

ACCESS COPY
January 16, 2014

Monday, April 23, 1962

HILL CITY POST OFFICE

Dedication Speech

I am indeed pleased to participate in the dedication of your new post office. It is a landmark in the progress of Hill City and evidence of the progress of a postal modernization program inaugurated in 1953.

In 1953, it was found that 12,000 of the Nation's post offices needed to be modernized or replaced.

This modern post office will provide Hill City residents the latest in postal improvements, assuring patrons more convenient mail service as well as adequate facilities and improved working conditions for Post Master Alvin Scranton and those who assist him.

The demand for mail service increases yearly. Some three million new mailboxes are added each year. A postage stamp is still one of the best investments in our Nation today in view of the tremendous service which it will bring.

This post office building was constructed under the Post Office Department's commercial leasing program – which means its owner will pay county taxes on it – the same as other taxpayers in this area.

I would like to touch briefly on just what this postal system does – this phenomenal service which links the far-flung areas of our Country and foreign Nations together through written communications.

Our postal system, which began with only 75 post offices and less than 2,000 miles of post roads, has grown into an organization which handles more than 63 billion pieces of mail and is the largest single communications system in the world.

The number of people who depend on the post office has grown from four million in 1970, when it was founded, to 185 million. We have many media of communication, but the postal service is still the mainstay. It has kept its position by continuously

revising and improving its modes of transport and expanding its operations to keep abreast of the increases in demand for its services.

The system has come a long way since, for instance, 1847, when the first stamps with adhesive were issued. Think of the difficulties involved when postage was collected from the addressee, one piece of mail at a time!

In 1860, the pony express expanded the postal service from coast to coast. The stories of bravery, of sacrifice and determination that rode with the pony express are of special importance to us here in Kansas. The railroads soon followed, with the first railroad post office car put in service in 1862.

Today, air mail is a commonly used means of delivery. Trains and trucks also play an important part in mail service. Tomorrow? A two-pronged attack on the problem of speeding mail service is under way today.

By 1970, postal authorities estimate that a good deal of mail will be transported by guided missile. The first successful mail delivery based on rockets and missiles was made in June of 1959 with a Regulus missile launched from a submarine – a hundred miles off the coast of Florida.

The other line of attack in mail transportation is based on the use of space satellites. A world-wide communications network linked by space satellites orbiting thousands of miles above the earth will make revolutionary changes in many forms of communications – possibly within the next decade. Messages will be relayed by microwave to the satellite in a code which will insure privacy. They will be unscrambled at the post office and typed into message automatically. This system will make possible trans-oceanic mail delivery within minutes instead of days.

It is obvious that the problem of conquering space is being solved. But, there is a problem in our postal service which concerns me deeply. It should concern every American. That is the question of delivery of Communist propaganda.

The history of propaganda delivery is a long one. Basically it involves international relations. We delivered communication[s] from other Nations, and they ostensibly delivered ours. We were not long in [discovering] that the Communists were using our mails for propaganda purposes. The exchanged program was working against us.

In 1951, the Post Office began intercepting Communist propaganda at the port of entry. Notices were sent to addressees. Fewer than 10 per cent ever claimed the mail.

This continued until 1961, when the Administration canceled this interception and the volume of Communist propaganda coming into the country swelled by 300 per cent.

I and other Members of Congress were distressed by this flood of poison from abroad. We introduced legislation. My bill was a companion bill to the one that was passed this year when the postal rate increase went through the House.

You may have heard of the Cunningham amendment. It simply says that no international mail determined by the Attorney General as Communist propaganda may be handled by the Post Office Department. It also provides that Communist mail sent from within the borders of the U.S. must go fourth class under parcel post rates instead of the much cheaper third class rate.

Let me give you an example. The Soviet Embassy recently mailed out a Communist propaganda booklet to a public library in Adams, Nebraska, to a church in Omaha and to a school library in another Midwestern town. Each mailing cost them seven cents.

Under the Cunningham Amendment, the same pamphlets would have cost 54 cents. One of the booklets was entitled "Program of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."

I believe it is time we halted this subsidized distribution of propaganda by the

Communists. Some argue that we send a lot of mail to Communist countries, and that so-called "cultural" exchange is necessary. I disagree. Anyone who has seen what happens to a CARE package when the Communist postal people get through with it should know better than to believe that our mail gets through to people in Iron Curtain countries.

The very existence of our mail system is a tribute to our form of Government. We send unhampered, in utmost secrecy, messages over thousands of miles with the assurance that the protection of the Bill of Rights is carried with every missive.

As you use this new postal facility, you are reaping the benefits of living in the United States – where the facilities of the largest Government civilian agency go all out to make sure you get your mail. In some countries, equal efforts are made to cut off communications between citizens.

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Treatment Documentation – January 16, 2014 – Sarah D’Antonio

Item

Robert J. Dole Speeches Collection

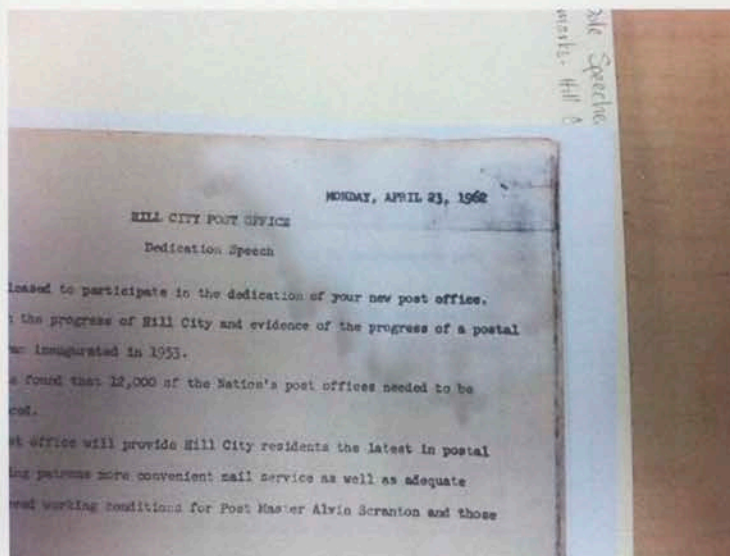
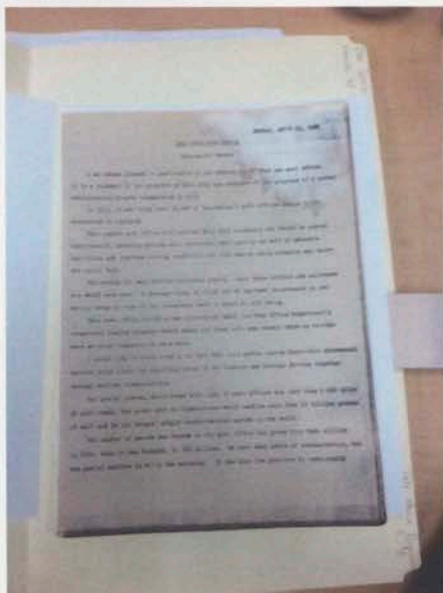
Box 1, Folder 8

Remarks – Hill City Post Office – Hill City, Kansas, April 23, 1962

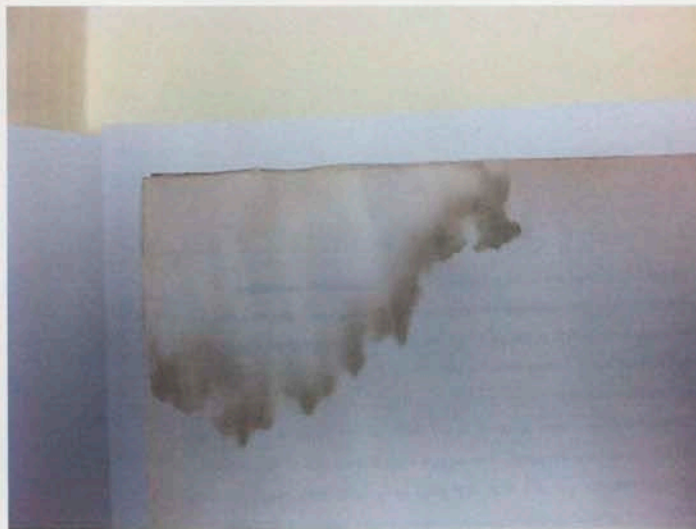
Description

This is a four-page speech given by Senator Dole at the dedication of the Hill City Post Office in 1962. All four pages are stuck together in the upper right-hand corner due to water or another liquid.

Before Pictures



Front



Back

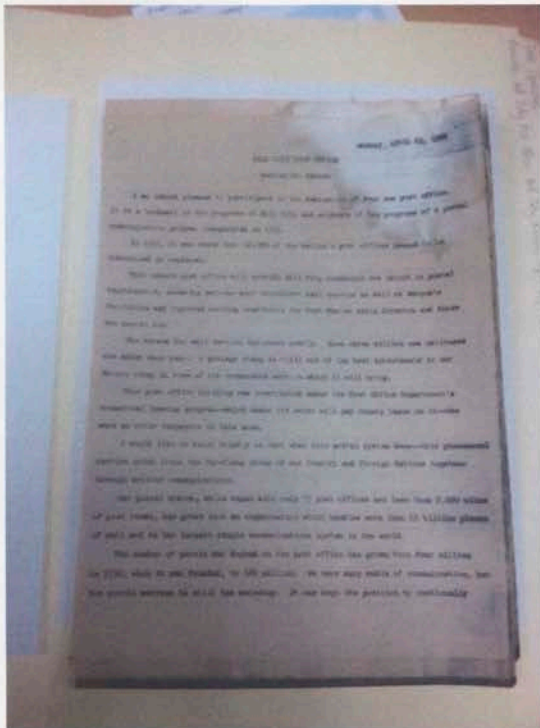
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Treatment

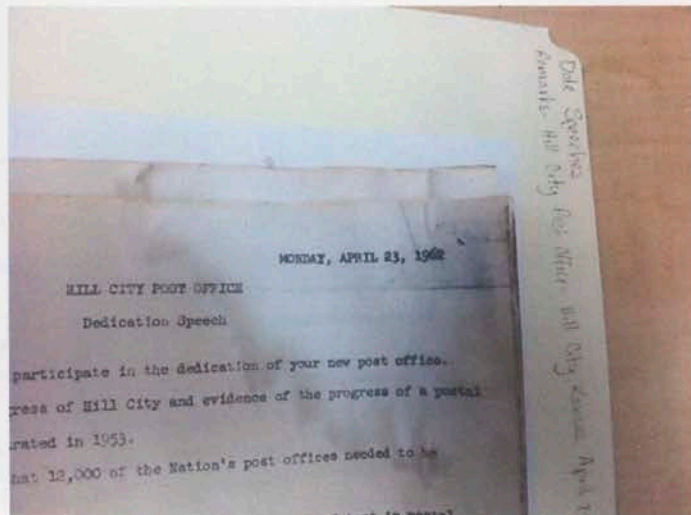
I consulted Whitney Baker, Head of Conservation Services for the KU Libraries, about how best to separate the pages. She recommended using a Teflon spatula or splitting knife. Since the Dole Archives has some of these tools, I attempted to separate the pages myself; however, due to the waxy paper the pages were more sealed together than anticipated, and so I asked Whitney to give it a try.

I took the speech to Whitney at the Conservation Lab in Watson Library on January 15, 2014. Using a Teflon splitting knife as well as a metal spatula, she was able to detach the second and third pages. (So the first and second pages are still attached, and the third and fourth are still attached.) Whitney decided not to continue with detaching the first/second and third/fourth pages because it was resulting in tearing.

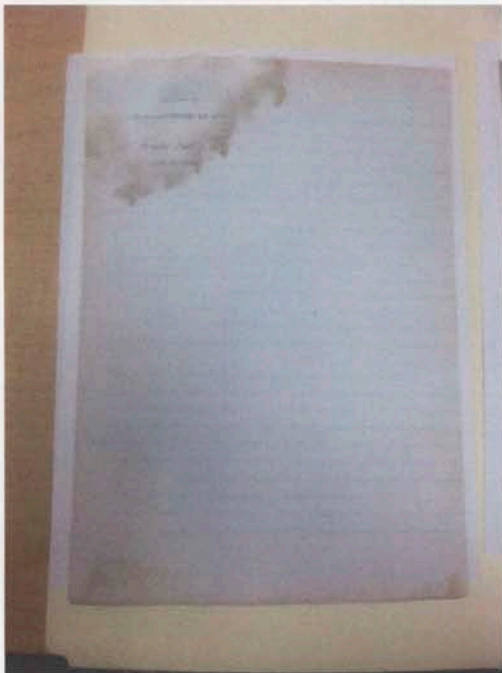
After Pictures



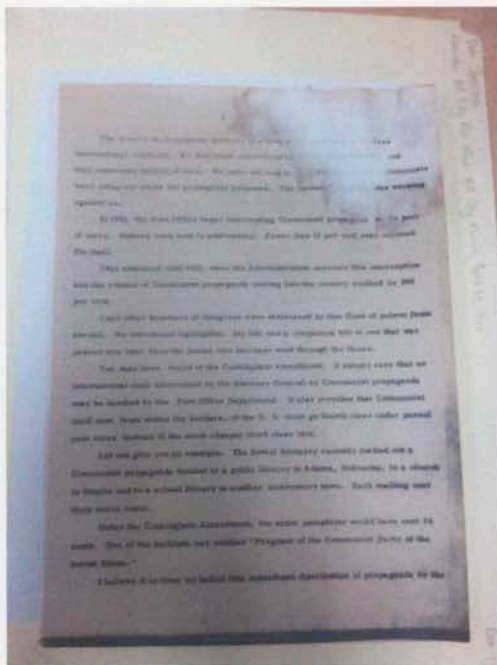
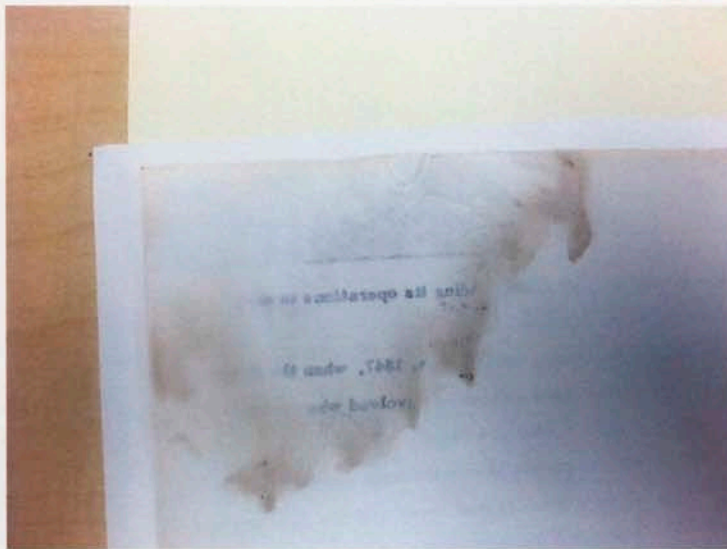
Front, page 1



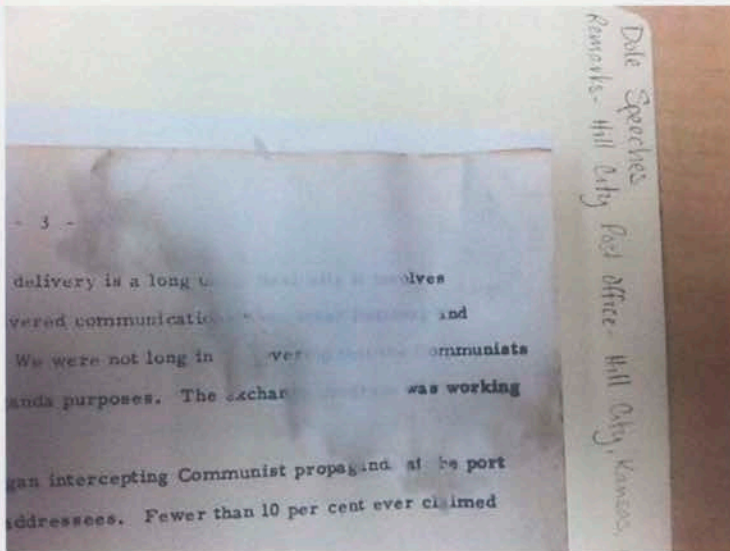
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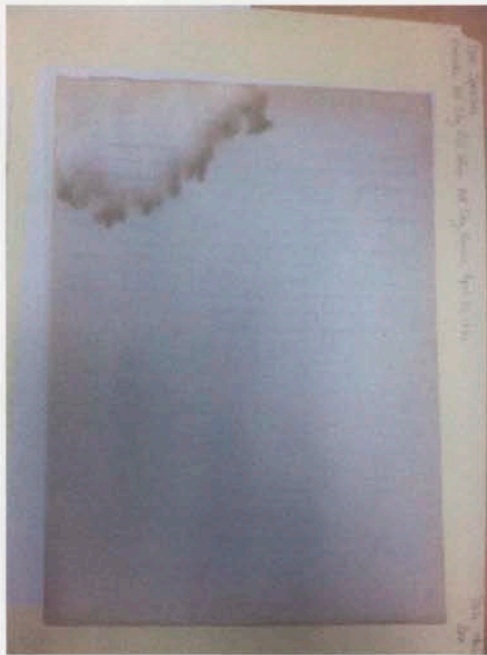


Front, page 3



Dole Speeches
Remarks - Hill City Post Office - Hill City, Kansas

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Outcomes

The speech will be housed with the rest of the collection. It is interleaved with acid-free paper. A transcript has been made of the speech for access purposes and will be housed in the same folder, along with a copy of this report. A copy of this report will also reside in the Manuscript Preservation/Conservation binder.