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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DEDICATION SPEECH -- HANSEN MEMORIAL PLAZA

LOGAN, KANSAS by SENATOR BOB DOLE

It is more than a pleasure to be here in Logan on this very special occasion. It is a privilege.

Dane Hansen was a good friend and a good man. He never asked for thanks for all the good works he did. He didn't seek publicity or public credit during his life. And I am sure he wouldn't entirely approve if he knew I was going to try to thank him for it now.

So I won't do that, exactly. It is really impossible to thank him now anyway -- not because his passing has made it impossible, but because the magnitude of his accomplishments and of his giving, has made it impossible to ever say thank you adequately to Dane Hansen.

HELPING PEOPLE -- HANSEN'S WAY OF LIFE

Perhaps it is enough to say that Dane Hansen was a good man whose chief motivating interest was a simple one -- he tried to help people when he could. It was his way of life. And through the establishment of this foundation, he sought to ensure that it continued even after his death.

Dane Hansen was a self-made man, and through the foundation, he left a part of himself behind to ensure that the principles he believed in would be furthered and that his giving would go on.

This Plaza we dedicate today is eloquent testimony to the wide variety of human interests the foundation seeks to serve. In one building, it houses a library, a museum, an exhibition hall and community meeting place -- all set aside to help serve the cultural, educational and recreational needs of this Logan community.

FOUNDATION WIDELY INVOLVED

Alone, the Plaza would be a fitting memorial to Mr. Hansen. But in addition to it, there are:

*A boy Scout camp in Kirwin, where area boys can learn sound values and practise self-reliance.

*Here in Logan there is a community pool and other recreational facilities for the enjoyment of the residents.

*There are a Methodist Church and a Catholic Parish Hall, constructed with foundation assistance and the Lutheran Hospital's Nurse Clinician Training Program owes as much to the foundation's help as it does to the tenacity of my good friend Huck Boyd, who worked with the foundation to make the program possible.

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Scholarships for area students, care for the aged, and indeed all manner of social, cultural, educational, recreational and spiritual services are being provided or supported by the foundation. The wide range of its involvements parallel the wide range of interests of Dane Hansen himself. His accomplishments were wide ranging because he possessed a great variety of talents and because of his deep insights into the wide range of human possibilities open to every man and woman.

It was his ambition to explore as many of them as he could himself and to make it possible for others to do the same. His concern, in other words, was not with the quantity of material things we could accumulate, but in the quality of the lives we lead.

In this regard, this Plaza building by itself is no memorial. Its use by you, the people of the Logan community will be the true memorial. Here you can study and learn, recreate and celebrate, discuss, debate and associate. And that will be a most fitting memorial to Dane Hansen.

COUNTRY CAN LEARN FROM LOGAN

In Washington, and throughout the country, we are presently engaged in a debate of great importance and serious implication. The essential question before us is this: can the people -- meaning you and me -- really handle our own affairs, or must the government try to do everything for us? The people of Logan and of Philips County -- and I believe most Kansans -- are living proof that we don't need big government to solve our problems or to impose on us some bureaucratic definition of the good life. We can decide for ourselves what the good life is, and go out and try to achieve it. That is what Dane Hansen did for himself. His foundation is dedicated to furthering that same philosophy and to serving people who share it.

It is a pleasure to be among people who think that way. If only everyone did, half the problems we discuss in Congress could be easily resolved. I ask you to consider that my challenge in the Congress -- namely convincing many of my colleagues that people don't want and don't need big government watching over them every step of the way -- is also your challenge. Let me know of your views about the big issues in the news. And never hesitate to send me not only your opinions, but your good ideas.

There is always a shortage of them in Washington.

And there is usually more than enough good ideas in Kansas, that you can pass along. Logan has a tradition of sharing. Dane Hansen was a prime example of that tradition. Please keep it going and share your good ideas with the country.