

### **RIPPLE EFFECT**

■ California Republicans are worried that Bill Clinton's single-minded concentration on winning their state's 54 electoral votes next year could severely damage their hopes for major gains in the congressional elections. They fear a repeat of the precedent set



**Dole**

by George Bush, who virtually abandoned campaigning in California by Labor Day after polls showed him hopelessly behind Clinton in 1992. As a result, the Republican National Committee cut its get-out-the-vote funds — so-called soft money — for state and local candidates by an estimated \$8 million to \$12 million. That November, the GOP lost both races for the U.S. Senate and fell further behind in the House. State leaders, who believe they could have fared better if the RNC had not cut their funding, are so concerned about a repeat in 1996 that they are already seeking assurances that the national committee will continue to pump organizing money into the state even if their presidential candidate falters. Current polls show GOP front-runner Bob Dole trailing Clinton 47 percent to 44 percent. Earlier in the year, Dole held a five-point lead over the president.