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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., NOV. 7, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) has requested that the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs schedule hearings on the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs in Kansas City, Kansas.

At the present time only 18 of the 62 public schools in Kansas City participate in the National School Lunch Program, and prices of lunches in these schools would indicate that they exceed the national average by a significant amount.

Nine schools in Kansas City offer food service but do not participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Over the past few years, both the Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Education have made efforts to expand both lunch and breakfast service in the Kansas City school system. The Department of Agriculture had hoped to start twenty-three breakfast programs in Kansas City last school year, but due to the lack of local funding, these were not opened.

Various meetings have been conducted with school officials. At a meeting in November, 1969, the Kansas City School District was offered financial assistance to the fullest extent possible for equipment, breakfast service and lunch service. In addition, technical assistance was offered in developing further plans by the Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Education.

Dole said, "At present, it does not appear that the school district administration plans to take full advantage of this financial and technical assistance offered for development of food service throughout the district."

Present plans call for three large new elementary schools be equipped for food service and 23 existing elementary schools have a room which could be used as a lunchroom. Kansas City is now working on plans to equip these schools to provide food service.

Present plans are to have at least three of these in operation by Dec. 1, 1970, and to add the others as facilities at one of the large high schools can be enlarged to accommodate the preparation

"In other words," Dole said, "plans have been made, but implementation by school officials has been inadequate. The means available to alleviate this situation may be called to the attention of the citizens of Kansas City in an effort to motivate the Kansas City school officials to more actively pursue the goal of food service to all school children. In order to properly inform the community, I feel it is necessary to hold hearings in Kansas City, Kansas."

Senator Dole made this request to Senator George McGovern, Chairman of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.