

Clinton backs Dole welfare overhaul over House-passed bill

Continued from A-1

differences between House and Senate versions as few, they were large enough to draw a veto threat on the House version.

Deputy press secretary Mary Ellen Glynn said Saturday that threat still stood.

The president's support for the Dole legislation was given reluctantly and only in the context of the harsher provisions of the House legislation.

"We're on the verge of coming to grips with one of the most fundamental social problems of our time — moving people from welfare to work," Clinton said. "Now we must finish the job and we can't let ideological extremism and politics as usual get in the way."

"Make no mistake," he said. "If Congress walks away from this bipartisan progress, they will kill welfare reform."

Clinton's remarks were his first public assessment of the Senate measure, which emerged after 95 hours of debate, 38 votes and hours of negotiation.

The bill would dismantle an array of anti-poverty programs, giving the states limited lump-sum payments known as block grants.

It seeks to save \$70 billion in welfare spending over seven years and would require that 50 percent of parents receiving welfare benefits be working by 2000. It would also impose a five-year limit on drawing welfare benefits.

Making it more palatable to the administration were votes in the Senate to set aside \$8 billion for child care for single mothers on welfare who would be required to work and to establish a \$1 billion emergency grant fund for states.

The House-passed version would put a family cap on benefits, ban them for mothers younger than 18 with children born out of wedlock and cut spending by \$122 billion.

"After months of sometimes bitter debate, we are now within striking distance of transforming the welfare system," Clinton said.

But he suggested the House-passed version reflected "bipartisan extremism."

A House-Senate conference committee will work out a final version.

"We'll be working hard to build on the bipartisan progress we've made this week (in the Senate). We must not let it fall apart when the House and Senate meet to resolve their differences," Clinton said.

The president's comments Saturday set him apart from the liberal wing of his party, whose members said they could not support a bill that would abolish the longstanding entitlement to assistance for poor families.

"If this administration wants to go down in history as one that abandoned, eagerly abandoned, the national commitment to dependent children, so be it," Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, said last week. "I would not want to be associated with such an enterprise, and I shall not be."

Moynihan, the Senate's leading welfare scholar, even threatened to withhold his support for Clinton in 1996 if he doesn't veto the bill.

Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund and a friend of Clinton and his wife, also was disturbed by the administration's stance on the Senate measure.

"It will be tragic if the president acquiesces in this," she said last week.

But Melissa Skolfield, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said that despite differences with Moynihan and others, the adminis-

tration feels the Senate bill is "moving in the right direction."

As the president sets out for a week of \$1,000-a-plate dinners and lunches in Philadelphia, Miami, Denver, San Francisco and Los Angeles, the White House is increasingly upbeat about how Clinton is faring.

"The president's certainly at the strongest point he's been in a long time," said Mark Mellman, a Democratic political strategist.

Gingrich, in his joint radio message with Dole, asserted that the agenda of Republicans is on track.

"Balancing the budget. Cutting taxes. Replacing our failed welfare system with one that works. Protecting, preserving and strengthening Medicare. Those are the Republican goals for the next 60 days," Gingrich said.

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George Wallace backs Dole for president

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Former Democratic presidential candidate George Wallace, whose blessings once were sought routinely by his party's White House hopefuls, has thrown his support to Republican Bob Dole.

Wallace's son, former State Treasurer George Wallace Jr., switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party this summer. But Wallace, a four-term Democratic governor and former segregationist, is now like many Alabamians who don't label themselves Democrat or Republican.

Wallace's presidential hopes were dashed in 1972 when Arthur Bremer shot him during a campaign stop in Laurel, Md., leaving Wallace a paraplegic.

Now 76, he is deaf and his once booming voice has been weakened to a whisper by Parkinson's disease. But Wallace still reads a lot and follows politics closely. He didn't hesitate a moment when asked who will get his vote for president next year.

"Robert Dole," he said Friday. "Watch him carry Alabama."

Huge gains by Serb foes threaten peace initiative

The Associated Press
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — A U.S. peace initiative, promoted by diplomats over Bosnian Serb resistance, was mired Monday in new problems — the unprecedented battlefield gains of the Serbs' enemies.

While NATO airstrikes battered the rebel Serbs and forced them to agree to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, the army of the Muslim-led government and allied Croat forces have taken huge chunks of territory from the Serbs.

Croat and government forces claim they have captured some 2,400 square miles — or just over 12 percent of Bosnia — in the past week.

On Monday, Bosnian TV said government forces had taken 36 square

See PEACE PLAN, Page 2



Bosnian government soldiers celebrate the imminent fall of Sanski Most, 100 miles northwest of Sarajevo, which is still under Bosnian Serb control.

Dole says Clinton 'uncomfortable' with U.S. power

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole, expanding his criticism of President Clinton's foreign policy, described the Democratic administration Monday as "uncomfortable and apologetic" about America's status as the world's only superpower.

"U.S. foreign policy under this administration has been marked by a lack of assertiveness, a lack of credibility and a lack of resolve — in sum, a lack of leadership," said Dole, R-Kan., who is a leading

See DOLE, Page 2

The Hutchinson News Tuesday, September 19, 1995 Page 2

Dole

Continued from Page 1
candidate for his party's presidential nomination.

Speaking at a national security forum sponsored by Newsweek magazine, the Senate majority leader also repeated his criticism of the administration for its reluctance to act alone and lift the ban on arms sales to the Bosnian government.

Clinton vetoed a measure backed by Dole to lift the embargo. Before there was a vote on whether to override the veto, NATO began a series of intense bombing raids against the Bosnian Serbs. Once the raids began, Dole put off an override vote.

Dole said even the current NATO action gave the United Nations too much of a role in

deciding whether to attack the Serbs.

The current series of raids took place after the administration and its Western European allies pressured the United Nations to turn questions of bombing over to the military. Before then, approval was needed from U.N. civilian officials, an arrangement that repeatedly blocked strong NATO action.

Dole criticized the decision late last week to suspend raids after a Serb promise to remove their heavy weapons from positions threatening Sarajevo.

The Serbs also promised to allow humanitarian supplies to pass unimpeded into the besieged city.

Dole said that the suspension was evidence that NATO was still subject to "the dictates of the U.N. bureaucracy."

The senator said that if the Serbs don't comply with NATO demands for removal of their

weapons, a renewal of the air campaign would require the approval of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

"In my view, this is not the way NATO should be operating," said Dole. "This is not U.S. leadership."

Posing the question, "Does America want to enter the next century as a superpower?" Dole replied, "The Clinton administration's answer to this question is 'no'."

"The administration — from day one — has been uncomfortable and apologetic about America's lonely superpower status."

At the State Department, spokesman Nicholas Burns said that "a substantial number of heavy weapons" have been withdrawn by the Serbs from the area around Sarajevo.

Burns also said that "there is a very, very rich flow of traffic, private civilian traffic over the

A2 Friday, September 22, 1995

Dole picks Quayle to run PAC

Senator calls former VP a GOP trailblazer

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — In a dramatic overture to social conservatives, GOP presidential front-runner Bob Dole announced Thursday that Dan Quayle would take charge of a political committee Dole has used to support Republican candidates for nearly two decades.

In becoming chairman of Campaign America, the former vice president did not endorse Dole's presidential campaign. But Dole aides predicted the association would solidify Dole's standing with Christian conservatives, an important Republican primary constituency.

"I can think of no American who is better qualified to lead the battle for Republican victories in the vital elections that lie ahead," Dole, the Senate majority leader, said in a statement. "Dan Quayle has been a trailblazer for issues and ideas that sparked the Republican revolution of 1994. At the helm of Campaign America, he is sure to keep up that fight."



File
Sen. Bob Dole said Thursday that no American is better qualified to run Campaign America than former vice president Dan Quayle.

Quayle was on the verge of entering the 1996 presidential race himself earlier this year, but abruptly changed his plans after assessing the daunting fund-raising and organizational hurdles. He later ruled out running for Indiana governor next year but said he would like to seek the presi-

dency down the road.

Quayle has been looking for a way to raise his political profile, and should get the opportunity through Campaign America. Dole, of Kansas, had used the political action committee to bankroll his travels on behalf of GOP candidates while expanding his own political network.

Quayle also has been interested in finding a way to help Dole short of an outright endorsement, which he considers premature, according to a close political adviser who spoke on condition of anonymity. Tapping Quayle to lead the PAC is similar to an overture Dole made to economic conservatives earlier this year in arranging for Jack Kemp, the former congressman and housing secretary, to be named chairman of a Republican commission studying proposals for dramatic tax reform.

"Senator Dole is clearly looking for lots of ways to send messages to the conservative base of the party," said Gary Bauer, a former Reagan White House aide who runs the Family Research Council, a social conservative group. "I think the biggest impact will be a

sense that Dole is for real in his more conservative stance, that he is putting a great deal of money where his mouth is."

Since the 1987-88 cycle, Dole has used Campaign America to contribute more than \$2 million to scores of state, local and federal Republican candidates, according to computerized Federal Election Commission records.

In last year's campaigns alone, Campaign America contributed nearly \$770,000 to 1994 GOP campaigns and committees. It has about \$1.7 million in the bank and already has contributed \$150,000 to 1995 and 1996 GOP hopefuls.

"The people of this country want a strong Republican agenda to lead us into the next century," Quayle said in a statement. "That is why Bob Dole founded Campaign America, and that is why I will be proud to serve as its chairman."

He had no comment beyond the statement. Dole established Campaign America in 1978. It has become common for leaders in both political parties to have these so-called "leadership PACs" in addition to their personal campaign committees.

Talking
With Kansans
Senator Bob Dole

The Russell Daily News, Thursday, September 21, 1995



Welfare Reform

Historic Work Opportunity Act Ends Welfare as a Way of Life

The Senate began debating welfare reform on Aug. 7. And in my opening statement on that day, I predicted that we had some contentious debate and tough votes ahead of us.

I also said that through it all, the Senate should not and could not lose sight of two overriding facts:

Fact No. 1: Our current welfare system has failed.

Fact No. 2: It's our duty to fix it.

We've had nearly 100 hours of debate since then — some of it contentious; and more than 40 votes — some of them very tough.

And my colleagues will remember that not long after the debate began, it appeared we had reached a roadblock. And some in the media were quick to report that Senate Republicans had failed, and that welfare reform was on its last legs.

The media got the story wrong, because what's on its last legs in this Congress is the status quo.

And today I am proud to say that the Senate has kept our promise.

No more business as usual.
No more tinkering around the edges with a system that has cost American taxpayers \$5.4 trillion in federal and state spending over the past 35 years.

Revolutionizing Welfare
Instead, we are fulfilling our duty.

We are not only fixing welfare, we are revolutionizing it.

We are writing truly historic landmark legislation — legislation that ends a 60-year entitlement program.

In the process, we are closing the book on a six-decade-long story of a system that may have been well-intentioned, but a system that failed the American taxpayer, and that failed those it was designed to serve.

And today, we begin to write a new American story.

A story about Americans who earn a paycheck, rather than drawing a welfare check.

A story about an America where welfare is no longer a way of life, and where people no longer will be able to receive endless federal cash benefits just because they choose not to work.

A story about an America where power is actually transferred away from federal bureaucrats in Washington and given back to our 50 state capitals.

A story about an America that recognizes that the family is the most important unit in our society.

There are some in this Chamber — including Senator Moynihan, for whom I have the greatest respect — who believe the story we write today may turn out to be a harsh one.

I disagree. I believe nothing could be harsher on American men, women and children in need than to continue with a system that has failed them.

Fair, Common Sense System

And rather than being harsh, I believe the vast majority of Americans agree that the system we create today is fair; it does help those in need, and, above all, it is based on simple "common sense."

It's common sense to require welfare recipients who are actually able to work to do just that.

It's common sense to put a five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits, so that it does not become a way of life.

It's common sense to give our states the flexibility to devise programs that meet the specific needs of their citizens.

It's common sense to put a cap on spending, because no program with an unlimited budget will ever be made to work effectively and efficiently.

It's common sense to require that teenage mothers who have children out of wedlock stay in school and live under adult supervision in order to receive benefits — otherwise they have no chance to move off welfare.

It's common sense to grant our states the ability to try and reduce our alarming illegitimacy rate.

The American people should know that this legislation is not perfect.

And they should know that it's passage will not magically solve our many social problems.

New Chapter of Hope and Opportunity for Millions
But the Work Opportunity Act does put an end to a failed system.

It does offer hope and opportunity to millions of Americans.

It is a revolutionary step in the right direction.

And it is further proof of the commitment of this Congress to keep its word with the American people.

At the risk of forgetting someone, I want to thank a number of senators on both sides of the aisle who helped to make today's victory for the American people possible.

Certainly, all the members of the Senate Finance Committee deserve our thanks for their outstanding work. Senator Hutchinson was instrumental in reaching agreement on the funding formula. Senator Faircloth led the fight for important amendments regarding abstinence education.

And a special word of thanks is owed to our remarkable freshman class, who sunk their teeth into this issue from day one and never let go. Senators Abraham, Snowe and Ashcroft all authored important amendments. And Senator Santorum was on the floor almost every minute during the debate, ensuring that we kept moving forward.

Giving States Authority and Flexibility to Provide Solutions

Let me also thank America's governors, who worked very closely with us throughout this process. State and local governments are closest to those in need, and, as I indicated, this bill will give them the authority and flexibility to provide innovative solutions.

The vote we will cast in a few minutes is not, of course, the end of the process. This legislation must be reconciled with the House-passed legislation, which is every bit as revolutionary and innovative as the Senate's.