

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 8, 1988

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
(202) 224-5358

DOLE, KASSEBAUM CONTINUE PUSH FOR JOB CORPS CENTER;
LETTER TO LABOR SECRETARY BACKS 1984 TASK FORCE SITE SELECTION:
MANHATTAN SUPPORT AT "ALL TIME HIGH"

WASHINGTON -- SENATORS BOB DOLE AND NANCY KASSEBAUM REMINDED THE U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR THIS WEEK THAT A NEW JOB CORPS CENTER FOR KANSAS IS STILL A TOP PRIORITY, AND THAT ANY NEW LABOR DEPARTMENT FUNDING COMING OUT OF CONGRESS THIS MONTH SHOULD INCLUDE FINANCING FOR A FEDERAL TRAINING CENTER IN THE SUNFLOWER STATE.

IN A LETTER TO LABOR SECRETARY ANN McLAUGHLIN, THE KANSAS SENATORS UNDERSCORED THAT "KANSAS IS ONE OF ONLY SIX STATES THAT DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE SUCH A CENTER, AND CONGRESS HAS CLEARLY INDICATED ITS INTENT THAT NEW CENTERS BE LOCATED IN STATES THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT IN THE PAST".

FUNDING FOR THE CENTER HAS BEEN ON HOLD BECAUSE OF FEDERALLY MANDATED ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS, BUT THAT SITUATION WILL BE CHANGING THIS MONTH WITH A NEW LABOR DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH CONGRESS.

DOLE TOOK THE LEAD ON THE JOB CORPS CENTER IN 1982 WHEN HE BEGAN A CAMPAIGN TO BRING KANSAS INTO THE NATIONAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAM. HIS WORK PAID OFF IN THE SPRING OF 1984 WHEN SECRETARY OF LABOR RAY DONOVAN TELEPHONED SENATOR DOLE WITH SOME GOOD NEWS: KANSAS WAS ON LINE FOR ITS FIRST-EVER JOB CORPS CENTER.

DOLE THEN ESTABLISHED A 12-MEMBER TASK FORCE -- HEADED BY TOPEKA BROADCAST EXECUTIVE JERRY HOLLEY -- TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE SITE SELECTION PROCESS WAS FAIR, INDEPENDENT OF POLITICS AND SUBJECT TO VIGOROUS STATEWIDE COMPETITION.

THE TASK FORCE SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED MANHATTAN AS THE FUTURE HOME OF THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR JOB TRAINING FACILITY.

IN THEIR LETTER THIS WEEK, SENATORS DOLE AND KASSEBAUM BACKED THE TASK FORCE'S DECISION BY CALLING MANHATTAN "AN EXCELLENT LOCATION" AND THAT "THE PREVIOUSLY SELECTED SITE IS STILL AVAILABLE AND COULD BE PURCHASED AT A SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PRICE THAN THE 1984 BID".

(DOLE/KASSEBAUM LETTER ATTACHED).

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 7, 1988

The Honorable Ann McLaughlin
Secretary
U. S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N W.
Washington, D. C. 20210

Dear Ann:

This letter is to continue our communication on the issue of a new job corps center for Kansas. As you are aware, the FY 1989 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation bill will contain funding for the creation of new job corps centers. Kansas is one of only six states that do not currently have such a center, and Congress has clearly indicated its intent that new centers be located in states that have been left out in the past.

Back in 1984, under your predecessor, Secretary Brock, the Labor Department authorized a site selection process for the establishment of a job corps center in Kansas. This process resulted in the selection of Manhattan, Kansas as a recommended site. However, funding has not been forthcoming in the interim.

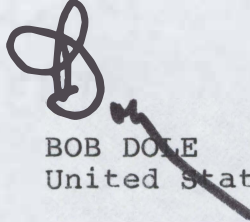
Manhattan remains an excellent location for a jobs corps center, and it is our understanding that the previously selected site is still available and could be purchased at a significantly reduced price than the 1984 bid.

If past indicators are accurate, Kansas should produce more than enough students to keep 300 slots in a job center filled to capacity with trainees. Under the current situation, Kansas sends its jobs corps students to centers in other states, including Utah, Missouri, and Kentucky. Having a center in Kansas would allow these students to be served in closer proximity to their home environments.

There has been some mention that your Department is considering initiating a new site selection process. We believe this would be costly and unnecessary. Although the existing feasibility study may need to be updated in order to reconfirm the results, this could be accomplished in a more cost-effective and expeditious way than would be required by a full site selection process.

Community support for a Manhattan job corps center continues to be at an all-time high. The program has an outstanding track record in training disadvantaged young people, and it is our hope that the Manhattan community will soon be able to participate in these worthwhile efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bob Dole", written over the typed name.

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nancy Kassebaum", written over the typed name.

NANCY KASSEBAUM
United States Senate

BACKGROUND ON JOB CORPS CENTER

A Job Corps Center is designed to house and provide a full range of services (food, basic education, vocational training, medical care, counseling and related support services) for disadvantaged young people ages 15 to 21. The goal of the program is to help Corps members to become responsible adults, prepared to obtain and hold productive jobs, return to school or further training, or satisfy the Armed Forces entrance requirements.

- There are 107 Job Corps Centers located throughout the nation, but Kansas has never had one. Young Kansans selected to participate in the Job Corps program are currently being transferred to Utah.

- The characteristics of Job Corps enrollees can be summarized as follows:

Age range 15-21 (average 18); entry reading level is that of a sixth grader; 75% of enrollees have never been employed full-time; the average annual family income of enrollees is \$5,389 (excluding families receiving public assistance).

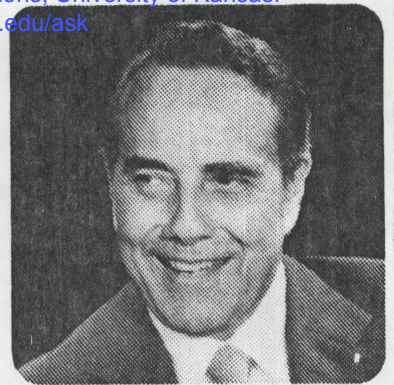
- The effects of Job Corps participation can be summarized as follows (this is a comparison between Job Corps graduates and comparable persons who did not participate in the Job Corps program):

Job Corps enrollees are twice as likely to attend college; they are five times as likely to obtain a high school diploma or equivalent degree; the net increase in employment is almost four weeks per year.

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News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

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