

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1980

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KANSAS WILL BE ESPECIALLY HARD HIT BY CARTER RECESSION, DOLE SAYS

HUTCHINSON, Kansas-- The State of Kansas is already headed into a recession and will be hurt especially hard, Senator Bob Dole said here in Hutchinson Thursday.

"If you ask any farmer, rancher, assembly line worker at one of our small aircraft factories, or a person associated with real estate, they'll tell you the Carter Recession is underway here in Kansas. And they'll also tell you they're worried that it'll be a while before things get back to normal."

Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee and a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, says the President has singled out certain segments of the economy in his drive to slow inflation.

"Those sectors unfortunately include agriculture, as well as credit-sensitive industries like light aircraft, automobiles, farm equipment, and real estate. That's a pretty lethal line-up if you're talking about the Kansas economy," said Dole.

Layoffs are beginning

Dole noted that Wednesday's New York Times carried a story on how small plane sales have 'nose dived'. The story featured a picture taken in Wichita, Kansas and told of layoffs in the Wichita area.

"Now perhaps somebody will notice what we've known for a long time-- we've got problems, problems that the Administration seems bound and determined to make worse," said Dole.

"And as long as they're noticing things, perhaps somebody will notice what's happening to the Kansas farmer. He's caught in what I call a 20-20-20 situation-- he's paying 20 percent interest, a 20 percent rise in production costs, has experienced a 20 percent drop in prices, and is subject to the same 20 percent inflation we're all suffering from. The Kansas farmer is in a recession-- and will be headed for a depression if the Administration doesn't make him carry the whole load in fighting inflation," said Dole.

"I call on the President to reexamine his strategy in light of the effect it is going to have on Kansas and other farm-belt states," added Dole. "He should at least work with those of us who want to see the impact lessened on specific groups who are hardest hit."