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MARCH 1, 1989

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DOLE KANSAS CITY COURTHOUSE INITIATIVE PICKS UP STEAM;  
SOLID FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION PLANS NOW ON LINE.

WASHINGTON -- CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR A NEW FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING FOR KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, ARE UNDER WAY, ACCORDING TO SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS). THE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, THE LANDLORD FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, SENT TO CONGRESS INCLUDES AN INITIAL \$2.6 MILLION EARMARKED FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE BUILDING PLANS.

"A NEW FEDERAL BUILDING FOR KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, IS A HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT FOR ME," STATED DOLE. "I AM PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION PROVIDED BY THE OFFICES OF THE U.S. COURTS AND THE GSA IN THEIR JOINT EFFORT TO RESPOND TO MY APPEAL MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT WE WERE OUTGROWING THE PRESENT BUILDING. A GREAT DEAL OF PLANNING HAS ALREADY GONE INTO THIS PROJECT. I'M BULLISH ON KANSAS CITY. THIS IS YET ANOTHER STEP WE CAN TAKE TO HELP REVITALIZE THE DOWNTOWN AREA."

"THE CHAMBERS AND OFFICES OF THE U.S. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT ARE CRAMPED, AND SPACE FOR OTHER FEDERAL OFFICES IS AT A PREMIUM IN THE EXISTING BUILDING, MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR MANY GOVERNMENT WORKERS TO BE HOUSED IN LEASED OFFICES. COMPLETION OF THIS BUILDING WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ADD TO THE AMOUNT OF FEDERALLY OWNED OFFICE SPACE IN KANSAS," DOLE SAID.

SITE SELECTION AND DESIGN

PLANS FOR THE BUILDING CALL FOR 164,000 SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE AND AN 18,000 SQUARE FOOT PARKING GARAGE. PRELIMINARY STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE GSA IN KANSAS CITY TO PREPARE FOR IDENTIFICATION OF A SITE.

"I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN CITY OFFICIALS AND GSA REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNING AVAILABLE PROPERTY IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA AND AM CONFIDENT THAT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE LOCATION CAN BE REACHED," ADDED DOLE.

AT THE SAME TIME, GSA OFFICIALS HAVE STARTED ACTION TO SELECT AN ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING FIRM SO THAT THE DESIGN AWARD CAN BE MADE AS SOON AS THE FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS.

"NOW THAT PLANS FOR THE PROJECT HAVE REACHED CONGRESS, I WILL DO ALL THAT I CAN, TOGETHER WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT FUNDING IS APPROVED IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE.

APPROPRIATION OF THE INITIAL \$2.6 MILLION IS SLATED FOR THE FALL, 1989. CONSTRUCTION FUNDS WILL BE LISTED IN THE GSA FISCAL YEAR 1992 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. COST OF THE COMPLETED PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL \$39.4 MILLION.

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