

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 8, 1989

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PARSONS GUARANTEED FY'90 LAP WORK;
DOLE SEEKS TO STABILIZE KAAP WORK FORCE;

Washington, D.C. -- SENATORS BOB DOLE AND NANCY KASSEBAUM AND CONGRESSMAN BOB WHITTAKER EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE KANSAS ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT WORK FORCE FOLLOWING A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING BY MAJOR GENERAL PAUL GREENBERG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR AMMUNITION, ARMY MATERIAL COMMAND. THE THREE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MET WITH GENERAL GREENBERG AND AMC'S CHIEF OF PRODUCTION, JOHN MYTRYSHYN, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND REVIEWED THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM CHANGES THAT WILL EFFECT PARSONS.

SENATOR DOLE HAD RECEIVED A MAY 15TH LETTER FROM ARMY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAY SCULLEY THAT ASSURED PARSONS OF A PORTION OF THE LOAD, ASSEMBLY, AND PACK (LAP) WORK ON THE ARMY'S NEW 155MM ARTILLERY ROUND KNOWN AS THE M864 IN FY 90. DOLE HAD PREVIOUSLY SECURED AN ARMY COMMITMENT ALLOWING PARSONS TO COMPETE FOR THE LAP OF THE M864 ROUND IN FY 89. THAT COMPETITION IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

"OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN M864 WORK WERE A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE ARMY'S PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE WORK ON THE M55 DETONATOR AND M77 GRENADE AT A TEXAS AMMUNITION PLANT, SAID DOLE. "ORIGINAL ARMY PLANS CALLED FOR ANOTHER ARTILLERY ROUND, THE M915, TO REPLACE THOSE JOBS LOST BY THE M55 AND M77 MOVEMENT. THE M915 WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED, YET THE ARMY STILL PLANNED TO MOVE THE WORK TO TEXAS. HAD THIS BEEN ALLOWED TO HAPPEN, PARSONS WOULD HAVE BEEN A CANDIDATE FOR 'INACTIVE' STATUS BY THE ARMY."

LAST DECEMBER THE ARMY AGREED TO DELAY THE MOVEMENT OF THE M55 AND NOW PLANS TO PROCEED WITH THAT CONSOLIDATION IN 1990. THE THREE MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN TODAY THAT THOSE JOBS NOT BE REMOVED PRIOR TO RECEIVING WORK ON THE M864.

"WE ALL REALIZE THAT, DUE TO BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, EVERYONE IN THE AMMUNITION BUSINESS WILL SUSTAIN LOSSES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SAID DOLE. "OUR EFFORTS TODAY WERE AIMED AT TRYING TO STABILIZE PARSON'S WORK FORCE IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE PROJECTS LIKE THE SENSORED FUZE WEAPON (SFW). WE CLEARLY STATED THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE RECEIVING HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES FROM KANSANS. OUR WORKERS SHOULD BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE WARFIGHTING RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR OUR NATION'S DEFENSE."

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