



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEEK OF 5-5-74

DOLE TO CONFER ON FORBES TURNOVER

Washington, D. C. -- In response to a request from Topeka Mayor William McCormick, Senator Bob Dole is arranging a series of meetings with officials both from Topeka and from the Federal Office of Economic Adjustment, to discuss possible means of expediting the turnover of Forbes Air Force Base property to the city.

Dole plans to explore two possibilities for action, one an effort to speed up the administrative process, and alternatively, to seek a remedy through legislation.

Mayor McCormick has indicated to Dole that the administrative procedures may take as much as 12 to 18 months to complete.

Dole expressed the belief, however, that this process could be speeded up considerably, and it is conceivable that turn-over could be accomplished before the end of the year.

"The city and people of Topeka ought not to have to wait another full year or year and a half to assume control and begin full development of the base," Dole said.

Dole said he also planned to have his staff meet with Topeka officials to begin work on draft legislation so that he might be prepared to take legislative action to try to short-cut the process if necessary.

A meeting between Topeka officials and representatives of various Federal agencies is planned for Monday in Topeka. Dole said he would have a representative there and would call OEA officials to his office in Washington later in the week so that he could obtain a full report from Federal officials and full explanation of current delays.