

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR MORE FEDERAL OFFICE SPACE IN KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS ---- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today urged a Congressional subcommittee meeting in Kansas City to target the Kansas side of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area for any future federal office projects.

"Concerned with a lopsided imbalance in Federal office space that places only seven-percent of Government office space on the Kansas side of Kansas City, Senator Dole issued the following statement to the House Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds. The statement was offered by Senator Dole's Legislative Liason for Kansas, Max Klein. The hearings were conducted at the Kansas City, Kansas Community Junior College. Senator Dole's statement:

"We respectfully request that in your deliberations that you be cognizant of the fact that at the present time, the preponderance of Federal office space both owned and leased in the Kansas City area is located on the Missouri side. To be specific on this, the figures we have recently obtained from GSA show a grand total of owned and leased floor space in the Metropolitan Area of 4,966,588 square feet. Of this total only 336,352 square feet, or 7%, is located on the Kansas side. When you consider that according to the 1980 Census, 33%, or 442,604 people of the Metropolitan Area total of 1,327,087 people live in Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. I'm sure you will agree that strong consideration should be given to constructing or leasing future facilities in these two counties.

"If you could obtain the information, you would find that a sizeable number of federal employees in the Metropolitan Area live in Wyandotte County, as well as Johnson County in Kansas. Unfortunately, we do not have an employee location study at this time to substantiate this, but we are reasonably certain that it would show what I have stated. Assuming this is true, perhaps transportation costs could be reduced by locating the facilities closer to the employees' residences.

"One request for space that will come to your attention in the not-too-distant future, will be for a sizeable addition needed in the next 6-8-10 years in the range of 17,500 to/20,000 square feet in Kansas City, Kansas for additional court hearing rooms and administrative space. This space request is presently being reviewed by the Space and Facilities Section of the Federal Court system in Washington, D. C. Their findings should be available in the next sixty to ninety days.

"We fully appreciate, as do you Members of the Committee, that budget restraints are in front of all members of the House and Senate. And we support your efforts to provide only those facilities that are absolutely necessary, at the same time providing facilities of a quality that will attract and help retain dedicated public servants who work for the United States Government agencies."