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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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MONDAY, MAY 27, 1974

## DOLE TO MEET WITH HEW OFFICIALS ON TOPEKA ISSUE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole announced today that will be meeting Thursday with Peter Holmes, Director of the HEW Office of Civil Rights and Taylor August, Director of the Regional HEW Civil Rights Division, regarding the request submitted by the Topeka School Board and community groups across the city for more time to develop a local plan that would bring the school district into compliance with HEW civil rights guidelines.

In a phone call to HEW Secretary Casper Weinberger last week, Dole was assured that HEW would not proceed with the Topeka case until Dole had an opportunity to meet with HEW officials regarding the matter. Dole said the purpose of the Thursday meeting is to make certain that top HEW officials are fully aware of the offer made by a coalition of multi-ethnic groups in Topeka to develop a local school plan of compliance. Dole said he would also request that HEW delay any action pending against the school district until the coalition has time to research and develop a plan based on community input and participation.

The coalition members represent the American G.I. Forum, the Concerned Parents for Justice in Education, the Coordinating Committee of the Black Community, Inc., El Centro Servicios Para Mexicanos, and the Topeka Chapter of the NAACP. In a May 16th letter to Taylor August, Regional Director of the HEW office of Civil Rights, the coalition requested time to develop a revised Topeka school plan that would meet the HEW requirements but also take into consideration the special concerns and problems of the Topeka community.

Dole said the meeting will also give him an opportunity to convey the sentiment of the Senate regarding the this request. On May 15, the Senate unanimously adopted a Dole amendment which, if signed into law, will require that a local community in violation of HEW regulations be given a reasonable time to develop its own voluntary plan of compliance before action is taken by any agency of the Federal government.