

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 1992

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GARDEN CITY AIRPORT TO RECEIVE \$1.2 MILLION

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced today that the Garden City Municipal Airport will receive a grant of \$1,235,770 for airport improvement projects. The discretionary funding, from the Airport Improvement Program, was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"Garden City's airport is becoming a significant transportation hub for Western Kansas, so I'm pleased that the Transportation Department continues to support projects to upgrade the airport's facilities. Dependable transportation service is a vital part of economic development for Garden City and the surrounding communities," said Dole.

The funding will be used to reconstruct a taxiway, expand an apron and the terminal building, improve an access road and install approach aids and fencing.

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IN A COLLOQUY WITH SENATORS INOUE AND STEVENS, WE MADE CLEAR THAT THE STANDARD APPLIES TO RECIPIENTS OF PROGRAMMING FUNDS AS WELL. THEREFORE, THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE, THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE AND NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO ALL MUST SEEK BALANCE AND OBJECTIVITY IN AWARDING CONTRACTS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE, A SEPARATE AMENDMENT SPONSORED BY SENATORS INOUE, STEVENS AND THIS SENATOR REQUIRES WHAT WE CALL "GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY" IN GRANT AWARDS. THIS REFORM WAS PROMPTED BY THE INITIAL GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS BY ITVS, REVEALING WHAT MANY OF US FEARED -- THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY GOING TO PRODUCERS IN HOLLYWOOD AND NEW YORK CITY, AND VERY LITTLE TO THE REST OF AMERICA.

REFORM #2: ACCOUNTING FOR TAX DOLLARS

THE SECOND MAJOR REFORM OF THE SYSTEM WAS AN AMENDMENT WE REFERRED TO AS "ACCOUNTABILITY." THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING IS NOT OFFICIALLY A "GOVERNMENT AGENCY" AND IS THEREFORE NOT COVERED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT LAST YEAR CONGRESS SENT \$275 MILLION WORTH OF TAX DOLLARS TO THIS ORGANIZATION. WHILE SOME REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE, THERE IS NO CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MORE THAN ONE-QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS THE TAXPAYERS ARE SHELLING OUT EACH YEAR. LET'S FINALLY FIND OUT WHO GETS THIS MONEY, WHY THEY'RE GETTING IT AND WHAT THEY'RE DOING WITH IT. SOUNDS REASONABLE TO ME. WE'LL ALSO FIND OUT WHAT PRODUCERS ARE GETTING FUNDING YEAR AFTER YEAR AT THE EXPENSE OF PRODUCERS IN KANSAS, IN ALASKA, IN HAWAII AND IN STATE AFTER STATE THAT ARE APPARENTLY "POLITICALLY INCORRECT".

THIS REPOSITORY OF INFORMATION IS AN IMPORTANT STEP. WHAT WE WILL NOT GET, AND WHAT I WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE IS INFORMATION ON THE HUGE PROFITS REALIZED BY PUBLIC TV PERSONALITIES OFF THEIR SALES OF SPIN-OFF PRODUCTS SUCH AS BOOKS, VIDEOCASSETTES, TOYS, AND NEWSLETTERS.

AS I NOTED IN MY STATEMENT YESTERDAY, WHEN TAXPAYERS SUBSIDIZE LOUIS RUKEYSER OR BILL MOYERS, OR THE BOOMING CHILDREN'S TELEVISION WORKSHOP, SHOULDN'T THE TAXPAYERS GET THEIR FAIR SHARE OF THE RETURN, A SPECIFIC PORTION OF THE PROFITS FROM THE SALES OF LICENSED PRODUCTS AND THE LIKE? I SAY YES.

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE UNABLE TO GET AN ACCOUNTING OF THOSE PROFITS, BECAUSE THE BOOKS ARE CLOSED. HOWEVER, AS I STATED, WE WILL FINALLY GET AN ACCOUNTING OF THE TAX DOLLARS SPENT ON PUBLIC BROADCASTING. AND THAT IS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP.

SUPPORT PUBLIC BROADCASTING

I VOTED AGAINST FINAL PASSAGE OF THE BILL, BUT I SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING AND HAVE EVEN SUPPORTED IT WITH MY OWN CONTRIBUTIONS. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE NEEDED REFORMS ADDED BY THE SENATE.

REMEMBER, THE SENATE BILL HAS INCREASED THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING BY 50% AT A TIME WE ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE INNER CITIES, UNEMPLOYMENT, THE HUNGRY, THE HOMELESS, FOR EDUCATION, THE ENVIRONMENT, FOR AGRICULTURE, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, HEALTH CARE AND ALL THE OTHER WORTHY CAUSES.

I DO LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING IN INSTITUTING THESE REFORMS.

LET ME ALSO MAKE A PROMISE TO THE TAXPAYERS: I WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, TO MAKE CERTAIN THE SYSTEM WORKS FOR YOU, NOT AGAINST YOU.

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