

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 3, 1993

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

WHITE HOUSE'S \$23 MILLION LIE

CLINTON MISSES BOAT ON WICHITA BOATHOUSE

Wrong again! The White House was wrong on the so-called stimulus bill, and they're wrong on the Wichita boathouse. The Clinton administration really missed the boat on this one. It's a \$23 million lie, and there's no way the White House can defend it.

The fact is my letter was a waiver request that had nothing to do with the President's so-called stimulus bill and its billions of dollars in deficit spending. Here are the facts:

- 1) Wichita received \$500,000 from the federal government's CDBG program in 1980 -- that's right, 13 years ago! -- to help purchase and renovate a senior citizen center. Local matching funds helped finish the project.
- 2) The senior center closed in 1992 to move its operations to a larger facility.
- 3) Since that time, the vacant building on the edge of the Arkansas River has turned into a hangout for drugs and crime.
- 4) As a result, city officials -- instead of paying to demolish the building -- now want to lease the building to a charitable foundation that intends to rehabilitate the vacant building with private funds to turn it into a boathouse. To change the purpose of this building, the city was required by law to seek a waiver from HUD.
- 5) The city asked me and area Congressman Dan Glickman to approach HUD to urge that Wichita's request for a waiver be carefully considered -- a request for a waiver of purpose, not a request for new money and deficit spending. On March 5th, my Wichita office sent a letter to HUD asking that the city's waiver request be considered.
- 6) The White House lied.
- 7) There's no \$23 million boathouse, no deficit spending, no new money, no connection with the President's deadbeat "stimulus" bill, and no truth coming from a White House staff that is ill-serving the President with these sophomoric attacks.
- 8) If the White House wants to play hardball, I'm ready to suit up.

So it looks like another ploy from the never-ending Clinton campaign has backfired. It may be a joke to the White House, but the American people aren't laughing at the Clinton Administration's petty political games -- the American people want the White House to move on to serious issues, such as health care reform, reducing the deficit, waging war on crime, and bringing peace to Bosnia.

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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

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AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN: SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WHEAT, SOYBEANS AND FEED GRAINS

JUDICIARY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1604

401 N. MARKET ST.
ROOM 134
WICHITA, KS 67202
(316) 262-8396

335 N. WASHINGTON
SUITE 220
MUTCHINGS, KS 67501
(316) 668-8011

February 16, 1993

OFFICE OF CPD
KANSAS CITY
REGIONAL OFFICE

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Mr. Miguel P. Madrigal
Director, Office Community Planning & Development
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
400 State Avenue
Gateway Tower II
Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2406

Dear Mr. Madrigal:

I am writing on behalf of the Arkansas River Foundation to request reconsideration of your decision to deny a waiver requiring reimbursement of CDGB funds by the City of Wichita for a vacant building that was acquired and rehabilitated with these funds. I understand that this request was denied in accordance with provision CFR 570.505 (b).

This building is currently vacant and I understand that permits have been issued and bids have been let to raze the structure. Given the fact that demolition of this structure will provide no opportunity for reclamation and that razing it will eliminate any reimbursement requirement on the part of the City of Wichita, I suggest that waiving the reimbursement requirement is a common sense solution.

The net gain for the City under the proposed re-use will be to revitalize a deteriorating area and to provide a source of income to the City through a lease agreement with the Foundation. I believe this is a more positive approach than continuing to allow the property to decline and eventually be demolished.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to reconsider your determination of January 29. If you have questions concerning this matter please contact Melissa Gregory of my office at (316) 262-8396 as she is assisting me with this matter.

With best regards,

Dan Glickman
Dan Glickman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

DG:mag

DOLE

From Page 1A

from the federal or the city - ment." The \$850,000 will all come from donations, including \$500,000 already pledged by former Wichitan Bill Koch.

As envisioned by its boosters, the boathouse would be located in the now-vacant Wichita Senior Services building near the Lewis Street Bridge in downtown Wichita. When the foundation heard the building was to be torn down, it asked to lease the building from the city.

The city agreed, but there was a catch. Because the building was bought years ago with federal money, the federal government needed to approve a new use. Without that

approval, the foundation would have to pay the federal government roughly \$100,000 for a building it was going to tear down anyway.

"What we're saying is, we would like them to waive it so we can use the facility and not tear it down," Schodorf said. "We're trying to keep taxpayer dollars from going to waste that were used to purchase the building."

On March 5, Dole wrote to a Housing and Urban Development official in Kansas, noting that the city of Wichita liked the idea, and - ing his support. Rep. Dan Glickman, a Wichita Democrat, wrote a similar letter, Schodorf said.

It might have ended there, except that last month Dole and his fellow Senate Republicans rankled the Clinton administration by scuttling

Clinton's \$16 billion economic stimulus package. On Friday, The Wall Street Journal reported that Democrats had found Dole's letter and were gleeful that Dole appeared to be shoveling money to Wichita as he was breast-beating about cutting wasteful spending.

Dole was not available for comment Sunday, and his spokesman did not respond to requests for comment. A White House spokesman was asked about Clinton's use of the \$23 million figure but provided no explanation.

But the Wichita boathouse surfaced again on national TV Sunday, when Sam Donaldson of ABC News demanded of Dole, "What's going on here? Are you a porker?"

"I don't know anything about it," Dole replied. "Must have been Ar-

kansas. There's nothing like that happening in Kansas."

"Come on, senator," Donaldson persisted.

Dole replied, "No, I think that's, I think the story is not accurate. ... The accurate story is that we didn't ask for it."

Then Dole added confusingly, "But even if you asked for it, it was probably paid for. You go through the regular process."

Donaldson shot back, "Well, which is it?"

Dole's only explanation: "I have no recollection of it."

Despite having the boathouse project maligned by the president on national TV, Schodorf remained in a generous mood Sunday. He still hopes to see paddleboats, sailboats and canoes ply the Arkansas River

downtown.

"We're not trying to embarrass anybody," he said. "All we're trying to do is get the facts straight so we can go forward. We're still trying to get the walver."

"This project has bipartisan support and we want to keep it that way."

President smacks Dole with boathouse allegation

Project supporters say Clinton off base

By Tom Webb

Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Strange as it seems, Wichita's proposed boathouse has become the subject of a national political rhubarb — and in this political skirmish, truth has become the first casualty.

At a black-tie banquet Saturday night, President Clinton mocked one of his frequent critics — Sen. Bob Dole — by citing Dole's request "to convert a senior citizens' center to a boathouse in Kansas."

Dole was asked about the Arkansas River boathouse on national TV

Sunday, and replied that he doesn't remember the request. The truth is, he did make one.

But Clinton went much further. The president got the banquet crowd roaring when he said that Dole had requested \$23 million in federal aid for the boathouse project, which he implied was "full of pork."

And that is not true, says Wichita attorney Richard Schodorf, vice president of the Arkansas River Foundation. First, because the boathouse will cost only \$850,000 — not \$23 million.

But more importantly, "We're not asking for any federal money at all," Schodorf said. "Not a cent, not

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MONDAY

May 3, 1993

The Wichita Eagle

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The Wichita Eagle

04/30/93

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SEN BOB DOLE'S OFFICE, WICHITA

003

BOB DOLE
KANSAS
141 SENATE HART BUILDING
(202) 224-6821

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1801

March 5, 1993

Mr. Miguel T. Madrigal, Director
Office of Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
400 State Avenue, Gateway Tower II
Kansas City, KS 66101-2406

Dear Mr. Madrigal:

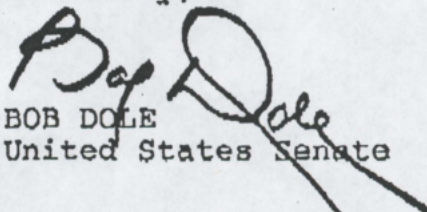
I am writing at the behest of the citizens of Wichita, Kansas. It has come to my attention that the City of Wichita has requested a letter of concurrence from your office concerning the use of a building purchased with funds from a CDBG grant.

It is my understanding that the grant was originally obtained to purchase and renovate the building for use as a center for senior citizens. It is also my understanding that the senior center has moved to new quarters and essentially stripped the interior of the facility when they relocated. The building is currently in a state of disrepair with no occupying tenant, leaving it subject to break-ins and further deterioration.

The City of Wichita is considering leasing the facility to a charitable foundation that intends to renovate the structure and use it as a boat house for the general public. Both the building in question and the boat house concept have historical significance to the city. The proposed public use of the facility as well as the revitalization of this blighted area seem to be goals which fit well within the contemplated purpose of the community grant program.

Respectfully, I ask that every consideration be rendered toward the City of Wichita's request. If you should have any questions or if I may be able to help in any way, please do not hesitate to call on me through my Wichita Senate Office where Dave Spears will assist me in monitoring this request. That address is 100 N. Broadway, Wichita, Kansas 67202, telephone (316) 263-4956, FAX (316) 264-8446.

Sincerely,


BOB DOLE
United States Senate

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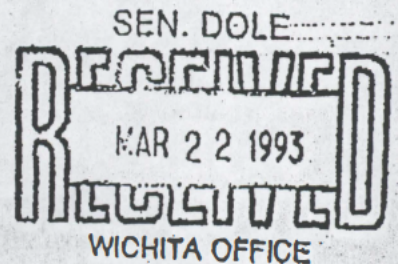
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OFFICE OF CPD
KANSAS CITY
REGIONAL OFFICE



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Kansas City Regional Office, Region VII
Gateway Tower 11
400 State Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2406

March 18, 1993



Honorable Bob Dole
United States Senate
100 North Broadway
Wichita, KS 67202

Dear Senator Dole:

This is in response to your letter dated March 5, 1993, expressing your support for the proposed renovation of a city-owned building previously used as a Senior Center, into a boat house.

This matter has also recently been the subject of interest to both the City of Wichita and Congressman Glickman.

In order to provide you with a complete record to date, we are enclosing all of the incoming and outgoing correspondence on this matter.

With regard to your concern, we refer you to our letter to the city dated January 29, 1993, which states our position. One of the issues we addressed was that there was insufficient information provided by the city to determine whether the proposal meets a national objective of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This is a requirement of all CDBG-funded activities.

We also invite your attention to the City Manager's letter dated March 5, 1993, which outlines the city's current plan.

Your interest in the CDBG program is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at (913) 236-2162.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elmer C. Binford".

Elmer C. Binford
Acting Regional Administrator -
Regional Housing Commissioner

Enclosures