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FOR RELEASE ON SUNDAY AFTER 1:30, AUG, 16

U.S. Senator Bob Dole(R-Kans.) today urged a thorough investigation of the controversial proposal to dispose of atomic wastes in an abandoned salt mine near Lyons, Kans.

Speaking at the dedication of the Cross Manufacturing Company in Hays, Kans., Senator Dole said that although the Atomic Energy Commission believes the salt mine disposal technique to be safe and practical, their "tentative" decision "has broad implications for the Lyons area as for other regions with similar facilities."

"This waste material is highly radioactive and presents serious problems in handling and storage. It simply cannot be dealt with by conventional means," he said.

Dole pointed out that the waste disposal program needs to undergo a complete examination before it is put into effect. The "first and foremost" question that must be asked is one of policy. "The AEC not only approves and licenses the reactors which create the waste, but it has final administrative authority for approval of waste disposal. It is somewhat like being both advocate and jury," he said.

At the dedication, Mr. Dole also observed that conditions in over-crowded, polluted cities is causing industry to move to states like Kansas "with lots of fresh air and plenty of wide-open spaces."

Explaining that what is the city's loss, is the rural state's gain, Dole went on to say, "Here is where crowded America should come. We can offer room for growth, space for living, and a real partnership in community development."