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 This press release was used in Sublette, Ulysses, Johnson City & Syracuse, We will send out across state also. Randy Miller

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WESTERN KANSAS FACES WATER CRISIS IN EIGHTIES

ULYSSES, KAN.-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today that the eighties will be critical in finding solutions to the "water crisis" facing western Kansas. Following is the text of his statement:

"Possibly the most important issue facing western Kansas in the eighties will be the growing scarcity of water. Nowhere is water more critical for sustaining the crops and communities. In western Kansas, where rain falls infrequently and rivers often run dry, groundwater is the lifeblood of the economy. Specifically, we are dependent on the great underwater lake known as the Ogallala Aquifer, the source of our groundwater.

"But the Ogallala Aquifer is slowly running dry. There is a real danger that if we fail to act in the eighties we could face serious crisis in the nineties. Water promises to be a major national issue in coming decades, but it will be most critical in communities like Sublette, Ulysses, Johnson City and Syracuse. The people of western Kansas know this, but almost no one in Washington is talking about the problem. We still have water, and shortages quickly pass. This must change. In the long run, no problem is more important or deserves more immediate attention.

*complaisance.*

"Three things must be done in the coming months:

- o "Several years ago Congress commissioned a \$6 million study of strategies for handling the water problem on the High Plains. Initial results of that study will be reported to congress in February. I will work to see that proposed solutions are implemented without delay.
- o "Congress must restructure the way it funds water conservation projects. We are presently tied in regulatory knots in Washington. It is disgraceful when it takes a complete generation to complete a water project. We must find alternatives to the present authorization and appropriations process for funding these efforts to save water. One promising alternative is the block grant approach, which would give the states more discretion in allocating money.
- o "We must elect Ronald Reagan. We have a great opportunity to put a westerner in the White House who understands water problems west of the Mississippi."