



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS "NO" TO PUBLIC WORKS JOBS BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole said today he intends to vote to sustain President Ford's veto of the job-creating public works projects and anti-recession aid bill. Characterizing the measure as "highly political" and "economically unsound," he predicted a close vote in the Senate should the House succeed in its expected override attempt.

"There is just no way a responsible legislator can support a massive \$6.1 billion spending proposal which will have only a questionable impact on employment conditions but a very definite one on Federal deficits and the price of goods. We must keep in mind that American workers are taxpayers and consumers as well."

The Senator pointed out that there is considerable difference of opinion over the number of jobs that might actually result from the measure -- ranging all the way from the 300,000 per \$1 billion in expenditures proclaimed by its sponsors to no more than 60,000 as computed by a senior research economist at The Urban Institute. "I am persuaded by the fact, however, that by their very nature, public works project costs are very high in materials and equipment and relatively low in employment itself."

"In any event," Dole continued, "the State of Kansas is only assured of ½ of 1% of the total provided under the allocation formula of H.R. 5247 -- or no more than \$12.5 million assuming maximum funding. It's a little hard to reconcile the equity of that for us when Kansas taxpayers will ultimately be responsible for nearly twice that amount in Treasury revenue and government indebtedness."

"My other major objection to this bill is that Kansas localities would receive only \$1,681,600 combined under the so-called countercyclical aid Title -- with the State itself getting nothing, since we are one of nine with current unemployment less than 6%. Compare that with the more than \$215 million earmarked for the State of New York and you can readily see in whose favor this legislation is slanted."

"Unfortunately," Dole commented, "there is an unrelated but very worthwhile portion of the jobs proposal under which Kansas could boost its wastewater treatment plant construction grants by some \$41 million. In fact, I voted for the amendment that made that possible in the Senate -- but it's not enough to justify, on balance, supporting the overall package."

Dole made the observation that a year ago May, when the public employment concept was first under consideration by Congress, it "might have made some sense" as far as curbing the recession was concerned. "But now," he added, "with a strong recovery underway and unemployment having made its biggest drop in 15 years last month, its timeliness has not only faded -- but enactment could very well backfire and do nothing but contribute to higher inflation, lower productivity, and the need for increased taxes."

"Congress has been famous for building up false hopes among the American public by passing high-sounding new spending programs that simply don't deliver," the Senator maintained. "I'm convinced that this is another election-year example of that practice -- and I cannot, in good conscience, be a part of it."