



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM FLEXIBLE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today said he is hopeful that--if the need arose-- Kansas residents would be assured access to a special emergency disaster relief program under a newly enacted federal law.

A report circulated earlier this week indicated that the aid would not be available in Kansas because a State fund had not been created to pay the State's matching 25 per cent share of the special \$5,000 individual emergency grants for disaster victims.

"Under the federal law's provisions," Senator Dole said, "the federal government--in addition to its 75 per cent funding--can also advance the State's share if the resources are not immediately available to provide it."

"This program, which I sponsored as an amendment to the 1974 Disaster Relief Act Amendments, is designed to provide relief for the few individuals who may be unable to find help through any other federal, state or local programs. Extra flexibility was provided for meeting the State matching requirements, so this aid can be available where it is needed, as soon as needed. Very liberal guidelines are intended to guide the making of these advances to States, so from the federal government's point of view, every effort will be made to assure that no eligible individuals go without the emergency assistance provided by my amendment. Of course applicable requirements of State law would also have to be met."

"The many floods, tornadoes and other serious storms of the past year in Kansas have demonstrated the need for assuring that no one fails to receive emergency assistance to meet the extraordinary expenses which often arise in the wake of a disaster. The program created by my amendment was designed to provide this assurance, and I am hopeful that no serious obstacles will be encountered in making it available."