

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE, DANFORTH ANNOUNCE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEEDS WORKERS

Washington, D.C. -- Senators Bob Dole (R-Kan), John Danforth (R-MO), and Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan) today announced that \$1 million will be made available by the U.S. Department of Labor to help retrain autoworkers laid off at the Leeds assembly plant. The grant provides for the establishment of a joint UAW-GM resource center and is expected to serve 900 dislocated autoworkers in the Kansas City area.

"While this federal assistance can not compensate for the hardship associated with these layoffs, it can cushion the burden of worker adjustment through job retraining. In the past, I have communicated my interest to General Motors Chairman Roger Smith in keeping the Leeds plant open and I will continue to support the initiatives of Mayor Berkley and Governor Ashcroft to preserve jobs," said Senator Dole.

Senator Danforth stated, "The shutdown is a tragedy for the people at Leeds and for the community. No federal or state aid can repair the damage. This action by the Labor Department is very worthwhile first aid. It surely is needed. But obviously the only real solution is for GM to find a way to reopen Leeds by making automobiles with a solid position in the market."

The resource center will be located at the Penn Valley Community College and will provide services including assessment, counseling, remedial education, classroom training, on-job training, and supportive services such as child care and relocation assistance. The project will also assist dislocated workers laid off earlier from the Fairfax I plant in Kansas City, Kansas.