

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

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EL DORADO, Kans., Oct. 10 -- "Rural families are helping solve the urban crisis, not perpetuate it," U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here tonight.

Speaking before the Butler County Farm Bureau, Dole said, "So-called bookshelf experts occasionally try to promote the idea that the problems of urban America are traceable to former small town and farm people who have emigrated to the cities.

"This is false reasoning," he said.

"Some rural people who have moved to urban areas have not adapted to city living, but it is more accurate to say that rural America has exported labor, brains and leadership to the cities."

Three well-known examples in Kansas, he said, are late President Dwight Eisenhower, who spent his boyhood days in Abilene; former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford, Fort Scott, and Bob Wells, Garden City, who was recently appointed to the Federal Communications Commission.

"In addition, rural communities are stimulating economic and industrial development in their own areas to revitalize their economies and to help relieve the crush and complexity of city life."

Two examples, Dole said, are the efforts of the Ozarks Regional Commission in southeast Kansas and a new meat packing and processing plant in Liberal.

In the speech, Dole noted one farm worker produces food, fiber and other farm commodities for 42 persons. The output of American farm labor has increased about 8.3% each year since 1960.

"The result has been improved quality and a steady decline in the cost of food and other agricultural products," Dole said. "Increased farm efficiency has also made possible growth of industry by releasing manpower from the farm."

"The pressing problems of both the cities and rural areas demand solutions," the Senator said. "But only through mutual cooperation and concern can a higher quality of life be extended to residents of both communities."