



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 15, 1972 ---- U.S. Senators James B. Pearson and Bob Dole, Kansas Republicans, met with Acting Administrator Rod Kreger of the General Services Administration today concerning the progress of the proposed Federal Office Building for Topeka.

The Kansas Senators, who first urged construction of the building more than a year ago, called the meeting having learned recently that the detailed survey report has been completed by the Kansas City Regional Office and sent to the GSA central office in Washington.

The Senators and Kreger met in Dole's Senate office to discuss the best possible means of expediting the survey report through the Washington office and for getting approval of the needed federal funds.

Kreger pointed out that the major barrier to submitting the building proposal for Office of Management and Budget approval was notification by the Postal Service as to its space requirements. To date, the Postal Service has not told GSA whether it will wish to locate in the building or if so, the amount of space it would need.

In response to this situation, Pearson and Dole have written the Postmaster General requesting the Postal Service's prompt action, pointing out that "efforts to meet the needs of the people of Kansas as well as the needs of the other federal agencies are being prolonged because of the Postal Service's delay." They expressed their hopes that the Postal Service could make its wishes known in the "immediate future" so planning on the Topeka facility could proceed at the most rapid possible pace.

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The initial request for the new Topeka federal building was submitted by Dole to GSA on March 9, 1971. In early November, Dole announced that a prospectus recommending construction of the project, to the Committees on Public Works in the Congress. Dole is a member of the Senate Public Works Committee. In the same month, Pearson and Dole announced that GSA had ordered a detailed study into the needs for such a building. This report has recently been completed, and Kreger confirmed today that it has been received by GSA in Washington.

Pearson and Dole, who have been in frequent contact with GSA officials here since proposing the project, stressed today that the groundwork for the building now appears to be nearly done and expressed their hopes that there would be no unnecessary delay. Dole said he is hopeful that "its course will not be slowed by any bureaucratic problems in Washington." The Senators pointed out to Kreger that several agencies in the Kansas capital city are now scattered in various leased spaces, and that consolidation of these agencies into one federal building would provide both greater convenience for those using the services, and greater efficiency and economy for the government.

Among those departments and agencies that might be housed in the new Topeka building are: the departments of Agriculture, Defense, Interior, Labor, Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development; and the Civil Service Commission, U.S. Postal Service and Selective Service.