



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FEDERAL CONTROLS WON'T SOLVE HEALTH-CARE COST PROBLEMS ALONE: SENATOR DOLE

Brandon, Fla. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said Sunday that "a larger injection of federal control" won't cure the problem of rising health-care costs.

He said it is unrealistic for the government to arbitrarily impose limits on hospital reimbursement fees without somehow controlling the costs that medical facilities incur for labor, equipment, insurance, and compliance with a proliferation of regulations.

Hearings begin Tuesday in the Health Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee on a bill Dole has co-sponsored that would create incentives to hold down the spiraling cost of the two principal federal medical reimbursement programs -- Medicare for the elderly and Medicaid for low-income Americans.

Dole described that cost containment approach as preferable to President Carter's proposal for a federally enforced ceiling of 9 per cent a year on hospital fees. He said the problem can best be by a partnership consisting of the private health system, concerned citizens, and the government -- "without setting up Federal Price Control Czars."

PRIVATELY-OWNED HOSPITAL

The 1976 Republican vice-presidential nominee spoke at dedication ceremonies for Brandon Community Hospital. The 164-bed hospital was built and will be managed by American Medicorp., Inc., of Bala Cynwyd, Pa., a private hospital management company.

Located 17 miles east of downtown Tampa, the Brandon area has not enjoyed easy access to the downtown hospitals because of frequent traffic congestion and three sets of railroad tracks separating the city and the outlying community.

Dole said the Hillsborough County situation is typical of a national health-care problem, with many hospitals being located in cities that have lost population to suburban settlements that are miles away and in need of medical facilities.

Planning for the Brandon hospital began nine years ago.

(The prepared text of Dole's address is attached.)