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DOLE SAYS HUD REORGANIZATION TO COST KANSAS 200 FEDERAL JOBS OK

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole charged today that over 200 Kansas jobs will be eliminated if President Carter's proposed reorganization of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is implemented.

"Kansas already has less than its fair share of federal offices. Any further reduction in federal personnel in Kansas would be a slap in the face to the people of Kansas who are bearing an increasingly large tax burden to support federal programs. Government reorganization and efficiency are indeed commendable goals. But they should not be vehicles to deny Kansans the home state service to which they are entitled," Dole said.

Dole said that the proposed HUD reorganization plan would be particularly harmful to Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas. Under the proposed plan, a copy of which was obtained by Senator Dole, the Topeka Insuring Office which now employs 57 people would be closed and replaced with a small evaluation station employing only about a half-a-dozen persons. The Kansas City, Kansas area office, which now has 145 permanent employees, would be moved to Kansas City, Missouri.

"It is difficult to see how the federal government will save money by all but eliminating the Topeka Office when there is apparently no plan to reduce the payroll. Moreover, the new \$12 million federal building in Topeka, which opened last April, would be dealt a severe blow by losing its largest agency. And empty office space costs the taxpayer, too."

"Moving the Kansas City, Kansas Area Office to Kansas City, Missouri is similarly unjustified. Over 95% of all federal space in the Kansas City metropolitan area is already on the Missouri side of the state line. The loss of 145 additional federal employees would serve only to further aggravate the existing imbalance between Kansas and Missouri."

"What it all boils down to is that many federal jobs now held by Kansans will be going to Missouri residents," Dole said.

Dole said he has written H.U.D. Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris to express his concern.

A summary of the H.U.D. Reorganization Plan obtained by Dole is attached.