

Hutchison, Gramm tout welfare overhaul

DALLAS (AP) — A week before Republicans step into the national spotlight at the party's convention in San Diego, the GOP's two U.S. senators from Texas barnstormed the state touting landmark welfare reform legislation passed last week.

Kay Bailey Hutchison and Phil Gramm on Monday visited a sweltering industrial laundry in Dallas. Sweat trickled from their foreheads as they took turns praising the bill to workers making around \$7 an hour to wash and iron sheets and towels.

"It is fair for everyone to help pull in some way," Mrs. Hutchison said over the hisses and clangs of machinery at the 34-year-old National Linen Service

plant. "This is a bill that will work because it is fair, and because every American will see that it is fair."

A bill passed by Congress last week sets a lifetime limit of five years of welfare per family. It also requires able-bodied adults to work after two years with certain exemptions.

States can set many of the rules, such as terminating benefits sooner than five years. President Clinton has said he'll sign the bill.



GRAMM



HUTCHISON

Mrs. Hutchison and other Sun-belt senators successfully waged the fight to gain additional dollars pegged to population growth.

Gramm said the bill would help "people to get their foot on the bottom rung of the economic ladder and start climbing."

The legislators' comments followed those by Gregory Woodard and Douglas Brown, new employees described by plant officials as successful examples of the welfare-to-work transition.

Brown, 40, who makes about \$1,600 per month as a tumbler operator, said he believes almost anyone can find a job.

"If people really want to work, there are jobs out there," he said.

Another worker, 49-year-old Beatrice Mackey of Dallas, said that the welfare bill "will help some and hurt some."

"I know some need to get off and some need to stay on," said Ms. Mackey, who started working at the plant in 1966 making 70 cents an hour and now earns \$6.65. "I'm used to making my money. I just cannot sit down and wait on the check."

The Hutchison-Gramm team planned similar stops in Houston, San Antonio and Austin.

Cadets

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Cadets are graded on their performance in each area on a 1,000-point system. This system was recently changed from a two-to-five scale, five being the best.

King said 95 percent of the Aggie cadets received a four or five on their performances last year.

Future Marine Corps Officers attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia to learn "the intellectual, physical and moral quality to be an officer in the Ma-

rine Corps."

Captain Russell McGee, a Marine officer instructor, said the cadets are evaluated in a simulated infantry environment.

"We put them under great amounts of stress to see how they perform and react when things aren't going very well," McGee said. "It's very much like boot camp."

Jim Lively, a senior psychology major, graduated fourth out of 160 cadets from OCS this summer. He said the A&M experience gave him an advantage in camp.

"Being in the Corps helps out because you know how to deal with the pressure and you know how to play the game," Lively said. "It is a rewarding experience that you learn so

much from."

Air Force cadets from A&M are typically sent to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for field training, although some are assigned to camps in Florida or Delaware.

Capt. Mark Tate, a former field training instructor, said cadets learn skills including professional values, Air Force values, safety and quality.

Mark Andrews, a senior management major, went to a special training camp this summer. In England he flew an F-15 fighter with an Air Force officer.

"I had been waiting 21 years for this opportunity," Andrews said. "It was everything I dreamed of and more."

Love

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The Century Tree).

"Then we walked around campus and we ended up under The Century Tree. The roses and card were already there and she turned around and I was on my knee."

Many students said they have found it challenging to plan for their weddings while still attending class at A&M.

Married students offer some hope to their engaged counterparts.

Carri Wellborn, an elementary education graduate student, was married last spring, and said she found being engaged more stressful than being married.

"If you're engaged, it's harder than being married," Wellborn said. "You have to go home on the weekends and there are so many showers, and you have to find a dress and more."

Taboada said she has run into difficulties while planning her wedding.

"It's been crazy," Taboada said. "It's hard to plan for a wedding in San Antonio when I'm

here in College Station. The only day we had open to get married, was the only day the church was closed. There's only one bridal store in College Station, so it was hard to find a dress, but I finally found one."

Schaeffer said his fiancée is handling the majority of the wedding plans. He said he is surprised at the amount of work involved in planning for a wedding.

"I never realized all the details it takes to plan a wedding," Schaeffer said. "It's insane!"

While some students are waiting until after graduation to marry, others have married and are still attending classes.

Suzanne Giles, a veterinary graduate student, said married life has not altered her student life, but it has made it difficult to coordinate her schedule with her husband's.

"We still have our own clubs and we do our own thing," Giles said. "But it's been hard to coordinate our schedules, like who's going to be home. It can be frustrating. I always want to make dinner, but he (her husband) works every night."

However, Giles said being married and going to school has many benefits.

Dole

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The launching of the economic package came at a critical time for Dole, who trails Clinton by as much as 20 percent in some national polls. He was close to naming a running mate and was preparing to be formally nominated at next week's Republican National Convention in San Diego.

For Dole, who has a history of preferring deficit reduction to huge tax cuts, proposing such a large tax cut was a difficult one.

Dole provided only vague details on how he would pay for the six-year plan — suggesting that 27 percent of it, or \$147 billion — would come from "income growth effect."

Such supply-side economics — suggesting tax cuts can partly pay for themselves — have been disdained by many economists and in the past by Dole himself.

"I think the supply-siders have taken over the Dole campaign," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Norwest Corp. in Minneapolis. "This certainly sounds like the Reagan program all over again."

Anticipating such criticism, Dole said, "Deficit reduction is in my blood and a balanced budget will be my legacy to America."

"I want to return to tax cuts — this time balancing the budget with a Republican Congress and finish the job Ronald Reagan started so brilliantly, but could not complete because the Democrats refused as usual to reduce spending," Dole added.

Financial markets took little notice of Dole's program on Monday and some analysts said the plan was more credible than Reagan's 1980 program, which coupled a huge tax cut with a huge defense buildup and the promise of a balanced budget by 1984. The Reagan tax package also resulted in the longest peacetime economic expansion in U.S. history.

"Dole's plan as it is written is highly optimistic, but not silly," said David Wyss, an economist at DRI-McGraw Hill Inc. "Economically, there is no reason you couldn't do it."

In a blistering attack on the Internal Revenue Service, Dole called his economic plan "the opening salvo to repeal the current tax code and to end the IRS as we know it."



Macaulay tired of parents squabbling

NEW YORK (AP) — *Home Alone* star Macaulay Culkin is willing to dip into his fortune to save his parents from the financial ruin brought about by a long-running custody battle.

The 15-year-old actor, whose worth is estimated at \$17 million, also has no interest in acting until his parents' squabbling ends, said his lawyer Kenneth Weinrib.

The actor's never-married parents, Christopher "Kit" Culkin, 51, and Patricia Brentnup, 40, have spent so much on their legal fight that they are near bankruptcy, the *Daily News* reported Monday.

Macaulay is unable to focus on his career because of the custody battle involving him and his six siblings, Weinrib said. To help smooth things out, his lawyer and accountant have asked a judge to approve a bailout plan for the parents.

The legal papers also ask the court to remove Macaulay's parents as his legal guardians because their fights have made the arrangement unworkable.

Prince Andrew cordial to Fergie after divorce

LONDON (AP) — Prince Andrew and the Duchess of York seem to take to divorce a little better than Charles and Di do.

Acting like gay divorcees, Andrew and Sarah Ferguson appeared together Monday at a fund-raising golf tournament, laughing and chatting it up.

Joint appearances by Princess Diana and Charles are unlikely. In the last weeks of her 15-year marriage to Prince Charles, Diana appeared alone at public visits.

Andrew turned up for a golf tournament in support of the Motor Neuron Disease Association, of which Fergie is president. The couple divorced in May after nearly 10 years of marriage.

The prince drove his daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie, around in a golf cart, and joked and talked with his ex-wife as the whole family posed for pictures.

On the other hand, Diana was conspicuously absent from a recent birthday party for the Queen Mother Elizabeth. Charles and the couple's two sons were there.

Silverstone longs for the good life

NEW YORK (AP) — Alicia Silverstone longs for the good life, not the glamorous one.

"I really love what I'm doing on this movie, but, at the same time, I'd rather be married and have beautiful babies and millions of animals and eat delicious food and get as fat as I want. Live! You know?" she said in the September issue of *Vanity Fair*.

The 19-year-old *Clueless* star is producing a movie tentatively titled *Excess Baggage*, but she's not a big fan of the business.

She called Hollywood "very cold and very dry and very dark. But the people, they always have a smile on their face, though I always wonder how deep in that smile is the knife!"

She said Hollywood is not the kind of place where people reach out and say, "I know you can do it" for that reason, "I never hang out with people in the industry."

Band felt force of Centennial Park Bomb

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Members of Jack Mack and the Heart Attack almost had one when the Atlanta bomb went off.

"It came close to knocking me off my stool," said John Paruolo, keyboardist for the band playing at Olympic Centennial Park at the time.

"It was 200 feet away from us, but fortunately the stage was 30 feet above ground. I stood up and realized immediately it was a bomb," Paruolo said in Sunday's *Los Angeles Daily News*.

The seven-member band was into its second set July 27 when the pipe bomb exploded, killing one person and injuring more than 100.

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