



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE CALLS JOBS BILL POLITICAL ILLUSION

Senator Bob Dole, commenting on the public works jobs bill enacted over the President's veto last week, said that as far as the State of Kansas is concerned the proposal was a "political illusion which only one member of our delegation was unable or unwilling to see through."

"I had thought most Kansans were aware of this no-strings-attached, something-for-everyone, apple-pie game by now," Dole explained, "but apparently, reports last week that we were going to receive a \$33 million windfall have kindled a new wave of excitement over the possibility of another handout."

"Since that time, my office has been flooded with inquiries about where to go to submit an application or pick up the money," he continued. "The truth is, however, what we'll get most of out of this bill is a lot of false hopes."

"It's the old contest of Pin the Tail on the Elephant, where Congress takes credit for voting a big new spending program, but doesn't bother to point out that the authorization itself won't provide one penny for new jobs without an appropriation. And in this case, it's only realistic to expect that appropriation to amount to one half the figure called for."

Dole clarified that that would mean about \$1 billion for public works jobs, of which Kansas could expect no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% -- or \$5 million. "Fortunately," he said, "they did put an upper limit on for the big States, so New York will only get 25 times as much as we do."

"The important thing, however, is that that \$5 million just won't go very far, and localities should not be misled into thinking they're going to benefit from it. We only had three projects funded throughout the entire State as a result of the Emergency Jobs legislation passed at the end of 1974 - and there's no reason to think things are going to be any different now."

"It is probably accurate to state that Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County, Topeka, and Wichita will get a maximum of \$700,000 combined under the countercyclical aid section of the measure, but that is small compensation for the overall cost of the measure to Kansas taxpayers." Dole said by that he meant that \$5.7 million was only 28% of what our State's individuals and businesses would ultimately be responsible for in the way of Federal expenditures and indebtedness arising out of the bill.

The Senator expressed regret that \$700 million for Water Pollution had been included in the legislation "as a means of attracting votes" because he was supportive of that program but felt it had no place in a proposal being advertised as a "jobs" bill. Moreover, the Wastewater Treatment authorization is, he said, "going through Congress on its own right now, so we would get the \$20.3 million earmarked for that anyway."

"The Whole idea of superficial public sector employment is unacceptable in a State which has the lowest unemployment rate in the nation and is at the peak of its recovery cycle," Dole suggested. "Some Members of Congress may have felt compelled to override the President's veto last week because of special circumstances in their own jurisdictions, but in Kansas the only justification could be that of election year pork-barreling."