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Odds maker puts Dole, Gramm in tie, but not for long

Notes and quotes, starting with the Las Vegas odds on the race for the Republican presidential nomination and some unkind comments about Bob Dole from the odds maker.



Dick Snider

This morning

Roxy Roxborough, Dole and Phil Gramm are tied in the early line at 5-2, followed by Lamar Alexander at 5-1, Bill Weld at 10-1, Pete Wilson at 12-1 and Newt Gingrich at 15-1.

Also listed are Arlen Specter at 20-1, Jim Baker at 30-1, Richard Lugar at 40-1 and Pat Buchanan at 100-1.

Roxborough said, in Washingtonian magazine, "Gramm is out there running, and we believe he will do much better than Dole in early primaries. Dole will not score well once he has to go into debates. There is a

side of him that people just don't like." He said either frontrunner would be favored over Bill Clinton, whom he says is the weakest incumbent in memory.

More Dole-ful comment: Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat who wrote the provision in last year's crime bill that banned military-style assault weapons, responding to Dole's campaign promise to seek repeal of the bill.

Legendary coach Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen, was observed. There is no single "best" story about Allen, because there are so many good ones.

One of my favorites is about the time he and Dick Harp, then his assistant coach, were calling at the home of prize recruit. As they approached the house, Allen reminded Harp the boy's father was dead. Harp disagreed, but Allen insisted he knew what he was talking about.

At that point the boy's father opened the front door and greeted them. As they went in, Allen muttered out of the side of his mouth to Harp, "Liveliest cadaver I've ever seen."

Two sailors, a man and woman, have been disciplined for having sex aboard the aircraft carrier Eisenhower. The Navy also reported that 14 female crew members have become pregnant since the vessel left on its current cruise last October.

What the Navy didn't report is that 497,000 sailors have asked to be transferred to the Eisenhower.

Every March, in addition of my birthday, I remember a poem from my childhood that begins "The March winds doth blow, and we shall have snow, and what will poor robin do then?"

Unfortunately, that's all I remember. What did poor robin do then? Surely, poor robin has done it by now.

Most Republicans list the U.S. Department of Education as part of government the country could do without, but President Clinton wants to keep it and increase its budget to more than \$30 billion.

The money would finance such programs as Education for Native Hawaiians, Assistance to Guam, Immigrant Education and the Foreign Periodicals Program. There's also \$750 million for Clinton's "Goals 2000: Educate America Act."

bureaucracies: the National Education Goals Panel, the National Education Standards and Improvement Council and the National Skills Standards Board.

On the other hand, if the U.S. Office of Education were closed tomorrow, no student in Topeka would ever know the difference.

It should come as no surprise that the U.S. government doesn't talk about tooth decay. It talks about teeth with caries, or carious teeth, which means — you guessed it — decayed teeth. Knowing that, this makes sense, even though it comes from the Public Health Service.

Over the lifetime of an individual, the cost of restoring carious teeth may well exceed \$1,000 per tooth. In contrast, the per capita expenditures for community water fluoridation for one's lifetime, as little as 12 cents per year in large communities, is less than the cost of one silver filling.

Today's golf tip: If there is a ball in the fringe and a ball in the bunker, your ball is in the bunker. If both balls are in the bunker, yours is the one buried.

Pressure mounting on Dole from all sides

Kansas senator facing tough balancing act

By JILL LAWRENCE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One group of Republican senators is imploring Bob Dole to support a \$500-a-child tax credit. Another tells him bluntly that given the size of the federal deficit, tax cuts will have to wait.

Eventually Dole will have to figure out how to reconcile this split within his party — and all the other conflicting pressures swirling around him.

Being Senate majority leader is nerve-racking enough. Combine it with a House revolution and a soon-to-be-announced presidential campaign, and the complications are boundless.

Within the Senate alone, the Kansas Republican has three rivals for the White House nomination — conservative Phil Gramm of Texas, moderate Arlen Specter

of Pennsylvania, and Indiana's Dick Lugar, whose agriculture and foreign-policy expertise mirrors Dole's own areas of strength.

The policy tensions are as strong as the presidential ones. Senior GOP senators are urging caution on tax cuts as well as gradual changes in social programs, while militant freshmen and their allies push for House-style speed and revolutionary fervor.

"People back home ask me what it is like to be part of this revolution. I say, 'I don't know, because I am in the Senate,'" freshman Republican Rod Grams of Minnesota said testily on the floor last week.

No one is more painfully aware of the contrast than Dole.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich is shoving through one major "Contract With America" promise after another. Congressional term limits, coming up this week, may be his sole defeat in a hyper-



Sen. Bob Dole (right) and Rep. Newt Gingrich talk during a private meeting in Capitol Hill.

kinetic first 100 days. The Senate, in Dole's rueful words, moves at the speed of grass growing. "The founding fathers probably knew what they

were doing," he told one audience recently, leaving the impression he had a few doubts.

The contract is the driving dynamic all across Capitol Hill. Gramm, a chief Dole rival for the presidential nomination, warns against the Senate becoming "a black hole" for the document's provisions. Rep. Jim Nussle, R-Iowa, says Dole's record on the contract may determine whom he backs in the critical Iowa presidential caucuses.

"The contract did come up" at a meeting with Dole, Nussle said. "He asked me about support, and I indicated what I thought was necessary to gain that kind of support. It was done very respectfully. I'm not trying to tell you I was threatening the majority leader of the Senate."

The Senate already has killed one major element of the contract, the balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution. Last week, after days of intensive negotiations,

senators passed the line-item veto — another key item. Dole's relief was palpable. "I think we've got a chance to catch up with the House," he said, optimistically.

But even Gingrich sees a rough Senate road ahead. "Bob Dole's job is probably 10 times as hard as my job," the speaker said Tuesday, reflecting on the fate of the House contract.

In the aftermath of the balanced-budget vote, a bitterly disappointed Dole was forced to mediate between two GOP factions: aggressive conservatives who wanted to punish Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, whose "no" vote provided the margin of defeat, and veterans who said Hatfield was entitled to vote his conscience.

And similar divisions are developing over generous tax cuts outlined in the contract. Grams and Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana are circulating a letter asking Dole to support one of its proposals, a \$500-a-child tax credit they call crucial.

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FROM PAGE 1

Dole compromise bound to disappoint hard-liners

But some influential GOP senators, including Finance Committee Chairman Bob Packwood of Oregon, say deficit reduction is more important. Dole is signaling support for a small tax cut — a compromise bound to disappoint contract hard-liners in both chambers.

The majority leader did move to mollify party conservatives by promising a review of federal af-

firmative action programs and assuring a vote on repealing last year's ban on assault weapons. The latter earned him a tongue-lashing from The New York Times.

The editors accused him of "a bumper sticker, not presidential-level thinking on social policy." They further charged he had become "a slave to the fear that Phil Gramm or Pat Buchanan," another conservative presidential candidate, would outflank him on the right.

In fact, after Dole proposed the assault-weapons repeal vote, Gramm said: "I think Bob Dole's

beaten me to the punch on this."

Dole also seems to be keeping an eye on the White House. At one point President Clinton joked that there would be one more American employed after retired basketball star Michael Jordan re-joined the Chicago Bulls. A week later, Dole issued his own statement on Jordan.

He suggested Jordan might consider running for the U.S. Senate when he gets tired of basketball. "The way he drives to the basket," Dole said, "he might be able to get things moving there, too."

Hays Daily News Thursday March 30, 1995

Specter joins race as moderate, pro-choice alternative

Pennsylvania senator has harsh words for GOP right

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stoking his party's divisive abortion feud, Sen. Arlen Specter plunged into the 1996 presidential race today vowing to fight Republicans pushing "a radical social agenda that would end a woman's right to choose and mandate school prayer."

The third-term Pennsylvania senator made his formal announcement on an overcast morning in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial, a symbolic tribute to the first Republican president and his commitment to "equality and opportunity."

In his announcement, Specter had harsh

words for President Clinton's stewardship of world affairs, saying the incumbent was soft on North Korea as it seeks nuclear weapons and not aggressive enough in combatting the spread of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

"I see the need for a president who projects a foreign policy that is more than a surprised reaction to world events," said Specter, the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman.

But as Specter became the fifth Republican to officially join the presidential race, his speech was more remarkable for his disagreements with his own party, particularly with Pat Robertson and other religious conservatives he said were bent on bringing God into politics and destroying the separation of church and state.

"Let me say this as plainly as I can," Specter said. "Neither this nation, nor this party, can afford a Republican candidate so captive to the

demands of the intolerant right that we end up re-electing a president of the incompetent left."

With that, and his vow to "lead the fight to strip the strident anti-choice language" from the Republican platform, Specter sought to establish himself as a social libertarian in a field dominated by conservative abortion opponents.

The other Republicans who have formally declared are Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, commentator Pat Buchanan and radio talk host Alan Keyes. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas plans to announce April 10, and Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar April 19.

California Gov. Pete Wilson says he intends to run, with an announcement likely in May.

Whether Specter's positioning will get him far in the conservative-leaning GOP nominating process is the subject of considerable doubt in

the GOP ranks.

"Making abortion your main issue is a no-win strategy in Republican primaries," GOP pollster Fred Steeper said. "It will be a long time before this party nominates another moderate."

Even if such widespread doubts are misplaced, Specter's hopes of being the only social moderate in the race have been dashed by Wilson, who also favors stripping the anti-abortion language from the platform.

Hoping to broaden his appeal, Specter also called for replacing the current income tax system with a 20 percent flat tax that eliminates all deductions except mortgage interest and charitable contributions.

"The tax system we use in America today is a national disgrace, with a dedicated deduction for every interest group and a loophole for every lobbyist," he said.