

121



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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KANSAS CITY MAY SOON BECOME MOST IMPORTANT TRADE CENTER

Statement by Senator Bob Dole

Kansas City, recently designated as a Foreign Trade Zone, is now in an excellent position to become one of the most important commercial centers in the United States. Not only will this trade zone facility be the largest in the continental U.S., it will be the only one between the Great Lakes and the Gulf and West Coast.

A Foreign Trade Zone is where goods may be manufactured, assembled, exhibited, or stored for an indefinite period without customs duties. Goods may be shipped into the zone, assembled and exported without paying duty. However, if these goods enter the U.S. market, duties are automatically levied.

The establishment of a Foreign Trade Zone will be a valuable and important addition to the economy of the area. Kansas City's transportation has now been developed to offer unequalled business advantages. Excellent water transportation via the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers facilitates shipping to all parts of the world. Five interstate highways connect Kansas City to every urban center in the nation. Its geographical location places it not more than 1,900 miles from any point in the continental U.S., and by the next federal census Kansas City will have become the nation's population center as well. The great rail routes fan out to all points on the compass, and last year's dedication of the Kansas City International Airport assures the most modern and flexible jet-age facilities anywhere in the world.

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-2-

Kansas City is now in a position to develop new status as an international city by combining its transportation resources with its unique warehouse and manufacturing space.

The Foreign Trade Zone will also increase the important agricultural exports and will continue to make Kansas one of the leading contributors to a favorable American balance of payments. And through the contacts and confidence developed at this level of activity, it appears inevitable that our agricultural customers who visit Kansas will appreciate the many advantages and attractions of doing business in this area.

-30-