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The Salina Journal

8 Saturday, March 25, 1995

# Dole sees progress in Senate

## House GOP wins to be matched, he says

By The Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — Buoyed by a much-needed Republican victory on the presidential line-item veto, Majority Leader Bob Dole said Friday the Senate has regained momentum to match the tide of legislation from the House.

"I think we've got a chance to catch up with the House," the Kansas Republican said. "We're moving at a pretty good clip now in the Senate."

After a relatively short week of debate, the Senate voted 69-29 Thursday night to pass its version of a bill to expand the power of a president to veto individual spending items passed by Congress. Differences with the House version must be reconciled to produce a final bill.

The vote avoided a third straight defeat for Dole's GOP, which lost the balanced budget amendment by a single vote and failed to reverse President Clinton's order banning large federal contractors from hiring permanent replacements for striking workers.

Dole told reporters Friday that passage of the line-item veto has put the Senate back on track to consider most other provisions of the House GOP's "Contract With America."

"I've been worried about the Senate keeping up with the House," Dole said.

But even with his optimism, Dole said it probably would take the Senate until August to deal with some of the items — and only then if senators work longer hours and take shorter recesses.

On another issue, Dole said the Senate is unlikely to go along with a House Republican tax cut proposal that would give a \$500-a-child credit to families earning \$200,000 or less.

"I assume we'll come down from the \$200,000 figure," Dole said.

More than 100 House Republicans, led by Rep. Pat Roberts of Kansas, have asked House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., to lower the income cap to \$95,000. But so far, the House GOP leader is sticking to the higher amount.



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# Dole's mobile office to hold meetings

Kansas Sen. Bob Dole's mobile office will visit 16 Southwest and central Kansas communities later this month as part of a constituent service tour.

Staff assistant Johnny Gaffney will conduct the open meetings, focused primarily upon voters' concerns and current issues. Information on pending legislation will also be made available at the meetings.

Meetings scheduled for Monday, March 27 include: Greensburg, 8 a.m., Kiowa County Courthouse; Kinsley, 10 a.m., City Commis-

sion Meeting Room, 8th and Marsh; Larned, noon, Harvest Inn, 718 Fort Larned Avenue; Jetmore, 2 p.m., Hodgeman County Courthouse Lounge; and Dodge City, 6:30 p.m., Denny's Meeting Room, 1005 West Wyatt Eary.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 include: Cimarron, 8 a.m., at Ridenour and Ridenour, 109 South Main; Lakin, 2:30 p.m., County Library Meeting Room; Syracuse, 3:30 p.m. MST (4:30 p.m. CST), at the County Library Meeting Room, 102 West C.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, March 29 include: Johnson City, 9 a.m., City Hall Conference Room, 206 South Main; Elkhart, noon, Morton County Courthouse Meeting Room; Hugoton, 2 p.m., Senior Center, 624 South Main; Ulysses, 4 p.m., Grant County

Commission Room, Courthouse; and Satanta, 4 p.m., Haskell County State Bank, Fiesta Room.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 30 include: Meade, 8:30 a.m., Chuckwagon Restaurant, West Highway 54; Ashland, 10 a.m., Ashland Library Meeting Room, 604 Main; and Coldwater, 2 p.m., Comanche County Commission Room, in the courthouse.

The mobile office will also visit Kingman and St. John on Thursday, April 6, with staff assistant Chuck Alderson conducting the meetings.

The Kingman meeting will be held 10 a.m. at Daylight Donuts, 229 North Main Street. The St. John meeting will be held 2 p.m. at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant, U.S. Highway 281.

USA Today Monday March 27, 1995

## COMING TOMORROW

**NO PLACE LIKE HOME:** In Russell, Kan., pop. 4,781, two boys grew up without crossing paths. Now they're both running for president.

Hutchinson News

Monday, March 27,

# Dole reverses his stand on affirmative action issue

The Kansas City Star

WASHINGTON — As a presidential candidate, Sen. Bob Dole has tossed Republican conservatives a red-meat issue, demanding re-examination of affirmative action guidelines.

"If affirmative action means quotas, set-asides and other preferences that favor individuals simply because they happen to belong to certain groups, that's where I draw the line," the majority leader from Kansas declared on the Senate floor March 17.

But in the mid-1980s, Dole helped a former aide from Kansas City win a minority set-aside small-business contract.

According to a 1988 report by the House Small Business Committee staff, Dole and his staff made several contacts with federal officials to help John Palmer, who worked for Dole in 1980-82.

Palmer, an African-American, eventually won the no-bid \$26 million five-year contract to provide food service at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He did not return a reporter's telephone call.

Dole at the time also was advocating affirmative action policies in the face of Reagan administration opposition.

This year, Republicans such as Dole and Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, who has already opened his 1996 presidential campaign, have repeatedly challenged affirmative action, the program aimed to help minority businesses develop and enter the mainstream of the American economy.

Dole asked the Congressional Research Service to compile a list of all federal laws granting preference on the basis of race, sex, national origin or ethnic background. Its report ran 32 pages.

"After nearly 30 years of government-sanctioned quotas, time-tables, set-asides and other racial preferences, the American people sense all too clearly that the race-counting game has gone too far," he said March 15 on the Senate floor.

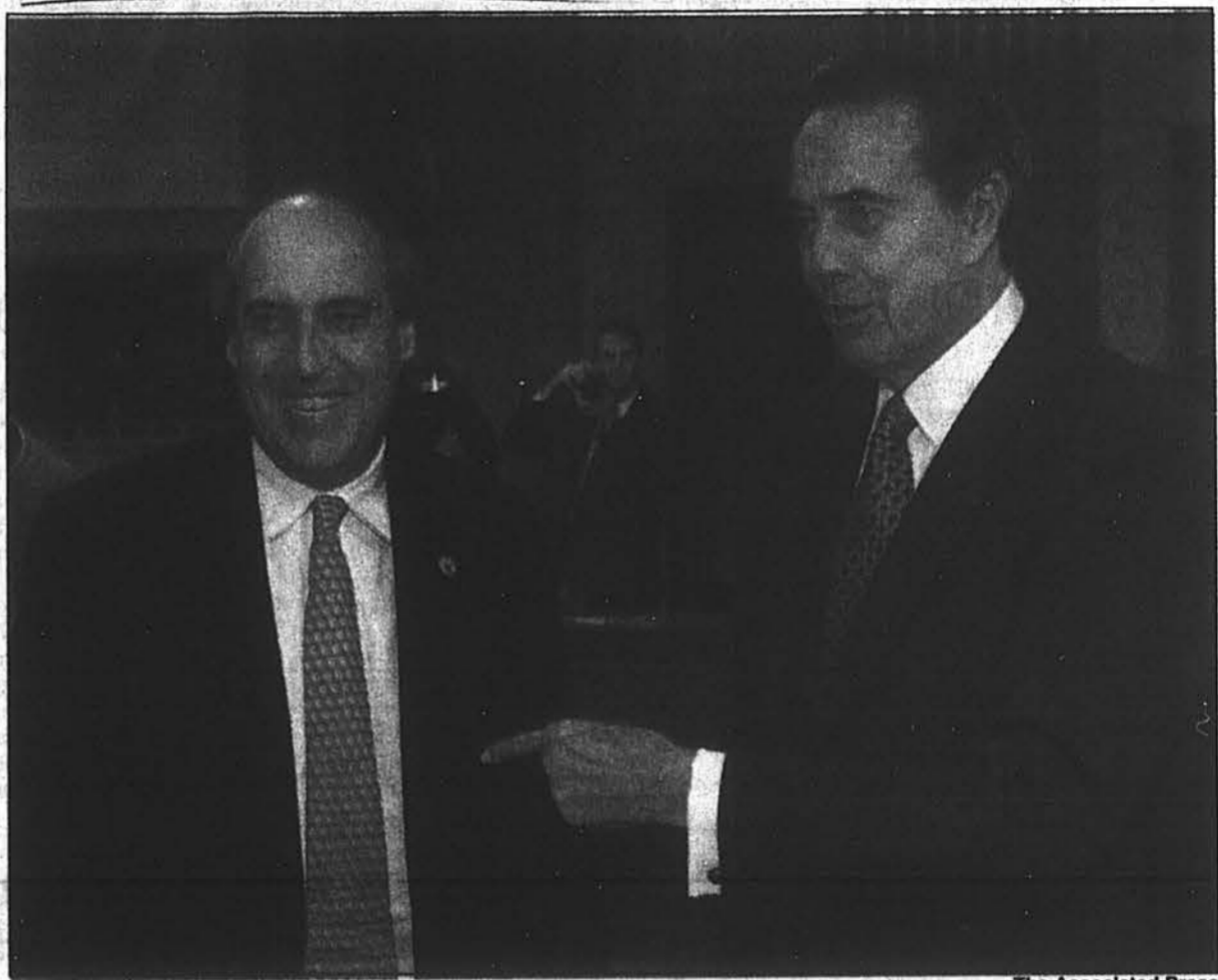
Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, said, "It's tragic the demagoguery

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The Associated Press

## Backing from Dole

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas appeared last week with Agriculture Secretary-designate Dan Glickman prior to Glickman's confirmation hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee on Capitol Hill.

# Dole

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of his party has forced him to use Gramm-type language. You get caught in the heat of a campaign and you find yourself making popular statements that go against the basic principles that you have."

Seeing the change in Dole, who has helped preserve affirmative action and even helped someone he knew take advantage of it, is odd to U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra, a California Democrat.

"Now for inexplicable reasons he takes a different position," said Becerra. "It becomes very clear that this position is indefensible. Circumstances haven't changed."

On Thursday, Dole declined to address his assistance to Palmer.

A statement released by his office said the senator's view is that "no federal program, especially Section 8(a), is written in stone or should be exempt from congressional scrutiny."

Further, Dole's record on working to protect civil rights "gives him the credibility to raise legitimate questions about their continuing effectiveness and fairness," the statement said.

The statement noted that another presidential campaign theme of Dole recently called for eliminating the housing, education, energy and commerce departments.

"Does that mean he should refuse to deal with these agencies?" his statement asked. "Of course not. It means he should see to it that his constituents are treated fairly while working to change the system."

This is the second time EDP Enterprises Inc. has arisen during Dole's presidential quests. In Dole's failed 1988 bid, then-vice President George Bush's Iowa campaign director criticized Dole for "cronism" over the issue.

Dole's involvement in Palmer's business venture began in the early 1980s, according to the House report. Palmer sought a food-service contract, although he apparently had no experience in the business.

In October 1983, Palmer and his business EDP Enterprises Inc. were rejected for admission to the SBA's Section 8(a) minority set-aside program.

Dole sent an Oct. 20, 1983, letter to James Sanders, administrator of the SBA, concerning an upcoming food-service contract for Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He urged Sanders to open the bid

process to allow contractors outside that federal region to bid on the contract.

"Specifically, I would like to do everything I can to ensure that minority small businesses from Region VII, many of whom I know to have outstanding records, have an opportunity to compete in this market," Dole wrote.

In November that year, Robert Luthier, Sanders' chief of staff, held a meeting in SBA Washington offices.

Attending were Palmer; David Owen, then chairman of the Kansas Republican party and a top fund-raiser for Dole's campaigns; Mitchell Pettit, administrative assistant to Dole; and Leroy Tombs, a minority businessman who held the contract at Fort Leonard Wood.

An SBA staffer said Palmer needed to establish a track record demonstrating he could execute the duties of the contracts before he was admitted to the set-aside program.

In May 1984, Palmer reapplied and again was rejected. But the SBA reversed itself in July. In October, Owen wrote a letter on Kansas Republican Party stationery to Sanders asking that he set aside the Fort Leonard Wood contract for Palmer, according to the House committee report.