

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION BILL ADVANCES

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Efforts to win approval of a bill designed to clarify questions about the statute of limitations on child support collections moved forward Wednesday with the 36-9 approval of Senate Bill 1175.

Authored by Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, the bill made its second appearance on the Senate floor in as many days. Cain had the measure laid over Tuesday because of concerns related to another provision in the bill dealing with liens on real property.

Cain admitted today that some discussion was still necessary to clarify the real property lien provision and urged senators to approve the measure.

Senator Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, argued that some statute of limitations was needed on child support collections to avoid fraud and the fleecing of the elderly.

"We have seen cases where men in their nineties have had their children come back and allege things, because there was no statute of limitations," Stipe said.

Without some limitation on time during which child support could be collected, Stipe added, "This would be a trap for the elderly to be preyed upon by their own children."

Senator J.R. Wilkerson, D-Atwood, said courts throughout the state are currently in a quandary because there is no clear law concerning the statute of limitations on child support collections.

"The child support people want some sort of limitation and the courts want to know how far back they should go," Wilkerson said.

Responding to a question, Cain said passage of the bill would mean that someone judged to owe child support would owe that money until it was paid in full. As debate on the measure progressed, however, Cain seemed to be in agreement with those who suggested a limit on the number of years after the child turns 18 might be appropriate.

"If you want to limit it to a certain number of years after the child turns 18, that's okay with me," Cain said. "What I don't want to see is someone elude paying child support for five or six years and the state not be able to collect."

"If they come back to town and they've got a wad of money in their pocket, they should know they're going to have to pay."

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Sen. Gene Stipe
D-McAlester

ELIZABETH DOLE TAKES THE FLOOR

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) U.S. Senate Majority Leader and presidential candidate Bob Dole, R-Kansas, was represented by his wife Elizabeth, who came to Oklahoma City Wednesday to spread his campaign message before members of the Legislature.

Former cabinet secretary to both the Reagan and Bush administrations, Mrs. Dole was named as one of the ten most admired women by a recent Gallup Poll. She has also served as National President of the Red Cross, the organization that handles nearly 70,000 disasters a year and provides approximately half of the country's blood supply.

"I have seen so much tragedy and so much pain as president of the Red Cross," she said, commending the state on its performance during the April 19 Murrah bombing. "I have never seen anything like the way this community came together to help the victims of that bombing — It was incredible."

Citing her husband's tenure and experience as a six-time U.S. Senate leader, Mrs. Dole said he will bring the same to the presidency. "The White House is no place for on-the-job-training," she said. "He is the longest serving Republican Senator in Senate history."

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Elizabeth Dole

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