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SENATOR JAMES B. PEARSON

Kansas

Washington, D. C., December 3, 1971 -- ^{and} Senators James B. Pearson, Bob Dole, and Congressman Joe Skubitz (R-Kan) today announced that they had contacted the Secretary of Defense and asked for a review of the proposed closing of the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant in Parsons. In a joint statement, the Kansas ^{Senators} ~~Delegation~~ urged that "immediate action be taken in response to the proposal to assure continuation of the current economic growth of Southeast Kansas."

The Kansas lawmakers, after consulting with local officials, also urged that the Defense Department and the Inter-Agency Economic Adjustmetn Committee survey the situation and propose federal action to provide for community economic adjustment.

The Inter-Agency Committee, established under Presidential authority, helps communities adjust to the economic impacts of changes in Defense Department programs. It commands a wide range of resources, and is familiar with Kansas through previous work in Sedgwick and Butler Counties, the ^{Two Senators} ~~delegation~~ stated.

Pearson, Dole, and ~~Skubitz~~ also stated that they had contacted the Economic Development Administration, and asked that agency to use its capabilities to provide necessary readjustment assistance. Since over one-half of the plant work force lives outside of Labette County, an area-wide perspective is necessary, the two Senators said.

Finally, the Kansans stated that they had requested that the Secretary of Defense delay any final action on the plant, and phase-out the proposal, rather than making any large immediate cuts.

Actual notices and separations are expected to commence in January, 1972, and time schedules for personnel reductions are currently being developed.