would be required to provide it.

But in May, Dole said, "I don't think either individual or employer mandates will work." When he was asked recently on NBC's "Meet the Press" why he changed, he said, "We discovered we didn't have the votes for an individual mandate."

Then there's the issue of whether the nation faces

"a health care crisis." Back in 1971, Dole said President Richard Nixon's health message "recognizes the present health care crisis in our nation."

In September, he used a similar term. But in January, he accepted the view that "our country has health care problems but not a health care crisis."

The following week, however, he said the debate "ought not to be caught up in whether there is or is not a crisis."

Despite all this, Dole said on "Meet the Press" that "I haven't changed my philosophy since 1965." That's when he voted against the creation of Medicare.

Some of this is a matter of public image. While Gramm was openly vowing "to do everything within my power within the rules of the Senate to defeat the Clinton plan," Dole was shying away from public threats of a filibuster.

But he did nothing to discourage GOP colleagues from speaking at length on the health issue, thus slowing any action.

Besides, there's no doubt that dragging out the health care debate is the best way for Dole and other Republicans to stop the bill. It's easier to get the 41 votes needed to prevent action than the 51 votes that will be required to defeat a measure acceptable to Clinton.

Still, there remains the suspicion that Dole, who owes his recovery from serious World War II wounds to his care in government hospitals, wants to make it possible for a health bill to pass, even if he votes against it.

That would give him an image of reasonableness that might be useful in running against Clinton in 1996. But it also might give Gramm and other Republicans ammunition to use against him in the race for the GOP nomination.



■ THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

SUNDAY ■ AUGUST 28, 1994

Dole: Health care reform still possible

By AMANDA DAVIS
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chances of passing a massive health-care reform measure in the Congress this year are "pretty bleak," Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said Saturday, but a scaled-down version still could win approval.

"There's a chance we can still get something done," if Democrats are willing to look at an incremental plan, Dole said during a brief news conference at the Downtown Airport. "There are about 20 items that every Democrat and Republican agree on."

Dole has put forward a plan that contains subsidies and insurance reforms designed to help people who can't afford coverage or can't get it because of pre-existing conditions. The Kansas Republican also mentioned the plight of Jennifer Lucas, an 8-year-old Independence girl who was born with a heart ailment. The girl wrote a letter about her family's insurance problems to President Clinton. Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton both referred to her plight during their visit to Independence last month, and at other stops while stumping for health care reform.

The girl's family cannot get health coverage for her because of the pre-existing condition. They have amassed about \$20,000 in bills they cannot pay. A recent story in The Kansas City Star said the family had hoped the media attention would help increase contributions to a trust fund, but they said that had not been the case.

"I sent her some money," Dole said. "She was kind of abandoned" after the initial crush of news coverage, he said.

Jennifer's father, Paul Lucas, said Saturday in a telephone interview that his daughter received a letter from Dole earlier this month.

The letter said, in part, "I wanted to do something to help. Enclosed is a check for \$500 for your trust fund ... I hope it will help with your medical bills. Elizabeth (Dole) and I have your family in our prayers."

Lucas said he was pleasantly surprised to hear from Dole.

"I was pretty shocked by it, actually. I knew he had been covering health care, but it was a surprise," Lucas said.

Dole also said the crime bill passed by the Senate on Thursday was too expensive, and he called his Kansas colleague's vote in favor of it "a mistake."

"I was very disappointed with the vote," of Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, Dole said. "Apparently she negotiated with Senator Mitchell. I never talk to her about votes. I think we have a good relationship. But that's the way it goes."

Kassebaum's vote for the crime bill won't affect the relationship between her and Dole, he said.

"My view as the leader is you don't look at the last vote, you look at the next vote. I think it was a mistake, but there will be another vote as soon as we get back."

"You don't cut off anyone at the knees because they disagree with you," he said.

While Democrats may go home from Congress and brag about the crime bill's passage — at a time when polls show crime as a top concern of many voters — Dole said eventually the voters will look at the price tag.

"We just added \$30 billion to the deficit by passing the crime bill," he said. "That doesn't seem to upset some of my colleagues."

Dole also predicted a good election for Republicans in Missouri and Kansas in November.

The Salina Journal Sunday, August 28, 1994

Dole gives scaled-down health care reform a shot

Senator gives help to ailing 8-year old

By The Associated Press

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