

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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KANSAS A BIG WINNER IN BATTLE FOR TIGHT DEFENSE DOLLARS FINAL HOUSE/SENATE APPROVAL EXPECTED

WASHINGTON -- SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE COMMITTEES HAVE AGREED TO FUND MAJOR KANSAS DEFENSE PROJECTS. THE SENATE AND HOUSE DEFENSE CONFEREES COMPLETED WORK ON THE FY 1990 DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL THIS AFTERNOON. THE DEFENSE PACKAGE NOW GOES TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR FINAL PASSAGE.

"AT A TIME WHEN MANY PROGRAMS ARE BEING SEVERELY CURTAILED OR TERMINATED, CONFEREES AGREED TO FULLY FUND OR ADD FUNDS FOR MOST KANSAS PROJECTS. THIS IS A TIME OF TOUGH CHOICES -- BUDGET PRESSURES FORCED THE CONFEREES TO TAKE A LONG HARD LOOK AT EVERY PROGRAM -- BUT THESE PROGRAMS WERE FUNDED BECAUSE THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO THE SECURITY OF THIS NATION. DESPITE BUDGETARY PRESSURES THE CONFEREES AGREED WITH ME THAT THESE WERE HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS," DOLE SAID, IN RESPONSE TO ACTION THE CONFEREES TOOK WITH REGARD TO KANSAS PROJECTS.

WICHITA PROJECTS RECOGNIZED BY HOUSE AND SENATE CONFEREES AS ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY INCLUDE BOEING'S KC-135 REENGINEING PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE CONFEREES AT \$572.4 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$84.4 MILLION, AND A-6 REWING PROGRAM AUTHORIZED AT REQUESTED LEVEL OF \$63 MILLION.

THE CONFEREES ALSO FULLY AUTHORIZED FY 1990 FUNDING FOR THE TANKER-TRANSPORT TRAINING SYSTEM (TTTS) -- A TOTAL OF \$147 MILLION. THE TTTS PROGRAM WILL INVOLVE THE PURCHASE OF 211 BUSINESS-TYPE JETS TO PROVIDE MULTI-ENGINE TRAINING TO AIR FORCE PILOTS. THE CONTRACT AWARD IS EXPECTED IN EARLY 1990 AND THE CONTENDERS ARE THREE KANSAS CONTRACTORS, BEECH, CESSNA AND LEERJET.

"THE CONFEREES TOOK A LONG TERM VIEW AND WISELY DECIDED THAT THE TTTS PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE AIR FORCE'S PILOT TRAINING EFFORT. KANSAS COULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM THIS PROGRAM OVER THE COMING YEARS," SAID DOLE.

IN ADDITION, THE CONFEREES APPROPRIATED FUNDING FOR THE M864 ARTILLERY ROUND AND ADDED \$70 MILLION TO THE THE CEM CLUSTER BOMB PROGRAM. BOTH ARE KANSAS ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT PROGRAMS.

RECOGNIZING THAT TRAINING IS THE KEY TO ENHANCING THE READINESS OF OUR ARMED FORCES CONFEREES AUTHORIZED \$10 MILLION TO ESTABLISH A SIMULATED WAR-FIGHTING TRAINING CENTER AT FORT LEAVENWORTH.

"INVESTING IN TRAINING IS ONE OF THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR SECURITY. THE WAR-FIGHTING TRAINING CENTER IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION," SAID DOLE.

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