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NEWS from

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR HESSTON AND McPHERSON NEAR FUNDING

Washington, D. C. — SENATOR BOB DOLE reported through his Washington office today that economic development grant applications in the neighborhood of one-half million dollars each for the cities of Hesston and McPherson appeared to be near approval by the Economic Development Administration.

DOLE said that he and Fourth District Congressman Garner Shriver had been actively involved with local officials in both cities in an effort to expedite consideration of these proposals.

"Pre-filing conferences in the Denver Regional Office of EDA have been scheduled for both applications. Routinely such conferences are not scheduled unless the application is considered to be meritorious and likely to be funded. Often this step is considered tantamount to approval," DOLE said.

The McPherson proposal, made jointly by city and county officials, calls for funding between \$400,00 and \$500,000 to improve roads and drainage in the primary industrial districts. Many of the improvements to date have been done at local community expense, and Federal support is being sought to complete the public works projects in the industrial areas which contain the Johns Manville and Sterling Drug facilities.

The Hesston proposal would also be in the \$500,000 range, calling for 50 percent funding by EDA, 30 percent funding by the Ozarks Regional Commission, and 10 percent by the local community. The project would expand available water supplies and direct water from the Equis bed five miles west of Hesston into the city's water treatment and distribution system. Expanded water supply is considered key to current industrial expansion plans in Hesston which are estimated to have a potential for creating 800 to 2,000 new jobs.