

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, May 2, 1986

CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER  
(202) 224-6521

### DOLE, KASSEBAUM SEEK TO GET FULL GRASSLANDS PAYMENT FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR MORTON COUNTY

Washington, DC -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum have asked the U.S. Justice Department for a legal opinion that is worth more than \$43,000 to Morton County, Kansas. At issue are funds normally paid to the county in lieu of property taxes on Cimarron National Grasslands and reductions in government spending mandated by the Gramm- Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law.

"Morton County had been used to receiving a payment of \$74,000 from the government, an amount equaling 25-percent of rents, royalties and other income generated at Cimarron," said Sen. Dole. "But when the check finally arrived, it was for \$27,839. The county should have received no less than \$71,000, reflecting the maximum reduction of 4.3-percent mandated by Gramm-Rudman."

Sen. Dole said that "by a quirk of fate, Morton County's payment - along with those to other grassland jurisdictions - was cut 60-percent. Because other major expenditures in the Payments to States program - from which funds to Morton County are paid - had already been made, the grasslands fund absorbed higher spending reductions."

Dole said both the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) claim the reduction is required under Gramm-Rudman. "But we know that it was Congress' intent, in adopting Gramm-Rudman, to spread as equally as possible all spending reductions - meaning a line item cut of 4.3-percent."

In a letter to Attorney General Edwin Meese, Dole and Kassebaum wrote, "Applying the 4.3-percent rate resulted in a reduction of \$9.7 million" for the Payments to States program, but because funds of two other components had already been expended, "the entire 4.3-percent reduction was taken from the national grassland payments to counties - effectively reducing these payments by over 60-percent. We feel so drastic a reduction is inequitable."

In addition to asking the Justice Department for a legal opinion on the issue, Dole and Kassebaum are co-sponsoring legislation to immediately correct the problem by making full payments.