

Hutchinson News Friday, August 4, 1995

Minor radio poll draws major responses from Clinton, Dole camps

By Dwight Jurgens
The Hutchinson News

More than 500 callers who responded to an Emporia radio station's presidential preference poll Aug. 1, selected President Bill Clinton over Kansas Sen. Bob Dole by a 2-to-1 margin.

National polls show that Dole, the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, is considered the likely choice of Republicans to head the party's presidential ticket in the 1996 elections.

The radio poll — conducted by station KVOE-AM/FM — was taken during the station's major morning newscast, a two-hour block from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. It drew 543 calls, of which 369 votes went to Clinton, and 174 to Dole. The station plays adult contemporary music on AM and country music on FM, said News Director Jeff O'Dell.

"We have a question and a poll every Tuesday morning," O'Dell said. "The questions vary from week to week, and it's a voice mail operation so we don't claim an accuracy within 2 or 3 percent or anything like that."

"And when we report the results of the polls, we report it as a reflection of those who chose to call today."

However, the poll didn't

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'I think Clinton, even in Kansas, will beat Dole in a head-to-head race.'

— Tino Monaldo, Reno County Democratic Party chairman

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Poll

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impress Nelson Warfield, press secretary for the Dole for President Campaign.

"The Kansas Democratic Party must be really desperate to resort to this sort of ruse this early in the campaign," said Warfield from his Washington, D.C., office.

"I guess the embarrassment with President Clinton would lead them to publicize an unscientific poll like this."

"The fact is every bona fide, valid public survey in Kansas shows overwhelming support for Sen. Dole's bid for the White House. About the only reason people in Kansas wouldn't want to see Bob Dole in the White House is because it would mean they'd have to give him up as a U.S. senator."

"But I'm convinced Kansas would be willing to make that sacrifice for the good of the country."

Reno County Democratic Party Chairman Tino Monaldo was pleased with the numbers.

"I'm surprised at the margin," Monaldo said. "It's kind of hard to imagine in a Republican state that the people are supporting Clinton over Dole."

"But the fact that Clinton is beating Dole does not surprise me. I think Clinton, even in Kansas, will beat Dole in a head-to-head race. And Dole has proven in past campaigns that he starts out with momentum, but he can't keep it."

Stanley Fowler, chairman of the Lyon County Democratic Party, admitted to being surprised at the results.

"But remember, in the last election it went one-third for



Clinton Dole

Bush, one-third for Clinton and one-third for Perot."

Dennis Langley, State Democratic Chairman, said he doesn't get too excited about unscientific polls and added he hasn't seen any valid polls on how Kansans might vote in 1996.

"But Clinton's got good support in Kansas," he said. "He's got better support in other places, but he will beat Bob Dole, and I hope Bob Dole is the Republican candidate."

A8 SUNDAY AUGUST 6, 1995 THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

Dole introduces compromise welfare bill

Legislation would require teen mothers to live at home

By JENNIFER DIXON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After weeks of bitter wrangling over unmarried teen-age mothers, the Senate is ready to confront legislation that unravels the government's guarantee to support poor families and gives states responsibility for designing their own welfare programs.

Welfare reform, the keystone of the Republican social agenda, passed the House in March, swept through during the first 100 days as part of the GOP's "Contract with America."

But it has been tangled up in the Senate since late May, caught in the swirl of presidential politics and a tug-of-war between conservatives and Republican moderates over restrictions on welfare to unmarried women who have children they ask taxpayers to support.

A fight over the formula for dividing federal welfare dollars among the states also helped delay floor consideration of the bill, as senators from the Sun Belt pushed for additional dollars to compensate for population growth in the years ahead.

But 32 of the Senate's 54 Republicans are now lined up behind a bill written

by Majority Leader Bob Dole that would curb welfare spending by \$70 billion over seven years, impose a five-year lifetime limit on benefits, and require teen-age mothers to live at home and attend school to get welfare.

Some conservatives, including the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council, believe Dole's plan should be far bolder in addressing the rising rate of out-of-wedlock births.

They have pushed for an end to cash payments to teenage mothers and a "family cap" to end the automatic increase in benefits women on welfare receive when they have more children.

"Because illegitimacy feeds both poverty and itself, there is no credible reason to believe that we can reverse the tandem trends of welfare dependency and family breakdown until we address illegitimacy," argues Gary L. Bauer, president of the Family Research Council.

But the Catholic bishops and other conservatives, among them the National Right to Life Committee, have warned that such measures could increase abortions.

Coming down on their side, Dole, R-Kan., has promised to do "all in my power to ensure that our reforms will not increase the tragedy of abortions in America." His plan lets states decide whether to support young mothers and their children. He said Friday that there may be a "fundamental differ-

ence of opinion" on the issue of teen-age pregnancy.

"When all the talking is done, I believe we will pass legislation that will transform the welfare system from a failed system into one that succeeds in providing work — let me underscore — work, hope and opportunity to Americans in need," Dole said.

He said the Senate could finish its work on the bill by the end of the week, and he expects to pick up the support of some Democrats who are now solidly backing their own alternative.

But questions about the legislation from senators in his own party continue.

Moderate Republican Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont said he has deep concerns about the bill, ranging from the availability of child care and education to the lack of any requirement that states continue to spend some of their own money on welfare.

Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, one of Dole's rivals for the Republican presidential nomination, insists the Dole bill is token reform.

Gramm says it fails to end most welfare programs, allows immigrants to come to the United States to collect welfare, and permits women on welfare to have more and more children at taxpayer expense.

Dole's bill, which he announced Friday, would end the federal government's guarantee to support poor

women and their children.

It cuts the benefits of mothers who refuse to identify the fathers of their children, yanks the professional licenses of parents who refuse to pay child support, and requires families to support the relatives they bring to the United States from overseas.

It also ships the responsibility for cash welfare, child care, and job training to the states in three block grants, while allowing states to run their own food stamp programs.

The president's press secretary, Michael McCurry, said there was "not an insurmountable distance" between Clinton and Dole on welfare.

"They could probably sit down and finish an acceptable bill and do it, you know, even before they go away for summer recess, if they wanted to," McCurry said. "The problem is that the extreme faction within the Republican majority in Congress keeps yanking the debate farther and farther to the right."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The New York Times contributed to this story.

A6 Sunday, August 6, 1995 The Salina Journal

Senate opens debate on welfare

GOP, Democrats far apart on reforms

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — After weeks of bitter wrangling over unmarried teen-age mothers, the Senate confronted on Saturday legislation that unravels the government's guarantee to support poor families and gives states responsibility for designing their own welfare programs.

Introducing the measure, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said there is "a true national consensus to transform welfare" and require that adult and able-bodied recipients find work and that welfare spending is capped.

But Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., the Senate's leading expert on the welfare system, expressed concern for the fate of the millions of children on welfare and said of the debate, "I hope the outcome will be better than forecast."

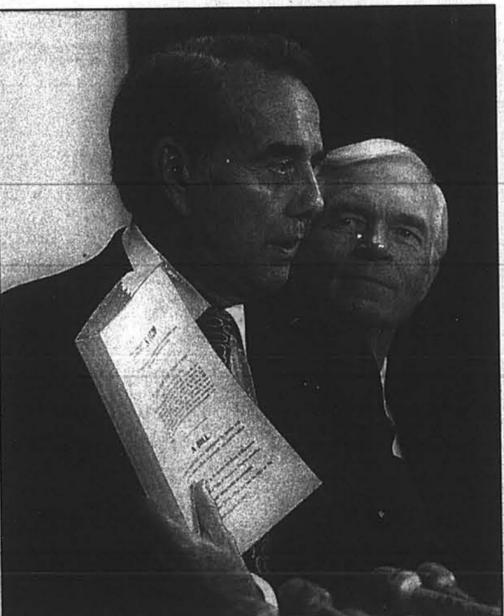
Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said the Democratic version of the bill provides a child-care safety net for children as their parents move from welfare dependence to the workplace.

Daschle said there is no way that mothers of young children can be asked to go out and take a job with no way of assuring their children are cared for.

The debate opens in earnest Monday and Dole said he hoped that after 40 to 80 hours of debate, a spirit of compromise can be reached.

Welfare reform, the keystone of the Republican social agenda, passed the House in March, swept through during the first 100 days as part of the GOP's "Contract with America."

But it has been tangled up in the Senate since late May, caught in the swirl of presidential politics and a tug-of-war between conservatives and Republican moderates over restrictions on welfare to unmarried women who have children they ask taxpayers to support.



Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., looks on as Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., holds the welfare reform bill while meeting with reporters Friday.

A fight over the formula for dividing federal welfare dollars among the states also helped delay floor consideration of the bill, as senators from the Sun Belt pushed for additional dollars to compensate for population growth in the years ahead.

But 32 of the Senate's 54 Republicans are now lined up behind a bill written by Majority Leader Bob Dole that would curb welfare spending by \$70 billion over seven years, impose a five-year lifetime limit on benefits, and require teen-age mothers to live at home and attend school to get welfare.

Some conservatives, including the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council, believe Dole's plan should be far bolder in addressing the rising rate of out-of-wedlock births.

They have pushed for an end to cash payments to teen-age mothers and a "family cap" to end the automatic increase in benefits that women on welfare receive when they have additional children.

"Because illegitimacy feeds both poverty and itself, there is no credible reason to believe that we can reverse the tandem trends of welfare dependency and family breakdown until we address illegitimacy," argues Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council.

But the Catholic bishops and other conservatives, among them the National Right to Life Com-

mittee, have warned that such measures could increase abortions.

Coming down on their side, Dole, R-Kan., has promised to do "all in my power to ensure that our reforms will not increase the tragedy of abortions in America."

His plan lets states decide whether to support young mothers and their children. He said Friday that there may be a "fundamental difference of opinion" on the issue of teen-age pregnancy.

"When all the talking is done, I believe we will pass legislation that will transform the welfare system from a failed system into one that succeeds in providing work — let me underscore — work, hope and opportunity to Americans in need," Dole said.

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Monday, August 7, 1995 THE WICHITA EAGLE 3A

Gramm calls Dole's welfare bill too weak

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Signaling a hard struggle ahead on welfare reform, Sen. Phil Gramm criticized the plan of his Republican presidential rival Sen. Bob Dole, saying Sunday that it will fail to stem the rise in out-of-wedlock births.

Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," Gramm said that the welfare reform bill Dole, R-Kan., introduced Saturday was too weak, and that he has the votes to rewrite it.

"The Dole bill does not have a binding work requirement because it has no enforcement mechanism that actually takes the money away if people won't work," said Gramm, R-Texas. "I think we'll win on that."

Gramm said there would also be "very close votes" on his attempts to mandate cutoffs in payments for teenage welfare mothers who have more children, and to bar welfare payments to immigrants. "Somehow, he thinks that giving welfare to immigrants is a good political issue," he said of Dole's bill. "I think it's bad public policy."

"We can't fool around with mar-

ginal changes. We are either going to dramatically change welfare and break this cycle or we are going to end up losing America as we know it," Gramm said.

The Dole bill won't change the steady increase in the percentage of children born to single mothers, he said.

Dole's bill, which has the backing of 32 of 54 Republican senators, would turn over welfare programs to the states in the form of block grants, impose a five-year lifetime limit on benefits, and require teen-age mothers to live at home and attend school to get welfare. He said it would curb welfare spending by \$70 billion over seven years.

But Gramm claimed it only reforms 12 percent of means-tested federal welfare programs, and would have strings attached "to protect special interests but not to help the people." For example, he said, Texas would not be able to use welfare recipients to wash windows if that meant displacing state workers.

"My bill would have tens of thousands of fewer strings than Sen.

Dole's bill," he said.

Another candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, California Gov. Pete Wilson, also criticized the Dole bill Sunday, saying it should have a family cap.

It's unfair when a young working couple who is saving to pay for a baby they can't afford has to pay taxes for an unwed mother's child, he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, the Democrats' foremost expert on welfare reform, told CBS that he doesn't want "anything to interrupt the argument between Sen. Dole and Sen. Gramm. I want this to go on and on and on."

Democrats and the White House oppose both the Dole and Gramm plans, with the White House saying that the priority must be on putting people to work and that the Dole bill fails to meet the work-first test.

Senate Democrats have put forth their own plan, which provides a child-care safety net for children as their parents move from welfare dependence to the workplace.