

78



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975

DOLE MEETS WITH HEW OFFICIALS ON IMPACT AID FUNDS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In advance of the public release on Thursday of regulations to new impact aid law, Senator Bob Dole with key Kansas and HEW officials to discuss their application to the State of Kansas. Attending today's meeting in Dole's office were Kansas Senator Joe Harder, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee; Dale Dennis, Director, Division of Finance and Statistics, Kansas State Board of Education; and a delegation of nine HEW officials, headed by Duane Mattheis, Deputy Commissioner of Education.

The proposed Federal guidelines, scheduled for publication tomorrow, are extremely important to Kansas because they will be the basis upon which the State's ultimate entitlement to approximately \$8 million in impact aid monies will be determined.

"Although our initial assessment of the regulations seemed to indicate that Kansas might not qualify under the basic standards developed for so-called equalization plans," Dole said, "some flexibility is being included to permit a secondary subjective test for eligibility. We are hopeful, therefore, that any adverse decision on the matter can be avoided."

"In any event," Dole added, "I am prepared to offer any amendment which might be necessary to assure that Kansas will continue to benefit from Public Law 874 assistance. We have a good state school finance law, and there is no reason why we should be deprived by bureaucratic mandate of our entitlement to impact aid funds." A 1973 Dole amendment to the School Lunch Bill made Kansas eligible after HEW had ruled them ineligible at that time.

Dole explained that a major reason Kansas does not fit in well with what he termed the "master federal design" for per-pupil equalization of expenditures for education is that it is basically a rural state with much higher costs in the outlying than in urban areas. "Nevertheless, the local effort of taxpayers for schools is very close to being in balance and this is the argument which we will make to HEW."

Approximately 95 Kansas school districts currently receive federal impact aid money, the largest amounts going to Leavenworth, Junction City and Derby. The principal concern, however is that without the several million dollars in funds, the entire state would have to increase its levies to account for the difference.