

GOP Prepared To Compromise On Health Care

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said Sunday that his party was ready to work with President Clinton on a compromise health care reform package, but that the legislation wouldn't be approved this year.

Dole said the GOP wouldn't stay on the sidelines on the health care issue as it did in unanimously rejecting Clinton's deficit-cutting budget plan earlier this year. The Kansas Republican said several Republican health care plans were expected to be introduced to counter the Clinton plan.

But Dole, in an appearance on CNN's "Newsmaker Sunday," declined to criticize the Clinton approach to health care reform for the time being and suggested there would be room for negotiation and compromise.

"I think we ought to keep our powder dry," said Dole. "If we're going to have broad bipartisan action on health care, we shouldn't start firing shots before we even know what's in the package." Clinton, returning from an 11-day vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Mass., is expected to focus in the coming months on getting congressional ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement and support for an overhaul of the health care system.

A special task force on health care reform, headed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, is scheduled to produce its proposals within weeks.

Time magazine reported that some Clinton advisers were worried that the proposed health care reforms would cost tens of thousands of jobs and that Clinton had not prepared the public for such job losses. Clinton has said that he anticipates that health care changes will "boost job creation."

But, according to Time, some computer projections examined by the task force suggest that as many as one million jobs may be lost over the next five years as health care changes go into effect.

Estimates by independent economic analysts have put job losses at between 200,000 and 600,000.

The magazine said the findings had caused Clinton's health-care advisers to refine computer models and make adjustments in their yet-to-be-released health care plan to minimize the transitional job losses.

Dole said that, along with the Clinton administration, "our goal is universal (health care) coverage" and the Republicans were prepared to discuss compromises with the White House on health care legislation. But he said he expected Congress first to tackle the North American Free Trade Agreement for which there is considerable Republican — as well as administration — support.

COPLAND

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"In some ways, the number of bodies may well make up for that," she said.

Student government's budget for this year is \$10,000 — one-third of last year's budget. Even excluding line-item expenses for special events that last year's administration received, this year's budget is still "appreciably lower," Copland said.

Toll said the administration would ask for additional funds as it planned projects.

The biggest challenge of having a large administration will be finding active roles for everyone, Toll said.

But this year's student government will explore more issues and work on more projects, especially since this year is the University's Bicentennial, she said.

"Each of the individual coordinators has a very ambitious agenda," Toll said. "There will be exponentially more going on in student government than in the past."

Unlike John Moody's administration last year, Copland's includes separate committees for specific issues. Coordinators head each of the eight committees: race relations, academic affairs, environmental issues, state relations, special projects, public relations, communications and campus safety.

"The more people we have involved, the more we're in touch with the students," said Tommy Koonce, internal chief of staff. "We're going to do our best to make it a big, working government."

Committee coordinators are now planning meetings and contacting students who signed up last spring.

MINORITY

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Fayetteville State or telling students they might not want to consider college," he said. "We're losing a lot of really good minority students to (N.C.) Central and (N.C.) State."

Interaction between the races is the best way to improve race relations on campus, Dervin said.

"I think race relations is such a far reaching thing, ... (and) it's best broken down through one-on-one interactions," he said. "What we want to do is increase the number of minorities so white students have a better chance to interact with minority students."

Toll said student government wanted to work with the admissions office and the Division of Student Affairs to augment their recruitment efforts.

"They're the experts on it, we're not," Toll said. "We're just looking to share resources, manpower and support."

Students also could help expand the existing Tar Heel Target program, Toll said.

"The problem with Tar Heel Target is it's underfunded and on a small scale," Toll said. "We want to take Tar Heel Target one step farther."

NAFTA Opposed by Vast Majority of Democrats, Bonior Says

WASHINGTON — Rep. David Bonior, the third-ranking Democrat in the House, said Sunday he was adamantly opposed to the free trade agreement with Mexico and that up to three-fourths of House Democrats shared his views.

The Michigan lawmaker said the North American Free Trade Agreement was a "lousy treaty" that would strip Americans of jobs and would not help Mexicans "because of their low-wage society and the corruptness" in their political and social structure.

Bonior, the majority whip, whose responsibilities include counting votes, said that "up to two-thirds to maybe 75 percent of the Democratic caucus in the House is opposed to this treaty."

The congressman said there was nothing President Clinton could do to change his mind. "By passing this treaty all we are doing is institutionalizing the corruption over there and impeding us" in reaching a better treaty in the future, he told NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., who, like most Republicans, supports the treaty negotiated during the Bush administration, suggested that the pact first

be taken up by the Senate, where opposition was not as great.

"I'd take it up in the Senate first and apply more pressure to the House that way," Dole said on CNN's "Newsmaker Sunday" show. "I think we have enough votes if we can furnish 34, 35 Republicans. I certainly think you could get 16 out of 56 Democrats" in the Senate, Dole said.

NAFTA would lower tariffs and remove other trade restrictions among the United States, Mexico and Canada. Clinton came out for the plan during the presidential campaign after promising he would obtain side-agreements on protecting jobs

and the environment — such agreements were reached earlier this month — and said he wanted Congress to pass the treaty by the end of this year.

Critics include organized labor, key Democrats such as Bonior and House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., and former presidential candidates Ross Perot and Pat Buchanan.

Bonior, reiterating the main argument against the treaty, cited a Commerce Department report that said the United States could lose up to 40 percent of jobs in such industries as automobiles, steel, apparel and textiles as American companies relo-

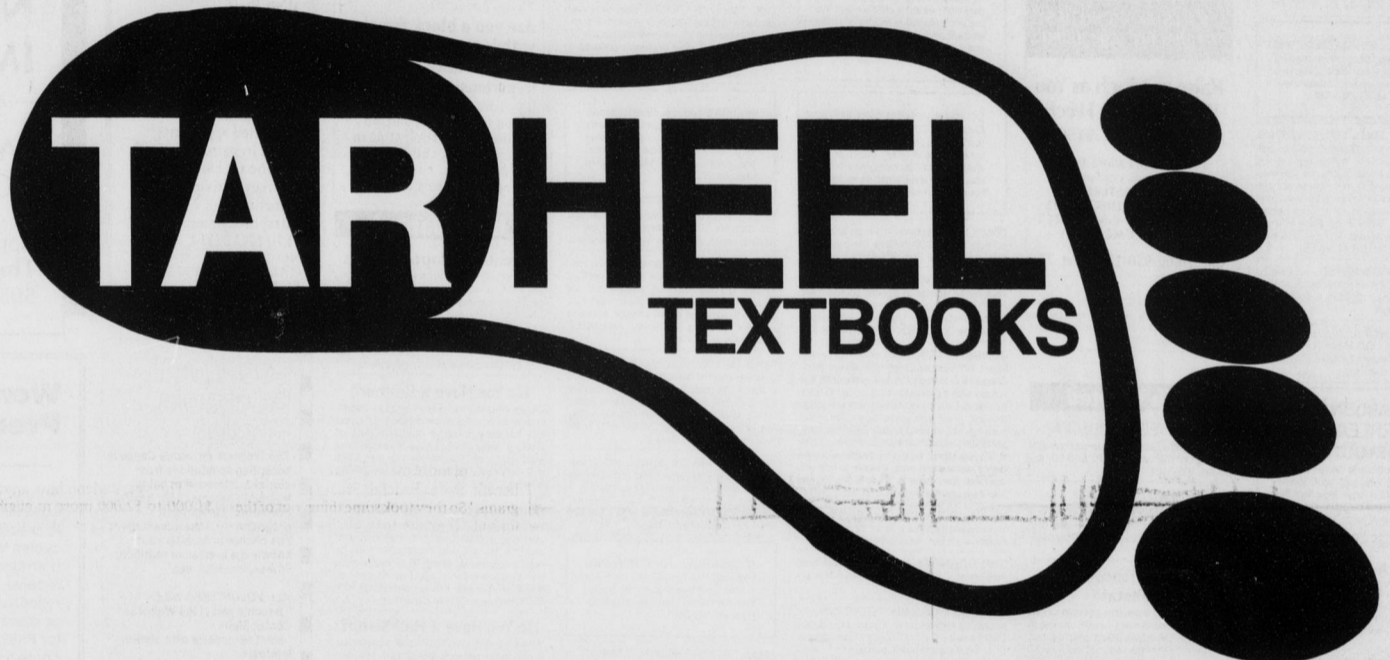
cate in Mexico to take advantage of the low wages there.

However, Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif., a supporter of the treaty, said most other studies showed that the pact would create a minimum of 200,000 jobs over a two-year period as lower tariffs induced Mexico's expanding consumer market to buy more American products.

Rep. Fred Grandy, R-Iowa, who appeared along with Matsui on "Meet the Press," said Republicans were not entirely happy about helping Clinton but "if we are unable to deliver this package it's not just the president that loses, it's the country."

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