



FROM SENATOR BOB DOLE

MARCH, 1977

95th Congress Begins Work

The Senate devoted the bulk of the first two months of the 95th Congress to reorganizing its own committee system and confirming the President's cabinet choices. I voted for all of President Carter's cabinet-level nominations except Attorney General Griffin Bell and Paul Warnke to be director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and Chief Negotiator in the Strategic Arms Limitation talks with the Soviet Union. I also publicly stated my opposition to the nomination of Ted Sorensen for director of the CIA, before Mr. Sorensen withdrew his name from consideration. In my opinion, both these men were unqualified for the particular national security positions to which they had been named. Warnke had taken inconsistent positions. His past willingness to cut back on military preparedness without regard for the Soviet Union's weapons development plans made him an inappropriate choice to represent our national interests in the arms limitation talks with the Soviets. Sorensen's expressed low opinion of the intelligence gathering system he was to manage made this an especially odd appointment.

SENATE COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

The Senate did approve the first comprehensive revision of its committee system since 1946. While retaining special committees for the problems of the elderly and veterans, the Senate reduced the number of committees from 31 to 25 with four more committees to be abolished by the end of

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Senator Dole talked with Ted Holt during a recent tour of the Boeing plant in Wichita.

Dole Proposals Approved

JOB TAX CREDIT -- Fights unemployment by granting a tax credit to employers who hire new employees during periods of high unemployment. First introduced by Senator Dole in 1965, the measure was included in the economic stimulus packages approved by the full House and a Senate committee.

S. CON. RES. 3 -- Urges the President to create a task force on MIA's and reaffirm the honor of all those who served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. Passed the Senate February 21, 1977.

Issues and Projects Affecting Sedgwick County

Wichita Federal Building -- I recently urged the Administration to give top priority to a new federal office facility for Wichita. It's been nearly three years since construction of new federal offices in Wichita has been actively promoted by the government's property management agency, and I think it's time that plans be taken off the back burner.

The government is currently reviewing federal office needs in Wichita. Several locations are under consideration, including the vacant federally-owned lot in the 300 block of North Main Street, next to the city and county offices.

If the government does not intend to utilize this tract of land, I think it should be sold or given to a public or private party which would develop it, perhaps through construction of office or retail facilities or development of a downtown park.

Of course, other locations should be considered for new federal offices, including the old downtown Post Office building.

I have asked the Administration to provide a complete report on the Wichita federal building project as soon as possible.

Coal Gasification -- Senator Pearson and I have cosponsored an amendment that would allow the use of tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds in financing Wichita's proposed coal gasification plant. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee which has jurisdiction over the proposal, I have already brought it to the attention of the committee members and Chairman Russell Long has agreed that it should be considered within the next few months.

Impact Aid -- Wichita and surrounding community schools receive a substantial amount of federal impact aid funding. (Wichita, \$743,000; Derby, \$1,185,000; Mulvane, \$67,000; Haysville, \$84,000; Goddard, \$19,000; Valley Center, \$11,000; Clearwater, \$10,000; Maize, \$29,000; Cheney, \$6,000). However, President Carter has called for an end to impact aid (which is based on federal employment in a school district), and the future status of the assistance program is in doubt.

Federal Construction Projects -- In December, the Economic Development Admini-

stration distributed some \$10 million worth of "jobs programs" grants in Kansas. A substantial portion of the Kansas allocation -- about \$2.7 million -- has been allocated to projects in Sedgwick County: (1) restoration of the old union terminal railroad station in Wichita for shops, restaurants, and a dinner theater; (2) construction of Shady Brook storm sewer to relieve a severe drainage problem near the WSU campus; (3) engineering installation of traffic signals and street signs at Andale. Additional public works funds will be available in the near future.

School Aid for the Disadvantaged -- Last year, some of the Wichita schools were denied part of their share of federal aid on a legal technicality. The compensatory education program provides funds based on the number of pupils from low-income families. But the law distributes the funds according to where they live, not necessarily where they go to school. I offered an amendment to the education bill to correct this misunderstanding, but the legal situation is still muddled, according to the U.S. Office of Education, and further legislative clarifications may be necessary before the Wichita schools get the money that is due them.

General Aviation -- Foreign sales of Wichita-produced planes have historically provided an important market for the aerospace industry. But, in recent years, foreign governments, particularly Brazil, have been discriminating against U.S. aircraft. We raised this issue in meetings with the special trade negotiator and the Departments of Treasury and Commerce. It is also important that the newly appointed special trade negotiator understand the importance of general aviation exports. I intend to bring this matter to his attention during confirmation hearings.

I strongly opposed the purchase of medium range surveillance aircraft by the Coast Guard that are built by a French firm subsidized by the French government. Our government's purchase of this foreign-built subsidized aircraft gives it an unfair advantage against our own general aviation industry. The contract has been awarded to the French company, but I expect to renew my efforts at the first opportunity.

Your views are important!

I would welcome your advice on the issues that Congress will be considering in the coming months.

Please indicate your views and make any additional comments in the space provided. Clip off this page of the newsletter, fold it so the return address is showing and mail. No postage is required.

As many as three persons may respond.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Do you believe higher prices for heating fuel and other forms of energy will be necessary before supplies can be increased to satisfy future demand?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
Would you be willing to pay higher prices for consumer goods if inflation is the only way to make enough jobs for everyone who wants to work?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
Do you believe that past discrimination justifies job opportunity preferences for members of racial minority groups?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
Do you favor plans for a coal gasification plant in Wichita?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
Do you favor permitting unionization of the armed forces?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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next year. Possibly the most beneficial aspect of the reorganization is the consolidation of energy related activities into a single committee -- on Energy and Natural Resources. Last year, Ford administration officials were called before 159 different committees and subcommittees of Congress and were asked to appear 470 different times to answer questions about the administration's energy bill. Fragmented legislative jurisdiction such as this leads to fragmented policy. The reorganization that has taken place should make it easier for the Senate to make rational decisions about subjects that cut across the jurisdictions of several committees. The reduction in the number of committees and subcommittees will make it easier for Senators to devote more time to each of their committee assignments.

PAY RAISE

Unfortunately, members of Congress gave themselves and some of the top executives a pay raise through the back door without giving the matter full consideration. I favor a review of the entire federal pay system. On a preliminary motion, I voted against the attempt to put the raise for members of Congress and the highest paid executives into effect without full debate.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

It is in the committee where the originating legislative action takes place. It is here Senators meet to write the bills that become the laws. I continue to serve on three of the most important committees.

The Budget Committee is responsible for setting the broad limits on how much

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the federal government spends. For the budget year that ends in September, I voted against the resolution that was approved by the Senate and House. It allows the expenditure of almost \$70 billion more than the government will be taking in -- a deficit I think is much too high. The result will probably be higher prices, more inflation, for all of us. Soon we will be considering the President's budget recommendations for the next fiscal year.

I also serve on the Finance Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over the tax policy. Early in this session we have been considering how best to stimulate the economy and get more people back to work without setting off more inflation. The Carter Administration wants to one-time rebate or return of \$50 on 1976 income taxes due in April. This would put a minimal amount of spending money back in the pockets of consumers. But I would prefer a permanent cut in taxes and a requirement that the government halt the rapid growth in spending. Taxes are the fastest growing expense item in the family budget.

Early in March, I sponsored a bill to reform the food stamp program. The changes that I propose would eliminate those who are not poor and do not deserve the cut-rate food. While eliminating these wasteful expenditures, I would simplify the program for those who do need help.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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