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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 23, 1971 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.)  
learned today from the Secretary of Agriculture that U.S.D.A.  
authorization of the Flint Hills Resource Conservation and Development  
(R, C & D) is imminent.

The area to receive the R, C & D authorization takes in 2,104,620  
acres in Morris, Marion, Lyon and Chase counties. Farms in the project  
area number 6,099.

Dole explained that citizens from the four-county area had formed  
the Flint Hills organization in an effort to improve the utilization  
of existing resources and to stimulate economic growth. Dole said  
the group sought authorization by the U.S.D.A. so that it would be  
able to coordinate local, state and federal programs to achieve maximum  
benefit.

The Kansas Senator actively supported the Flint Hills group's  
R, C & D application because "while in its organizational stage, it  
demonstrated commendable ability to work together in the coordination  
of the county's 16 watershed districts and other multi-county projects."  
"This authorization," Dole said, "will now provide these Flint Hills  
residents the opportunity to maximize the benefits of all existing  
programs and will make available to them technical assistance from  
Soil Conservation Service and other U.S.D.A. personnel."

Technical assistance will be made available in the areas of soil  
and water conservation, flood control, water pollution, natural resource  
preservation and urban and rural development protection. "This  
technical assistance," Dole said, "should help the people maintain  
their tax base, protect their health and generally improve their  
welfare. In addition to the rural benefits, income producing enter-  
prises will be able to expand and diversify, resulting in a better  
overall standard of living."