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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE EXPRESSES FAITH IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Speaking at Heller School in Neodesha for a Wilson County Republican Fund-raising dinner, Senator Bob Dole said Saturday evening that this Southeastern Kansas community was a shining example of the great achievements which have been realized through the program of revenue sharing.

"The return of Federal dollars to Neodesha has made possible the construction of a much-needed sanitary landfill, as well as some very important street repairs," the Senator pointed out. "In addition, such funds have helped to pay salaries and operating costs of the local fire department, and have been primarily responsible for avoiding new tax levies which might otherwise have been required."

"There has been no ad valorem property tax increase in Neodesha since Revenue Sharing took effect, and this to me illustrates how really meaningful the State and Local Fiscal Assistance law has been throughout Kansas," Dole said. "That is one of the major reasons why I have introduced legislation to extend the concept for another five years."

"Obviously, my Democratic opponent -- who voted against Revenue Sharing and thinks decisions about local projects ought to be controlled by some Federal bureaucrat in Washington, like so many other things he advocates -- doesn't have very much faith in the ability of the American people to resolve their own problems, given the authority and the financial means."

"On the other hand, I believe local units of government which are more accessible to the people can be more responsive to the unique and particular needs of a given community," Dole proclaimed. "And this confidence in people and respect for that ability of local governments to develop flexible programs oriented to the particular needs of their constituents is the whole basis and spirit of the Revenue Sharing philosophy."

Dole stressed that the use of Revenue Sharing funds for such things as landfill and street repairs in Neodesha was a "free decision -- a local decision, unencumbered by multi-page applications for approval and administrative redtape. And most importantly, nobody in Washington told you how to spend that money." He went on to express the belief that "the benefits of revenue sharing and the new balance in the federal system which it has spawned are just beginning to be realized."

"Although there are those who would turn that trend around by centralizing and controlling everything at the Federal level -- whether it be by placing strict requirements on the use of assistance money or by heavy-handed regulation of such things as health care -- I personally intend to fight for continuation of the momentum which we have gained," Dole affirmed. "I am confident that Kansans want and deserve more local discretion, and most certainly they should have it."