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ET CETERA

Senator Dole faces dilemma with civil rights

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Major civil rights groups appear headed for a confrontation with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole over legislation to restore anti-discrimination protection to female, handicapped, elderly and minority Americans.

Civil rights forces and Dole are preparing vastly different versions of anti-bias bills to restore safeguards lost in a Supreme Court ruling. The outcome could help test the Kansas Republican's mettle in his new job as floor leader.

Dole will anger conservatives if they believe he's moving to expand civil rights laws, and be rebuked by liberals if he refuses to restore the broad safeguards they want.

For now, Dole has sided with the conservatives, the Reagan administration, and parts of the business community in deciding just how much protection is needed to restore the status quo from before the ruling.

Their narrowly constructed bill may be introduced this week, as may the liberals' version sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and many others.

Aides to Dole, calling him a "master of compromise," say he plans to get some form of legislation through the Senate and not let the issue die there as it did in a conservative filibuster in the waning days of the last session.

The liberals' bill passed the House 375-32 last June and is expected to win there again by an overwhelming margin.

The Supreme Court ignited the dispute last Feb. 28, when it stripped away an enforcement weapon

against colleges that receive federal money while practicing sex discrimination.

No longer, the court said, can an entire institution be ordered to stop the illegal practice, but only the department or program violating the law.

Liberals, conservatives and moderates agree that enforcement should apply to an entire school. The dispute is over inclusion of same broad enforcement coverage in non-education areas.

Conservatives contend this would lead to new federal intrusions on Americans' lives — allowing, for instance, orders that grocery stores build wheelchair ramps because they accept federal food stamps.

Ralph Neas, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, called such comments "tactics" but acknowledged they attacked problems for some senators who began getting questions from constituents.

"The basic (conservative) position was that this would be a vast erosion of federal power, a federal intrusion into every nook and cranny of the private sector," Neas said in an interview. "Those arguments were rejected (in civil rights hearings) and time and time again by Congress and the courts."

Neas said the main enemy of civil rights groups last year was time. "The votes didn't run out, time ran out," he said.

But he acknowledged the leadership conference's 165 organizations have adopted an "all for one and one for all" strategy — a strategy that could make compromise more difficult.

Florida citrus growers affected by cold wave

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Gov. Bob Graham declared a state of emergency Tuesday while federal inspectors were sent to assess damage to citrus and vegetable crops from a two-day cold wave that ranks as one of Florida's worst in a century.

The governor also said he was adjusting weight restrictions on trucks carrying citrus and sugar cane so growers could move their frozen crops to processing plants as soon as possible before they rot.

Whatever crops escaped Monday's wind and cold were ravaged by a second round of the Arctic blast Monday night and early Tuesday.

"Florida's agriculture industry is being deeply affected," Graham said in Tallahassee. "The state is closely monitoring the situation on an hour-to-hour basis and we will be providing whatever assistance we can."

Temperatures during Monday night ranged from the low teens to the low 30s in most of the growing regions, rising into the 40s during Tuesday afternoon.

State Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner compared the spell to the disastrous freeze of Christmas 1983, but said the damage this time is "more widespread, more crops destroyed."

Oldtimers in the citrus industry said this may have been more destructive than earlier freezes, such as those in 1977, 1962 and 1945.

Spokesman Earl Wells of the state's largest growers organization, Florida Citrus Mutual, said "growers are in shock ... We suspect we will have severe fruit damage, and there will be tree damage in the north end" of the 760,000-acre citrus belt.

Bernie Hamel of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association said southern areas that had made it through Monday without major damage were struck hard on Tuesday.

Much of the citrus fruit frozen on the trees can be turned into juice if it is harvested quickly enough. An estimated 75 percent of the orange crop is still on the trees.

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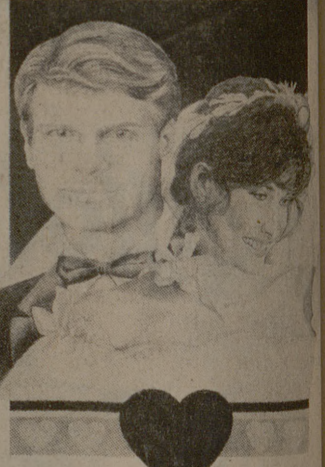
TIME: Booths open at 2:00 p.m.
Style Show at 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Brazos Center
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2:00 p.m. EXHIBITS OPEN— Many Bryan/College Station firms associated with the wedding market will demonstrate their products or services for your pleasure. Shop and compare. Talk to the vendors—Florists, Photographers, Cosmeticians, Gift Registry, Bakeries, and more.



3:00 p.m. BRIDE 'N FORMAL AND AL'S FORMAL WEAR PRESENT "THE 1985 WEDDING FORECAST" A COMPREHENSIVE STYLE SHOW. Bridal Gowns, Attendants' Dresses, Mother-of-the-Bride Gowns, Special Occasion Gowns, and Tuxedos will be modeled straight from the pages of BRIDES and MODERN BRIDE Magazine.

4:00 p.m. Enjoy some refreshments courtesy of PLAIN and FANCY.

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