

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 15, 1963

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kan.) charged today that Charles W. Shoemake, Regional Director of the Regional Office of the Post Office Department in Wichita, Kansas, and Joseph P. Doherty, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Postmaster General, Bureau of Facilities, Washington, D. C., and perhaps others, were guilty of deliberate political maneuvering in their combined two day effort, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, to oust him from office facilities in the Hutchinson, Kansas post office.

Dole stated the "donnybrook" started just a few hours after he officially and routinely reopened the Congressional offices Tuesday, February 12, occupied the past six years by former Congressman J. Floyd Breeding whom Dole defeated last November. Dole stated that Shoemake and Doherty, and others unknown to him at this time, immediately started the political ball rolling under the guise that the office had not been properly assigned to him and that it was assigned to the Internal Revenue Service. At this point the Postmaster in Hutchinson, Kansas, Ernest Dicks, was ordered to request the rooms occupied by Dole be vacated. Congressman Dole was then notified in his Washington office of the action to prevent his occupying the offices.

Congressman Dole stated, "We soon learned the entire plan was motivated by politics when Bruce McNair, Director of Facilities and Management Division, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, D. C., was contacted and advised us the controversial space was not desirable for use by the Revenue Service as it was above the ground floor and inconvenient to many taxpayers who might visit the office, particularly elderly people or the physically handicapped. With this information, I notified Doherty by telephone, and Shoemake and Postmaster General J. Edward Day by telegram, that I had no intention of vacating the offices. I further advised Shoemake that if he wished to discuss the matter 'on an objective, non-political basis' he could contact me, otherwise he should commence eviction proceedings. Following this, about Noon, Thursday, Shoemake advised the Hutchinson Postmaster to obtain the keys from my office manager, Mrs. Norvel Frick, to remove the furniture and any of my equipment, and to change the locks on the doors. With this information, I notified Mrs. Frick not to surrender the keys nor authorize removal of any equipment from the offices. I called Mr. Doherty and advised him of my decision and that if he persisted he would need the assistance of the United States Marshal's office. Attorneys in Hutchinson and Kansas City, Kansas, were then alerted and preparations made to file a suit in Federal District Court for an injunction to restrain Shoemake, Doherty and others from interfering with the operation of our office or attempting to evict Mrs. Frick therefrom.

"Some three hours later, late Thursday afternoon, I received a call from Michael Monroney (son of Senator Monroney of Oklahoma), the Executive Administrative Assistant

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to Postmaster General Day. His attitude was conciliatory, and he stated Postmaster General Day felt I should have the office space. Monroney indicated there were, of course, some in the Department who were inclined to be somewhat political, but he hoped we had not been inconvenienced.

"Let me state that this was an obvious and deliberate attempt to deny me available office space. I have written Postmaster Day requesting a full investigation, particularly of the activity of Charles Shoemaker and Joseph P. Doherty. Their conduct is indeed strange when we consider the space was originally made available to Mr. Breeding during the Eisenhower administration, but it should point out to Republicans and Democrats in western Kansas the utter disregard some bureaucrats have for the rights of others and the lengths they will pursue to 'steam roller' anyone who stands in their way. It is also interesting to note that not a single person within the First District, either Republican or Democrat, publicly objected to continuing the office arrangement. The controversy was stirred up by Wichita and Washington, D. C. bureaucrats. The harassment, in addition to upsetting the normal operation of our Hutchinson and Washington offices, has presumably cost the government hundreds of dollars in phone calls and telegrams, all to satisfy the political lust of a handful of bureaucrats within the Post Office Department. It is not difficult to understand the huge postal deficit when such completely political activity is permitted to go on unchecked.

"With the battle over, it is my hope the Hutchinson office can be of service to all the people of western Kansas."