

DEDICATION OF MEAT-PACKING PLANT
MANKATO, KANSAS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1967
REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

MANKATO--AN EXAMPLE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

I AM CERTAINLY MOST HAPPY TO BE HERE TO JOIN WITH YOU ALL IN THE DEDICATION OF THIS MAJOR ADDITION TO THE ECONOMY OF NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY CONGRATULATIONS TO MANKATO.

YOU KNOW, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE LEFT RURAL AREAS TO JOIN THE CRUSH IN THE CITIES THE PAST FEW YEARS. KANSAS HAS NOT BEEN EXEMPTED FROM THIS TREND, BECAUSE NOW OVER 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS AN URBAN POPULATION. BUT I AM PROUD OF YOU HERE IN MANKATO. THIS IS A TOWN THAT REFUSED TO DIE.

YOU HAVE USED SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES TO MAINTAIN AN IDENTITY IN AN ERA WHERE PEOPLE ARE BECOMING JUST PART OF THE FACELESS MOB.

YOU HAVE COMBINED LOCAL INGENUITY AND DETERMINATION TO PRODUCE AN ECONOMICALLY VIABLE FUTURE FOR YOUR TOWN, FOR YOURSELVES, AND FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

KANSAS HAS SUFFERED A DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT FOR MANY YEARS NOW. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT HERE IN MANKATO. THE CENTER FOR REGIONAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HAS ESTIMATED THAT AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DROP FROM AROUND 93,000 TODAY TO AROUND 73,000 IN 1975. THE WHOLE STATE SHOULD BE HERE TODAY TO OBSERVE THE BEST WAY TO FILL THE VOID LEFT BY MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION ON THE FARM. OUR STATE MUST INCREASE ITS JOB TOTAL IN MANUFACTURING, IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES, AND IN WHOLESALE TRADE. THERE IS NO CHOICE. THE SMALL TOWNS OF NORTH CENTRAL AND WESTERN KANSAS MUST TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF MANKATO AS THEIR OWN. EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP OUR ECONOMY MUST BE EMPLOYED TO STAVE OFF THE DEPRESSION THAT HAS HIT SO MANY RURAL AREAS THROUGHOUT OUR NATION.

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IN MANKATO, THE POPULATION IS GROWING. IN SO MANY RURAL AREAS, THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE. IN MANKATO, AS OF TODAY, THERE IS AN INDUSTRY UNIQUELY ADAPTED TO THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE COUNTY AND THE REGION. IN SO MANY RURAL TOWNS, THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN THE BASE OF THE TOWN AND ITS LOCALITY. THIS LACK OF CORRELATION HAS MOST OFTEN RESULTED IN ABANDONMENT AND ECONOMIC RUIN FOR THE TOWN. THIS CANNOT HAPPEN HERE, BECAUSE IN OUR STATE WHERE THE FED CATTLE INDUSTRY IS GROWING VERY RAPIDLY, THE MEAT PACKING INDUSTRY, IF AGGRESSIVE AND IMAGINATIVE, WILL GROW WITH IT.

ONE OF THE GREATEST CONCERNS THAT I AS YOUR CONGRESSMAN HAVE, IS THE CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF CITY LIFE. OUR SLUMS GROW AND GROW REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH MONEY OUR GOVERNMENT SPENDS TO RENEW THEM, IT SEEMS. THE CRIME RATE IN OUR MAJOR CITIES HAS SKYROCKETED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

IN MY OPINION, THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST SUCH CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE SLUMS AND TRAGIC CONDITIONS IN OUR CITIES, IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTHY INDUSTRY IN RURAL AREAS--JUST AS YOU ARE DOING HERE. MANKATO, LIKE OTHER TOWNS THROUGHOUT WESTERN KANSAS, PROVIDES A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A STABLE PRODUCTIVE LIFE. HERE, HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS MEAN SOMETHING--AND NOW, WITH THE NEW PLANT, THERE WILL BE NEW JOBS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN A LIVING IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE.

THE FARMERS MUST ALSO BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS NEW INDUSTRY. THIS WILL MEAN A MORE AGGRESSIVE FED-CATTLE INDUSTRY VERY CLOSE TO HOME--BETTER OUTLETS FOR FEED GRAINS--AND ALL THE REST.

MAY I JUST SAY THAT THE HOPES AND PRAYERS OF THE KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HAVE BEEN WITH YOU FROM THE FIRST ON THIS PROJECT. IT IS MOST GRATIFYING

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TO SEE THIS MOST SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO ALL YOUR LABOR. YOU WILL NOT BE DIS-
APPOINTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT HERE, BECAUSE IT IS A RESULT OF YOUR OWN
DETERMINATION AND EFFORT. I CONGRATULATE YOU IN YOUR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH.