

A10 Saturday, July 29, 1995

Senators limit amount of gifts they can receive

Stricter limits on lobbyists receive 98-0 vote in favor

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Senators imposed strict limits Friday on the gifts they may receive from lobbyists and others, including a ban on the much-criticized practice of charity golf, tennis and ski outings paid for by special interests.

"We have ended recreational travel," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., a chief sponsor of the gift limits. "And the worst abuses of meals and tickets (to sports and entertainment events) are over. It is significant gift reform."

Final passage of the new Senate rules

came on a 98-0 vote, belying the emotion and discomfort of weeklong behind-the-scenes talks.

"I think this is one issue we want to get behind us, and I think we've done that," said Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., just before the final vote. "It's always more difficult when it affects us."

The final measure — which takes effect Jan. 1 — puts a \$100 annual ceiling on gifts from any one source and makes all gifts over \$10 count toward that limit. That is far stricter than current rules, which allow lawmakers to accept unlimited numbers of gifts,

so long as they are worth less than \$100 each.

The change also prohibits senators from accepting free transportation and lodging for ski, tennis and golf events that are used to raise money for charity but at the same time provide access to lawmakers for the wealthy interests that can afford tickets to the events.

Because what the Senate adopted was a change in its own rules, it does not affect the House of Representatives, where GOP leaders have expressed little interest in the issue. Nor does it require House concurrence. But Levin predicted the Senate's overwhelming vote would put pressure on the House.

"I predict they will follow suit very soon," he said.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who helped

write the bill, said it tells Americans "that we will live like they do," without special perks. "It's not a question of corruption, it's a question of lifestyle."

"We didn't accomplish everything we wanted, but it is significant gift reform," added Levin. "While it may not be a home run, the Senate hit a triple here today."

The Senate settled on the final shape of its new rule after first accepting a weakening amendment by Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., and then partially reversing it.

The Lott amendment, adopted 54-46, doubled the initial aggregate gift ceiling to \$100 and said any gift under \$50 could not be counted toward it. "I can't believe anybody can be bought for a meal or a bunch of meals," Lott said in arguing for the change.



Dole

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL Saturday, July 29, 1995

Dole raking in \$100,000 a day

Deep-pocket donors view contributions as investment, aides to presidential aspirant say.

By JOHN M. BRODER
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Dole for president campaign recently received a letter from a potential contributor who wanted to know how the game worked.

"I know I can't afford enough to get Italy," the author wrote, referring to the ambassador's post there, "but how

much would I have to give for New Zealand? Could you please send me a complete price list?"

"We don't know if he was joking or not," said Howard Wilkins, one of the national co-chairmen of the Dole finance committee.

Probably not, and Ambassador Wilkins should know.

Wilkins, a prosperous Wichita businessman and real estate investor, was named envoy to the Netherlands in 1989 after contributing \$100,000 to the Republican Party during George Bush's 1988 presidential campaign.

Requests for favors as blunt as the recent letter are rare, but they are emblematic of the enviable position Dole finds himself six months before the first presidential primary. The well-oiled Dole money machine is raking in

cash at a rate of more than \$100,000 a day, far outstripping the fund-raising of any of his GOP competitors or even President Clinton.

Dole's fund-raising prowess demonstrates once again that while love can generate modest amounts of political money, only the prospect of success — and spoils — brings in the really big bucks.

"People read the papers and watch TV; they know who's going to win," said Zachariah P. Zachariah, an aeroprising Fort Lauderdale, Fla., cardiologist who serves as Dole's top Florida fund-raiser.

"It's not about emotions. It's all about who's winning, and they want to be part of the winning team," Zachariah said.

That team has already attracted a

blue-chip list of Republican luminaries, corporate titans and accomplished GOP fund-raisers, all of whom see in Dole the party's best chance to recapture the White House.

Some of them were Dole supporters when he last ran for president, in 1987-88 as an insurgent challenging the presumptive nominee, Bush.

But the bulk of the list are emissaries from the chamber of commerce and country club center of the Republican Party, with a particularly strong contingent from Wall Street.

The honorary chairman of the Dole finance committee is Max Fisher, an 87-year-old Detroit financier who deserted the Democrats in 1968 to support Richard Nixon and who has been

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Dole raking in \$100,000 a day

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a major GOP cash rainmaker ever since.

The chairman, John Moran, a former Californian with interests in oil and manufacturing, joined the Dole campaign earlier this year after serving two years as the finance chairman for the Republican National Committee. He raised \$115 million for the party during his tenure.

His senior lieutenants include Lodwick M. Cook, the chairman of Arco; Philip F. Anschutz, a Denver billionaire who is trying to buy the Los Angeles Kings hockey team; Henry Kravis, the New York investment banker who recently hosted a Long Island fund-raiser to celebrate Dole's 72nd birthday — taking in more than \$300,000; Donald Marron, chairman of the brokerage house PaineWebber Inc.; and Georgette Mosbacher, aspiring makeup magnate and wife of Robert A. Mosbacher, Texas oilman, former commerce secretary and Bush's 1992 campaign chairman.

The senior fund-raising group also includes oilman T. Boone Pickens, CEO Leslie Wexner of the Limited Inc., former Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, and Russell Meyer, a longtime Dole friend and Cessna Aircraft Co. executive.

To a greater extent than Democrats, Republican donors — and those who solicit their donations — view their contributions as investments rather than as signs of ideological solidarity with the candidate, Dole aides say. The contributors want a stake, not a statement.

"We're in a strong position since Senator Dole is the clear front-runner and contributors are more likely to view writing a check as a sound investment," Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said.

With Dole holding a commanding lead over his Republican rivals in every poll in nearly every part of the country, there is no shortage of potential "investors."

At a fund-raiser in Los Angeles in June, Dole warmed up the well-heeled crowd with a favorite line, telling the 250 donors at a \$1,000-a-head gathering they were lucky that his wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, the president of the American Red Cross, wasn't there.

"Whenever she's with me, she's poking around for a vein while I'm grabbing for your wallet," Dole said.

In fact, most of the pocket-picking falls to the 60 members of Dole's national finance committee, a group committed to raising between \$100,000 and \$1 million each before next February.

Their job is to build a nationwide network of local bigwigs who each can corral dozens of \$1,000 donors to attend the roughly 20 big-dollar fund-raising dinners the Dole campaign is planning for this year. As one top Dole fund-raiser put it: "The rule used to be 'Give it or get it.' Now it's 'Get it or get someone else to get it.'"

Jo-Anne Coe, the day-to-day director of the Dole fund-raising enterprise, said the "major donor" programs — the big-bucks dinners and the \$1,000-a-pop solicitations — have brought in about half of the \$13 million Dole has raised since the beginning of the year.

Most of the rest has come from an expensive direct-mail operation conducted by the Falls Church, Va., firm of Odell Roper & Simms, which has billed the campaign \$1.3 million for its services already this year.

The direct-mail operation is prospecting among the 500,000 names of potential donors that Dole has accumulated over 35 years in public life. Nearly 140,000 of them have already responded to Dole appeals, Coe said.

2 Great Bend Tribune, Sunday, July 30, 1995

Dole introduces relief for estate tax in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Estate taxes would be reduced on family owned businesses, ranches and farms under a measure introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas and co-sponsored by Sen. Christopher Bond of Missouri.

At a news conference Friday, Dole said too many businesses and farms were being sold, rather than passed on to heirs, to satisfy federal estate taxes as high as 55 percent.

"The family loses its livelihood, the family business employees lose their jobs and the community suffers," he said.

The first \$600,000 in assets in an estate now are exempt from estate taxes. Dole's bill would exempt up to \$1.5 million of assets in a family business in which the heirs will have continued involvement. Family business assets over that limit would be taxed at half the rate as other assets.

Bond, chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, has been urging several tax cuts for

small businesses, including estate taxes.

"By targeting meaningful tax cuts for small business, the engine of job growth in America, Congress can be responsible for stimulating the creation of new jobs and economic growth," Bond said.

House Republicans already have passed a broader-based estate-tax cut, raising the exemption limit for all estates to \$750,000, an estimated tax cut of \$6.8 billion over five years.

Sen. David Pryor of Arkansas, the chief Democratic sponsor of the bill, said the Senate estate-tax bill would cost about \$5 billion over five years.

He said he was hoping the Clinton administration would support the bill, which is backed by a broad-based coalition of farm groups and business interests.

As of Friday, Dole said he had 26 co-sponsors in the Senate, including Bond and his fellow Missouri Republican, Sen. John Ashcroft, as well as Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan.

Dole wants Senate to talk welfare

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Hoping to break an internal GOP impasse, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole courted support Friday for a revised welfare reform bill that would convert more federal programs into block grants and give states the option of getting food stamp money that way, as well.

The draft Dole measure, according to Senate aides and others familiar with the negotiations, would allow states to deny cash welfare benefits to teen-aged mothers who have children out of wedlock and to deny additional benefits to mothers who have more children while on welfare. States now need a federal waiver if they want to impose those restrictions.

The revised Dole measure also seeks to resolve a debate that had created another impasse to passing welfare reform, this one more along regional than ideological lines.

Senators from the Sun Belt and other states with growing populations had objected to Dole's initial bill, which they said punished their states. They proposed taking money from northern states and spreading it across the Sun Belt.

Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, who was brought into the compromise talks, said the new bill would give additional money to growing states while "putting some extra money in to hold other states harmless. (For five years) no state would get less than you are getting now."

Many details remained unsettled as Dole and allies tested various provisions for support. Still, barring a collapse in the talks, Dole will unveil his latest plan Monday in a speech to the National Governors Association and bring it to the Senate floor on Aug. 7, Thompson said.

President Clinton also addresses the governors Monday, and plans to appeal for an end to the welfare impasse. "He'll have some new ideas," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, declining to provide specifics.



New battle plan: Dole and wife Elizabeth in New Hampshire

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Dole: Facing the Age Thing

DON'T EXPECT SEN. BOB DOLE'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN to highlight his Kansas boyhood and wartime heroism — though such stirring tales are natural fodder for TV "bio spots." The reason: campaign strategists want to avoid focusing on Dole's age. In a pre-emptive strike last week, they released the senator's health reports as he celebrated his 72d birthday. Now Dole's brain trust is sketching a media message for the Republican primaries that features sharp attacks on his GOP rivals — even at the risk of reviving his mean-guy image. One target will be Phil Gramm's early congressional career as a Democrat (he switched parties in '83). "Gramm voted for Tip O'Neill and Jim Wright for speaker of the House," said a top Dole adviser. "And he's a conservative?" Dole will leave the mythologizing to others. Author Richard Ben Cramer in August will publish as a book part of an earlier campaign tome, "What It Takes." The flattering portrait of a hardscrabble life contrasts with that of preppy George Bush. Says a Dole insider: "Cramer has more credibility than any official biographer; he wasn't working for us."