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DOLE ANNOUNCES \$823 MILLION FOR WICHITA AREA PROJECTS IN DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL: TTTS, KC-135R TANKER PROGRAM, AND V-22 OSPREY R&D INCLUDED IN BILL

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) announced today that the Senate Armed Services Committee has endorsed authorization for \$823.2 million for projects in the Wichita area. The committee today concluded mark-up of the FY91 Department of Defense Authorization bill which includes the funding. The bill now goes to the Senate floor for action.

KC-135R

The committee authorized \$400 million for the KC-135R Tanker modification program performed by Boeing Military Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kansas. The KC-135R program modifies existing Air Force tankers with new engines and other modifications which extend the life of the aircraft and make them more effective and efficient.

"In this time of tough budget decisions, I believe that it is vital to buy smart. The KC-135R program is a very good deal for the taxpayer because each newly modified tanker begins saving dollars immediately through improved fuel efficiency and greater performance, " said Dole.

The committee authorized full funding of \$185.2 million for the Tanker Transport Training System (TTTS). At the heart of the TTTS is a specially modified business jet manufactured by Beech Aircraft. These business jets, named the "Jayhawk," will be used to train Air Force pilots well into the 21st century. Committee action authorizes 28 additional aircraft for 1991.

"Kansas is the world's leader in aviation," observed Dole. "The Committee's full support for the 'Jayhawk' represents a continued vote of confidence in our ability to deliver."

V-22 Osprey

In other committee action, \$238 million was authorized for continued research and development of the V-22 Osprey. The V-22 is a unique vertical take off and landing aircraft which takes off like a helicopter and is capable of rotating its movable wing mounted engines for level flight like a conventional airplane. The Osprey is under development for the Marine Corps. Several Kansas firms are subcontractors on the V-22 team headed by Bell Helicopter and Boeing.

"The V-22 Osprey represents the kind of cutting edge technology that is vital to American industrial and technological competitiveness," said Dole. "Kansas is playing an important role in the production of new composite materials and other critical components for the Ospery."

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FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS OF THIS GREAT UNION, OUR LIBERTIES HAVE BEEN SECURED BY THE COURAGE OF THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES. THE SACRIFICES HAVE BEEN BORNE BY THOSE ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND BY THEIR FAMILIES THAT STOOD BY THEM THROUGH THICK AND THIN. THESE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE OFTEN STOOD ALONE WAITING FOR THE HOME COMING, OR HAD TO BEAR THE TERRIBLE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED ONES. WE ALL OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE AND A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THIS SPECIAL GROUP OF AMERICANS. NOWHERE IS THIS RESPONSIBILITY MORE EVIDENT THAN IN OUR DUTY TO OBTAIN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF AMERICANS MISSING-IN-ACTION.

THE VIGILANCE AND DETERMINATION THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEMAND THAT HANOI LEAD THE WAY, WITH FULL AND OPEN DISCLOSURE, ACCOUNTING FOR THE OVER 2300 AMERICANS STILL MISSING. EACH OF YOU HERE TODAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO OUR BEST EFFORT. YOUR PRESENCE HERE ONLY REAFFIRMS THE DETERMINATION TO GET ANSWERS TO THAT ACCOUNTING.

WITH THE SWEEPING CHANGES MOVING ACROSS THE WORLD TODAY, ARE TOLD THAT THERE ARE GREAT GAINS TO BE MADE IN COMPROMISE, AND THE FORGETTING OF PAST HOSTILITIES. BUT IT HAS TO BE A TWO WAY STREET. WE ARE ASKED TO GIVE, AND FORGIVE AND FORGET. AND HISTORY HAS PROVEN TIME AND AGAIN THAT WE ARE THE WE CAN, MOST GIVING AND FORGIVING NATION THERE HAS EVER BEEN. BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE MUST SACRIFICE OUR IDEALS IN THE PROCESS. IF THE NATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OUR ENEMIES WANT OUR HELP, THEN THEY MUST STEP FORWARD IN GOOD FAITH. THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF THE POST WORLD WAR TWO ERA HAS BEEN THAT WE MUST STICK TOGETHER AND SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO OUR RIVALS. THE SAME COURSE THAT SECURED THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA, EUROPE, AND SOUTH AMERICA, MUST BE THE SAME FOR VIETNAM. WE MUST HANG TOUGH. WE MUST STICK TOGETHER ON THE ISSUE OF OUR MISSING-IN-ACTION. YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY IS A CLEAR AND STRONG MESSAGE THAT WE WILL HANG TOUGH. WITH THE HELP OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE AND EACH OF YOU HERE TODAY, WE REMIND ALL AMERICANS THAT WE WILL NOT FORGET THE BRAVE AMERICANS WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH.