



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTAL JOB PROGRAM

KANSAS CITY--At the urging of Sen. Bob Dole (R-Ks), the Department of Labor has selected Wichita as one of five sites for an experimental "job club" program for welfare recipients. The program is designed to help public assistance recipients find jobs which pay as much as one-third more than the average job currently available to welfare clients.

The Wichita program will enable the labor department to evaluate the feasibility of using this approach to help welfare recipients participating in the Work Incentive Program (WIN) find productive employment.

"A primary reason for unemployment is that the unemployed frequently don't know how to find jobs, how to get an interview, how to answer tough questions from potential employers," Dole said. "This program shows them how. And most importantly, it lowers the unemployment level without relying on public work programs."

JOB CLUB: A NEW APPROACH TO JOB HUNTING

In July, Sen. Dole wrote the originator of the program, Dr. Nathan Azrin, director of treatment development for Illinois' mental health department, asking him to test the job program in a Kansas city.

The job club concept, which Dole said should be used much more widely, uses new techniques and stresses special ways to use common job finding methods.

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A study completed by Azrin in 1974 found the approach very successful. Ninety per cent of those in Azrin's experimental group found work within two months, compared with 55 per cent of the control group using conventional job hunting techniques but without counseling. At the end of three months, 40 per cent of the uncounseled were still unemployed. All of Azrin's group had found jobs.

Azrin's techniques include mutual assistance among job seekers, sharing of job leads and family support. Conventional methods such as searching want ads, telephoning, role-playing, motivating the job seeker, constructing a resume and contacting friends for job leads are given a fresh twist.

The four other test sites are New Brunswick, New Jersey; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; New York City and San Francisco.