

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 18 --- Wichita's economic development problems associated with cutbacks in aerospace employment will be the subject of a hearing in Wichita, Feb. 26, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said today.

Dole, a member of the Economic Development Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Public Works, will chair the hearing.

"The Subcommittee," Dole explained, "is studying both short and long-term solutions to under-employment and unemployment problems in preparation for drafting legislation for a national economic development program." "Field hearings are being conducted throughout the country," Dole said, "but we are particularly interested in the Wichita experience." "It will provide us with an opportunity to examine the proper Federal response to situations where plant closings, loss of vital natural resources, or elimination of government facilities created economic distress," the Kansas Senator explained.

"Leaders in the Wichita area," Dole continued, "are making strides in overcoming many of the problems. They are, however, facing many of the same problems in the application of Federal programs that are being encountered in other areas of the country."

Dole said:

The Subcommittee is looking at new ways to promote economic development. It is concerned with such questions as what constitutes proper development, how to determine the development goals and objectives of state and local governments, and how the federal government could be structured to better assist state and local governments in meeting these responsibilities.

There are indications, Dole said, that economic development programs need thorough re-evaluation, and possibly re-structuring. Although the Subcommittee's study is still in very early states, it seems possible that more emphasis on state programs could be part of its recommendations, Dole said.

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Invitations to appear as witnesses have been extended to Kansas Governor Robert B. Docking, U.S. Sen. James B. Pearson, U.S. Rep. Garner E. Shriver, and more than a dozen public officials, businessmen and citizens.

The hearing will be held in the auditorium of the Wichita Public Library, 223 S. Main Street, Wichita, beginning at 10 a.m.

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TENTATIVE WITNESS LIST EDA HEARING

Hon. James B. Pearson
N.S.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Wesley Sowers, Consultant
State Senator
Union Center Building
Wichita, Ks.

Robert B. Docking
Governor
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Ks. 66612

Donald Pray, President
MAVDA
120 Ida
Wichita, Ks. 67211

Hon. Garner E. Shriver
H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Gene Miller
Mayor
Andover, Ks. 67002

William Avery, President
Real Petroleum
6810 W. Kellogg
Wichita, Ks. 67209

Gene Adams, Butler Co. Chr., EDA
1845 Chelsea
El Dorado, Ks.

Donald H. Alldritt, President
Mid-Continent Securities Co., Inc.
Suite 700
200 W. Douglas
Wichita, Ks. 67202

Frank Becker, Chairman
El Dorado Development Corp.
301 South Summit
El Dorado, Ks. 67042

A. Price Woodward
Mayor
104 S. Main
Wichita, Ks.

John Ivy
1620 Montana
El Dorado, Ks. 67042

Elmer S. Peters, Chairman
Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners
Room 320
County Courthouse
Wichita, Ks. 67203

Lester C. Arvin
State Senator
Rose Hill, Ks. 67133

Dr. Othello Curry (KOMBE)
144 N. Mosley
Wichita, Ks. 67202

Lowell D. Denniston, President
Chamber of Commerce
121 N. Broadway
Wichita, Ks. 67202