

# Deal to end shutdown crumbles

## Solution to deadlock eludes Clinton, GOP

By Jerry Gray  
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — When high-level negotiations on a balanced budget resumed Friday with President Clinton at the table, Republican leaders offered a plan that would put all 260,000 furloughed federal employees back to work immediately without pay. But the plan fell apart as quickly as others have in the past month as Senate Democrats instantly slammed the door on it.

Arriving at the White House on Friday afternoon, House Speaker Newt Gingrich said he was considering supporting legislation proposed in the Senate last week that would declare all furloughed federal employees "essential" and require them to return to their jobs.

The Senate bill would not reopen the government officially. But it does include a formal, legal guarantee of the back pay that Congress and the White House have promised that the workers will receive after a deal is reached.

The Republicans had hoped to approve the legislation by unanimous consent. But Sen. Tom Daschle, the Democratic minority leader, balked at that plan Friday because the legislation has a provision that would limit the Democrats' ability to amend or debate the ultimate budget agreement.

The two sides met for nearly four hours in the Cabinet Room of the White House and finished about 6:30 CST Friday evening, with none of

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**Don't leave now:** Gingrich asks lawmakers to stay in town until budget is balanced.

**Closing up shop:** RTC, military bases panel will be gone when the year ends.

**Wichita clinic stays open:** Hunter hurting for money but doors won't close.

participants commenting. Aides said the talks would resume at 9:30 a.m. today at the White House.

"They spent time working through a set of issues," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said without elaborating.

After the meeting White House chief of staff Leon Panetta went to Capitol Hill to continue talks with the Republican budget committee chairman, Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico and Rep. John Kasich of Ohio.

Dole also returned to the Hill and convened a brief session of the Senate, where he attempted to introduce the Republican plan to bring back the

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Back at the negotiating table Friday were, from left, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, President Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

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## BUDGET

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workers. But the Democrats, as they had threatened, refused to give him the unanimous consent.

Despite the new attempt to resolve the budget dispute, lawyers for the largest independent federal employees union, the National Treasury Employees Union, went into federal court in Washington on Friday seeking an injunction that would prohibit the government from requiring employees to work without pay.

"We filed this motion for a temporary restraining order in response to the complete disregard of the political branches for their responsibilities," said Robert Tobias, the union president. "It is outrageous that hundreds of thousands of federal workers are being ordered to work without any guarantee that they will ever be paid."

Gregory O'Duden, the lawyer for the union, said the union had 150,000 members nationwide, including employees of the IRS, the Social Security Administration, the Customs Service and the Department of Health and Human Services.

"The ultimate intent is to get the president and the Congress to end the budget impasse," he said. "Maybe without the workers on the job, it will force them to reach a deal quicker."

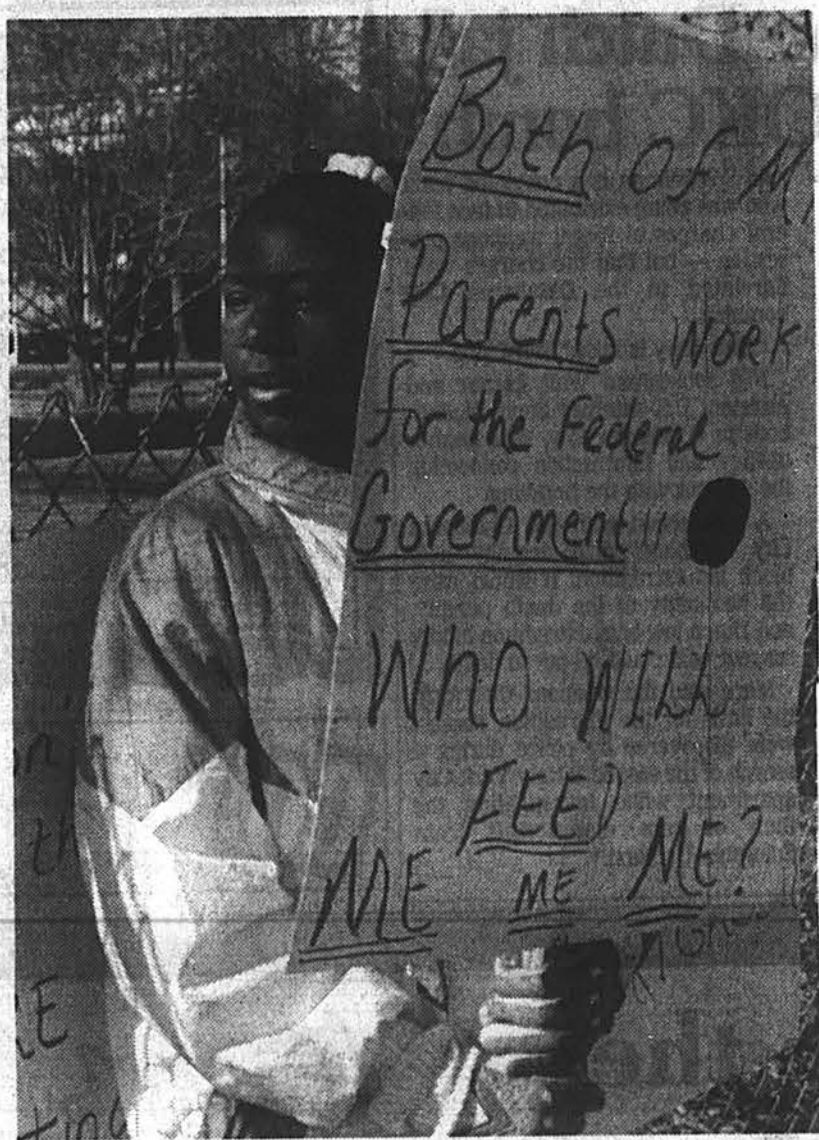
The two-week shutdown of parts of the federal government is the longest in history. The Republicans' effort to put all the federal workers back on the job was intended to dampen much of the public anger that has greeted the shutdown.

By offering legal guarantees of back pay, the legislators hoped to relieve some of the financial pressure on the workers from creditors. And with a return of a full work force, the government could resume some of the services whose absence has incensed the public — like reopening parks, museums and national monuments.

Under such an arrangement, the government could also start issuing passports again, but if the current supply of the documents were used up, officials would not be able to buy more until a budget was in place.

Friday's meeting was the third attempt in five weeks by Clinton, Gingrich and Dole to sit down together to try to settle political differences over balancing the federal budget by 2002. The sticking points have been over Medicare, Medicaid, tax cuts and education.

"I believe we're proceeding in good faith and I think we're making progress," Clinton said before starting the private talks with the



Ashley Mollett, 11, joins Veterans Administration workers picketing the Dorn Veterans Hospital on Friday in Columbia, S.C. Her father, David Mollett, was among those protesting working for half pay because of federal budget problems.

Republicans. "I'm prepared to spend whatever time it takes to move as quickly as we can move. But some of these issues are quite complicated in terms of their impact on the American people."

Gingrich said he hoped to have a deal by at least next Wednesday morning, the end of the first session of the 104th Congress.

"I agree with the president," Gingrich said. "I think there are reasons to be cautiously optimistic."

Because of the shutdown, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin withheld an interest payment of \$14.5 billion to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund that was due Friday.

Rubin had advised Gingrich on Thursday that he could not legally make the interest payment without breaking the debt ceiling.

The Interior Department

announced Friday that it had reached an agreement with the city of Philadelphia to reopen Independence Hall, the site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and one of the nation's most famous and popular landmarks.

The city will pay the full costs of operating the landmarks, but with National Park Service employees still in charge.

Since the shutdown, private benefactors or state or local governments have stepped in to reopen parts of the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, the National Air and Space Museum in Washington and an exhibition of paintings by the Dutch master, Vermeer, at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

A-8 The Kansas City Star Sunday, December 31, 1995

# A NEW BEGINNING

the national outlook

## Election campaigns dominate the scene

By JAMES KUHNHENN  
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The nation: 1996.

In Congress, Republicans continue their push to pass their "Contract With America." Republicans and Democrats fight over details of the seven-year budget. Social conservatives angle to be heard on school prayer and abortion. Term limits get a second wind.

Meet the new year, same as the old year.

And it's an election year, to boot.

"What ends up happening ... around the springtime, and especially after the (presidential) primary season clearly chooses a winner, is that members of Congress look in the mirror one morning and say, 'Oh my God, we're up, too,'" congressional scholar Norman Ornstein observed recently. "The desire to push the legislative record to make sure you have something strong to run on increases markedly."

Many of those legislative issues will be there no matter what.

The House in 1995 lived up to the Republican promise to hold votes on 10 key issues in the first 100 days. But many of those remain unresolved, either because they failed, because the Senate has yet to vote on them or be-

cause House and Senate bills differ significantly.

Among them are term limits. The House in March defeated an effort to send states a constitutional amendment to limit congressional terms. But Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas has promised a Senate vote in April. The measure probably will fail, but the vote could be used as a campaign issue.

The most significant debate of the year, though, will revolve around efforts to balance the budget. If Republicans and Democrats enter the year without a balanced-budget agreement, which appeared almost certain, count on that consuming a great deal of legislative and political energy.

But even if President Clinton and Republicans reach a compromise, how Congress deals with the ramifications of such an agreement will overshadow most other legislative subjects.

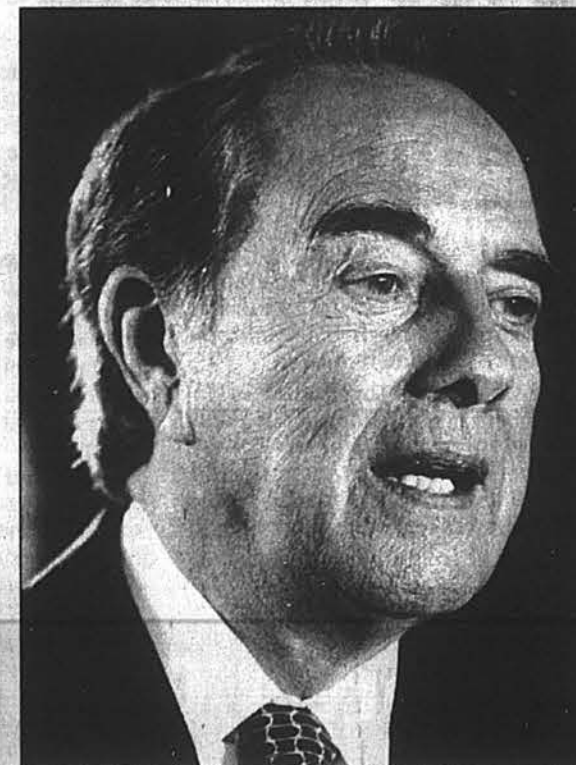
"The first few tentative steps of the budget changes will have all sorts of repercussions," Ornstein said.

So when will all this happen? Dole, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, gets to set the Senate's agenda as majority leader. He hasn't scheduled any votes until after the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 20.

The cherry blossoms will be poised to explode around the



Bill Clinton



Bob Dole

Tidal Basin by the time Congress gets into high gear.

You can expect religious conservatives to approach the Republican leadership with their legislative wish list. House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia kept them on the sidelines in 1995. What will he offer them in 1996?

Look for school prayer and anti-abortion legislation to surface, but don't count on Gingrich to be leading the charge for them.

Congressional wrangling on immigration, affirmative action and other programs that affect people of color certainly will be part of the news in 1996.

But also look for a new and improved version of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization — the National Asso-

ciation for the Advancement of Colored People. With soon-to-be former U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume of Maryland as executive director, the organization may be able to rise from the scandals and financial heartache that have engulfed it.

The new year also will bring about the successor to 1995's Million Man March. Called for by Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, this march will be Oct. 16, also in Washington. But unlike the 1995 version, which called for black men to march, this one will focus on black families.

In business, the economic outlook for next year is, of course, part sure thing and part guesswork. Will politicians running for re-election finagle some kind of tax cut? Possibly. But experts

say don't count on any change as dramatic as a flat or value-added tax.

Will the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit 5,500 in the first quarter or 6,000 in the year? Probably. Despite warnings of a weakening economy and continued layoffs, pundits predict the stock market will stay on the gangbusters track it charted in 1995.

And finally, as spring approaches, the Olympic torch begins its journey, this time 15,000 miles through 42 states as it is run from Los Angeles to Atlanta.

And there, on July 19, the quadrennial tribute to athletics and the athletic spirit will open.

Let the Games begin.

## Elizabeth Dole pinch hits for her husband in Iowa

By MIKE GLOVER  
The Associated Press

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — As the snow flew outside, Elizabeth Dole rushed breathlessly through the campaign pitch for her husband, pausing only to thank the activists for "accepting the pinch-hitter this morning."

While Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole spent his Saturday locked in budget bargaining with President Clinton, his formidable surrogate team was motoring across Iowa seeking backing for the state's key February caucuses.

Before Mrs. Dole spoke, GOP Sen. Charles Grassley — arguably the most popular politician in Iowa — shared a few thoughts, and former GOP Gov. Robert D. Ray showed up to lend his backing.

During a morning event, Dole himself telephoned to urge his backers on, warning, "It's all going to be about turnout."

Dole has largely been absent from Iowa's campaign trail in recent weeks as the balanced-budget fight has raged in Washington, but he's built a prominent team to carry the message on his behalf.

It's led by wife Elizabeth, known to many as Liddy. She's a former cabinet officer and head of the American Red Cross.

"Liddy Dole is a very exciting figure in her own right," said Iowa Republican Party Chairman Brian Kennedy. "Often times, you hear peo-

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— Brian Kennedy,  
chairman, Iowa Republican Party

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Dole mimics that line when asked about the difficulties of mingling budget bargaining and presidential politics.

"I hope the Iowa people understand why I'm not here," he said. "Elizabeth is helping me. Somebody wrote me a note and said, 'Send her to Iowa and you stay home.'"

During the weekend, Mrs. Dole was motoring through a hectic schedule speaking at town meetings.

Her latest campaign swing included a celebration of the couple's 20th wedding anniversary, with her in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and him in Washington.

Her biggest strength as a surrogate? Name recognition, polished speech delivery and this declaration: "I know him better than anyone and I can speak to what Bob Dole is like behind the scenes."

While Mrs. Dole is the most prominent surrogate, she far from the only one.

Dole depends far more heavily on surrogates than do the other presidential contenders. Arizona Sen. John McCain has occasionally filled in for Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander has been known to employ country music stars on his behalf.

Those fill-ins don't reach the level Dole can employ. Grassley, for instance, is vastly popular in the state's Republican circles. He's in his third Senate term, winning the last two elections with landslide numbers.

This year, Grassley brings another strength to the campaign trail. Few have questioned his conservative credentials, and he has close ties with social conservatives.

Dole's rivals have sought to portray him as waffling on important conservative questions, and Grassley can ease the worries of many.

"There's been some doubt about his commitment to conservatism," said Grassley. "I think it brings emphasis to the fact that I consider him a conservative."

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Elizabeth Dole, left, greeted Sherri Buising of Grimes, Iowa, after making a campaign appearance Saturday for her husband, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., in West Des Moines. Sen. Dole remained in Washington to continue working on reaching an agreement on a balanced budget.

— The Associated Press