



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1978

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HUD TOPEKA INSURING OFFICE TO BE SAVED

WASHINGTON...Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) announced that the Topeka Insuring Office, a field office of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will be saved under the terms of a compromise reached today by the Housing Conference, meeting here. Without the legislative action, most of the functions of that office would have been removed to Kansas City, Mo., and the office would have been virtually eliminated.

Dole, who had opposed the reorganization, was pleased by the decision, noting that "When we began this battle, it appeared that there was little we could realistically do to save the Topeka office, especially when HUD refused to reconsider their decision. But as we looked into the matter, it became apparent that HUD hadn't done their homework and that they had no idea how their reorganization would affect costs or the delivery of services in Kansas."

Dole asked the General Accounting Office to do a study of the reorganization in Kansas, which indicated that absolutely no cost-benefit analysis had been done, and that the entire reorganization was based solely on general organizational principles that would not necessarily apply in Kansas.

"Even then," Dole said, "HUD wouldn't give in, and they insisted on going forward with their plan to remove virtually all personnel from Kansas. However, the reorganization was held up in a court suit. In the meantime, we were able to insert language in the Senate version of the Housing bill that would have eliminated the entire reorganization."

However, the House version had no such provision. The compromise that was worked out would save the Topeka office and six other offices throughout the nation.

Thirty-five other offices that were to be eliminated or downgraded under the plan will still be eliminated.

"Our chances for saving the Topeka Office didn't look very bright when we began this thing," Dole said. "Of course, if this reorganization would really have streamlined HUD or improved services in Kansas, it would have been different. But in this case, it appeared that cost could well go up, even as the quality of services dropped."

The Topeka Insuring Office services the entire state of Kansas, outside the Kansas City area. The virtual elimination of the Topeka office would have had a widespread impact throughout the state.