



NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.-Kans.)

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WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) today joined the two Missouri Senators, John C. Danforth (R) and Thomas F. Eagleton (D), in a request for Presidential review of the Pentagon's decision to transfer the Air Force Communications Service from Richards-Gebaur to Scott Air Force Base, near Belleville, Illinois.

"The proposed relocation is not in the best interest of either community," Dole declared in a statement. "Discussion of this move spanned two Administrations over the last 2½ years, but we have not been assured that all aspects of the relocation have been thoroughly examined. I seriously question whether the consolidation will achieve significant dollar savings."

Dole and Danforth also wrote Secretary of Defense Harold Brown asking him to begin immediately evaluating alternate uses of the Richards-Gebaur base. The Office of Economic Adjustment in the Defense Department also was alerted to the potential economic concerns of the Kansas and Missouri communities.

The text of the Dole-Danforth letter to Brown follows:

"In response to today's announcement by yourself regarding the relocation of the Air Force Communications Service from Richards-Gebaur to Scott Air Force Base, we have made a direct appeal to President Carter for his personal review of that decision.

Although we are hopeful the President will reverse the decision, we feel it would be wise at this time to request the Office of Economic Adjustment to be prepared to offer assistance and also begin a survey of all the backfill possibilities for Richards-Gebaur within the Department of Defense. The Richards-Gebaur facility is in excellent condition and can offer attractive solutions to a number of DOD space requirements.

We find it necessary to make this request since, as you are no doubt aware, both the Air Force and HUD have acknowledged that the relocation decision will have an estimated negative impact to the private sector in and around Kansas City approaching an estimated \$200 million per year. Also, there is the personal impact upon each homeowner estimated to be between \$15,000-\$25,000 per household move.

Although the decision on the AFCS relocation is not final until an answer is received on the requested Presidential review, we believe action can be taken on both the EOA and backfill requests at this time which would not prejudice the President's decision.

Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter."