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WASHINGTON, D.C., August 16, 1971 ---- U.S. Senators James B. Pearson, Bob Dole and Congressman Garner E. Shriver, Kansas Republicans, were informed today by the Department of the Air Force that Beech Aircraft has been awarded a new contract in the amount of \$1,810,568.

The contract funds are to be used to design, develop, fabricate and test a surface attack guided missile. Dole said that the work which will be performed in Wichita is a modification of an earlier program, and is expected to be completed in about a year.

Concerning the possible effect the Beech contract could have on Wichita employment, Dole explained that the contract was primarily for development rather than production, so its effect will be to maintain present employment levels. The Kansas Senator added, however, "that if the developmental program proves to be successful, it offers great potential in terms of additional Kansas employment."