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FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, SIXTH DISTRICT,
KANSAS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Congressman Bob Dole, 6th District, Kansas, has announced completion of a preliminary investigation to have a soil moisture conservation laboratory designated for construction in Western Kansas.

Dole explained the 86th Congress requested Secretary of Agriculture Benson to appoint a committee to study and make a report on needs for soil and water conservation throughout the United States. Regional research centers for the study of specific problems was proposed by the committee, including one for the farming areas of the Great Plains which would be given to the study of processes involved in the loss of water by evaporation and practical methods of evaporation control.

"In view of the ideal conditions for such a laboratory in Western Kansas, the low annual rainfall, high evaporation rate, and the importance of conserving soil moisture to insure crop production, as well as other factors which make this area ideal for such research, it would only seem logical that it be established there," Dole said.

Dole expressed the view that final selection of a site within the state might be determined by an organization concerned with conservation work, such as the Great Plains Council in cooperation with other soil and water conservation organizations. "The important thing now is to obtain funds and limit the site to Western Kansas, if at all possible, as other states are also actively interested," Dole stated.

The federal budget for 1962 does not include funds for construction of the laboratory, but he stated he will attempt to have the project included in Agricultural appropriations later in the session. The estimated cost of the project is $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars.

Dole said experts in the field of water conservation have become alarmed over the future prospects of acute water shortages in this country, and are stressing the urgency of making wiser use of water resources. The committee emphasized the enormous opportunity for contributing to the solution of this problem is demonstrated by estimates that two-thirds of the rainfall in the Great Plains States is lost by evaporation alone.