



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

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PRESIDENT SIGNS SCHOOL LUNCH BILL - KANSAS IMPACT AID ASSURED

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senator Bob Dole today announced final White House approval of the School Lunch Bill which, in addition to increasing the federal contribution to the school lunch and milk programs, also contains provisions which will make 94 federally impacted Kansas school districts eligible for federal payments during 1974.

Dole, a Senate Conferee on the School Lunch Bill, said the bill is important to the State of Kansas as it will provide much needed financial relief for school lunch programs and in addition will permit approximately \$8 million in federal impact payments be made to eligible Kansas school districts.

Kansas had previously been found ineligible for federal impact aid funds under a September 14 ruling by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. H.E.W. found that provisions of the new Kansas State Aid Equalization Law passed by the State Legislature last year, were in conflict with Section 5(d)2 of the federal statute governing the impact aid program. To avoid these Federal State conflicts, Dole added a Senate Floor amendment to the School Lunch bill which authorizes a one-year suspension of Section 5(d)2 of the



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federal law for Kansas.

"This type of amendment provided the quickest possible legislative solution," Dole said, "and time is important to Kansas since the Fort Leavenworth School District has an immediate need for funds and many of the more heavily impacted districts would have faced financial problems early next year if legislative action had not been taken. The Department of H.E.W. has assured Dole that prompt attention will be given the Leavenworth application and that the first impact aid payment the Fort Leavenworth School District should be in school official hands within two weeks. Fort Leavenworth is the only Kansas impact aid district which has requested payment before the end of the calendar year.

Dole said he had also been working with the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee on a more permanent resolution of the conflict between Kansas and Federal law. This legislative change would be included in the Elementary and Secondary Education legislation now being considered by the Senate Education Subcommittee.

The provision of the federal law which is in question requires that a state not reduce its level of assistance to federally impacted districts merely because federal impact aid payments are being made to that district. Dole said



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he found no opposition in the Senate or among the House Conferees to the School Lunch bill, to waiving this requirement for Kansas since the Kansas law could demonstrate that it maintains the level of state assistance to federally impacted districts. Problems arise, however, when we try to prospectively define in permanent legislation exactly what a state law must do before 5(d)2 can be waived. It is difficult to reach agreement on just where the line should be drawn. Dole said he had submitted several proposed amendments to 5(d)2 for the committees consideration and would continue to work with them to assure a permanent resolution of the problem for Kansas.

The major federally impacted school districts in Kansas and the amount of federal impact aid received last year are as follows:

| <u>District</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 475 | Junction City | 1,549,512 |
| 260 | Derby | 1,000,855 |
| 207 | Fort Leavenworth | 927,813 |
| 437 | Washburn | 902,564 |
| 259 | Wichita | 630,523 |
| 305 | Salina | 586,522 |
| 453 | Leavenworth | 303,825 |
| 512 | Shawnee Mission | 270,293 |
| 501 | Topeka | 216,239 |
| 383 | Manhattan | 111,452 |
| 500 | Kansas City | 102,292 |