

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1983

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DOLE TALKS TO STOCKMAN, REMAINS OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT WICHITA/BUTLER COUNTY SMSA STATUS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today announced that conversations with the Office of Management and Budget leave him optimistic that Butler County will remain in the Wichita metropolitan statistical area. Dole spoke to Budget Director David Stockman on Friday to insure that OMB was fully aware of Wichita's concerns.

The Kansas Senator said that he was informed by OMB that a list of localities affected by the new standards for determining a metropolitan statistical area will be released today. Wichita will be among the communities anticipated to be changed according to strict application of the new rules to 1980 census data. However, Senator Dole said that he has been assured that there will be accommodations made for specific areas with unique circumstances and that Wichita is a prime candidate for this reevaluation. Such exceptions should be announced within the next six months.

"The Wichita community is among a few across the country that stand out as variances in the effectiveness of the new standards for metropolitan statistical areas," said Dole. "Butler County, though a vital economic and social part of the Wichita area community, does not meet the new standard for persons per square mile. However, strict application of this standard does not take into account the many other strong indicators, both statistical and subjective, of the link between Butler County and the Wichita area."

Senator Dole said that he is pleased with this indication of OMB's understanding of the Wichita case and that he will continue efforts to insure the fair and accurate resolution of the issue.