

Wilson, out of the race, throws his backing to Dole

Dole

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gested Powell's popularity might not stand up during the rigors of a campaign. "I've always had the view that in politics, you have two times when you're very popular with the people: the day before you get in and the day you get out," Dole said. Wilson is the 13th of the 30 Republican governors to back Dole. The Kansas senator has

employed a classic front-runner's strategy in rounding up endorsements from major party leaders. Wilson was named a national co-chairman of the Dole campaign and its general chairman in California. The state sends 163 delegates to the GOP convention, but many analysts believe the race could be all but over by California's March 26 primary, because of a crowded schedule.

By John King
 AP Political Writer
 WASHINGTON — Three weeks after folding his own presidential campaign, California Gov. Pete Wilson endorsed Bob Dole on Monday as the Republican Party's best hope of beating President

Clinton next year. Wilson said he would turn down any offer for the No. 2 spot on the Republican ticket. Dole trumpeted Wilson's backing as a major boost for his effort nationally and in delegate-rich California. However, Wilson's own short-lived cam-

paigned exposed the governor's rocky standing with fellow Republicans back home. Dole used the occasion to stress that if nominated, he would vigorously compete for California's 54 electoral votes, won easily by Clinton in 1992. "It will not be a repeat of

what happened in 1992, when our party abandoned California," Dole said. In a statement announcing the endorsement, Wilson had a not-so-veiled message to Republicans hoping that retired Gen. Colin Powell will enter the race for the GOP

nomination. "Bill Clinton is one tough political fighter and defeating him is going to be a war," Wilson said in the statement. "... Bob Dole is clearly the best general to lead Republicans

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California governor endorses Bob Dole

By The Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — California Gov. Pete Wilson Monday endorsed Sen. Bob Dole for president, predicting that the Republican frontrunner would capture the GOP nomination for 1996 and go on to "evict Bill Clinton from the White House next November."



The Associated Press
California Gov. Pete Wilson Monday endorsed Kansas Sen. Bob Dole for president.

At Dole's Washington campaign headquarters, the California governor and the Kansas senator looked beyond the Republican presidential nomination contest and took dead aim at the Democrat who currently occupies the White House.

"One thing unites all Republicans: our commitment to replace Bill Clinton's liberal vacillation with solid Republican leadership," Wilson said. "That determination led me to seek the presidency myself. But today I'm convinced that Bob Dole has the character, the experience and the commitment to conservative change to take the Republican revolution to the presidency."

"Bill Clinton is one tough political fighter and defeating him is going to be a war. It's going to take someone who understands our party, who has guided our ideas to victory before and who shares our vision to win this fight. That's Bob Dole," Wilson said.

"I'm proud to welcome Pete Wilson to the Dole team," Dole said. "When he left the presidential race, Pete said he was one old soldier who wasn't going to just fade away. I called that good news for California and America because when the liberals complain about our efforts to move power out of Washington and return it to the states, Pete Wilson stands out as a powerful example of what is possible when we put our faith in people, not government."

Wilson endorses Dole: Best 'general' for GOP



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By JOHN KING
The Associated Press

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Wilson backs Dole as best 'general'

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help Wilson retire his \$1.4 million campaign debt.

"That doesn't surprise me," Gramm said of the Wilson endorsement, calling Dole and Wilson like-minded moderates.

Greg Mueller, a spokesman for Dole rival Pat Buchanan, predicted the endorsement would hurt Dole among social conservatives. He cited Wilson's high-profile support of abortion rights and pointed to Dole's recent statement that his campaign was wrong to return a contribution from a homosexual GOP group.

"Dole is beginning to look like the moderate-to-liberal Republican in the race," Mueller said. Wilson shrugged off a question about his pointed criticisms of Dole during his short campaign.

Wilson had attacked Dole for supporting past tax increases, and for supporting a GOP welfare measure Wilson argued didn't do enough to discourage welfare mothers from having more children. Dole has since moved toward Wilson's position on that issue.

Senate haggles over plan to balance budget

Amendments lead to record votes

MIXED MESSAGE

Folks back home vary in balanced-budget advice Page A2

By The Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Over dogged Democratic opposition, the Senate struggled toward passage Friday of a historic balanced-budget plan to clamp down on social spending, cut taxes and remake government in a more conservative image.

"Yes, we have the votes," Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole confidently predicted as lawmakers worked through a long day of votes on amendments. "This will be radical change in the way this government is operated."

Democrats didn't dispute that, but attacked the measure because it would curtail spending on Medicare, Medicaid, education, welfare and other federal programs, and said the tax cuts were too generous to the wealthy.

"We don't want our fingerprints on it," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D. "If they want to pass it, it's theirs to pass and theirs to have to defend."

The balanced-budget effort is at the heart of the revolution the new Republican majority promised last winter. The House passed its version of the bill Thursday, 227-203.

Dole had hoped for a final vote by late afternoon or early evening. But that informal dead-

line slipped as Democrats forced a daylong series of votes on amendments to cushion the impact of the bill on the poor, the elderly, farmers and the environment. For their part, Republicans put the final touches on a last-minute package of changes, including restoration of funds for Medicaid and Medicare.

Twelve hours after they began, senators were still voting on amendments, shattering the previous record for the number of roll calls on a single day. The record, No. 35, came on a proposal to strip out the tax cuts and apply the savings to the deficit. Like most other Democratic calls for change, it was rejected, 53-46. As a result of the seemingly endless series of votes, it was unclear whether final passage would slip to today.

President Clinton has threatened a veto of the bill, a position he underscored in a phone call with Daschle and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri. The Democratic leaders said the veto would be upheld, and already all sides were maneuvering for advantage in compromise talks likely to occur this fall. "My goal would be to have a budget that would ... get a huge bipartisan vote," Clinton said.

Dole only seeks a civilized society

Your editorial of Oct. 19, "Dole Suck-Up Watch 15," provided an epitome and a synthesis of the primary social and cultural debate that jeopardizes our civilized society today and for years to come.

Sen. Bob Dole stated that he doesn't agree with the radical homosexual agenda but that if the Log Cabin Republicans want to support his conservative fiscal policies, he will accept their funds.

Your argument is as crass and lacking in tolerance and understanding of appropriate civil dis-

Dole says he deserves some credit

Senate majority leader did his share to help push balanced-budget plan through.

By STEVEN A. HOLMES
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — When Republican congressional leaders gathered Thursday to talk about the budget bills coming to a vote, in the room for Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., was an aide whose specialty was a little different — New Hampshire politics.

All week long, leading up to the Republican victory early Saturday morning on the giant budget bill, Dole, the majority leader, was working on two tracks: making the compromises needed for Senate passage, while keeping an eye on the race for the party's presidential nomination, where he has projected a more unyielding image.

After weeks of harried rounds of

the meetings, deals and reassurances needed to round up the 52 votes that passed the budget bill, he wasn't shy about stating his claim that his ability to get things done on the Senate floor is the best proof of his fitness for the White House.

"It's about leadership, and I'm the leader," he said in a brief interview in his office during a voting break. "I get it done. If I didn't get it done, it would be a big thing. So I think I should get some credit when I do."

Others, including some of the other contenders for the Republican nomination, see it differently. Throughout the process, Dole has had to contend with jibes from Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, one of his chief rivals for the nomination, who has made an issue of Dole's inside deal-making image.

In the end, after days of negotiations, most of the problems raised by

the moderates were dealt with. Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont and Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine got nearly \$6 billion dollars restored in student loans.

Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island received a promise of an easing of the rules for certain people to qualify for Medicaid. Sen. Bill Cohen received assurances that the government would enforce standards for care at nursing homes.

And in the end, only Cohen voted against the bill.

Dole also displayed a canny sense of timing and an ability to keep his opponents off balance. For example, on Wednesday, Dole blocked a vote on a Democratic amendment that would reduce the cuts in Medicare to \$89 billion from the \$270 billion in the Republican bill.