



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1977 BOB DOWNEN

DOLE ASKS FOR GROVE RESERVOIR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today asked the President's Office of Management and Budget, and the Council on Environmental Quality, to provide him with "personal access to all documents, reports and administrative staff instructions" relating to the decision to delete funding for construction of Grove Reservoir during fiscal year 1978. Dole made the requests under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, which guarantees public access to certain documents of the federal government.

Dole expressed particular concern about the delays and uncertainties surrounding Grove Reservoir following the President's surprise announcement on February 21 that it would be deleted from the 1978 budget request. He noted that area farmers and local officials -- some of whom support Grove Reservoir's construction and some of whom are opposed to it -- are being "left in the lurch due to lack of details about the Administration's plans."

When the President made his announcement on February 21, he said the decision to withhold construction funds was based on information "developed by the Council on Environmental Quality (and) the Office of Management and Budget." Dole said that, to date, there has been no full public disclosure of that information. The Corps of Engineers will hold public hearings in the Kansas City area during the last week in March, and Senator Dole said, "the public should have full access to all pertinent information on Grove Reservoir prior to the hearings."

Dole made his requests in letters to Bert Lance, Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Charles Warren, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.