



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE AMENDMENT ASKS HUD TO JUSTIFY REORGANIZATION PLANS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today he would introduce legislation to require the Department of Housing and Urban Development to prepare cost-benefit analyses for future reorganization of its field offices. The amendment to the Housing authorization bill will be offered when the bill reaches the floor sometime this week.

In Kansas, virtually all Kansas HUD personnel located in state offices in Topeka and Kansas City will be removed to Kansas City, Mo., to a newly centralized office. Dole said that he has received insufficient evidence from HUD that the Kansas reorganization will result in cost savings.

"Although it seems inconceivable that HUD would remove virtually all Kansas HUD personnel to Missouri without careful study, that is precisely what they have done," Dole said.

He said that repeated letters to HUD Secretary Patricia Harris failed to bring answers to some of his questions about the moves.

"If they had answers, I assume they would have provided them to me. When they finally provided some information on the cost savings of the reorganization, they weren't substantiated, nor were they broken down into meaningful statistics."

HUD also failed to provide answers when the General Accounting Office investigated the Kansas reorganization, as requested by Sen. Dole.

The Dole amendment would require an estimate of the cost savings, an estimate of additional costs of reorganizing, a study of the impact on the local economy, and an estimate of the effect of reorganization upon the quality of services provided.

"In Kansas City, the removal of the HUD office to Missouri is particularly ironic," Dole said. "The agency of our government charged with the redevelopment of ailing downtown areas has abandoned one of the very areas they are supposed to help. Besides the upheaval in the lives of HUD employees in Topeka, moving out of Topeka will mean a reduction in the level of service through most of Kansas."