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DOLE TO SPONSOR MAJOR BUSINESS PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE IN TOPEKA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced today that he is sponsoring a major Federal Procurement and Foreign Trade Business Opportunities Conference which has been scheduled for May 6th in Topeka. FishersM

This first conference, to be co-sponsored by the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, will be held for businessmen and women from a 34 county area of Kansas. Dole said a second conference, for companies in other areas of the State would be planned for later in the year.

"The purpose of the conference, Dole said, "is to provide businessmen and women with an opportunity to meet with procurement specialists from Federal civilian and military agencies and from prime contractors who may do business with these agencies, as well as to acquaint area businessmen and women with foreign trade opportunities available to them through the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Federal government is the largest dollar volume purchaser of goods and services in the world. Much as I would like to see its size diminished, I also have an interest in seeing that Kansas businessmen and women get a fair share of that business volume, whatever its size."

At Dole's request, the conference will be coordinated by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The principal feature of the conference will be the opportunity for personal discussions between individual business representatives and Federal purchasing agents.

Representatives from various federal agencies including the Defense Department and Defense Supply Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, NASA, the VA, the Small Business Administration, the General Services Administration, the Postal Service and all of the major Federal Departments of government as well as certain Federal prime contractors will be available, as buyers at the conference.

"This conference," Dole said, "should prove helpful and informative to area businesses engaged in a wide variety of enterprises. I am especially hapeful that it may prove useful to those which may have experienced some dislocations as a result of the closure of Forbes Air Force base, but I am confident that husinessmer. and women, no matter in what product line their companies may be involved, can benefit from the conference."

It is expected that the Federal Procurement and Foreign Trade Conference will result in the location of new production sources for the Federal agencies involved and will help stimulate local and regional economic growth. It is intended to assist business concerns of varying sizes, including minority owned and operated companies.

The one-day conference will be held May 6th at the Jayhawk Hotel in down-town Topeka.

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