

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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KANSAS ATTRACTING FOREIGN TOURISTS IN RECORD NUMBERS;
DOLE: "THEY COME TO SEE & HEAR THE STORY OF AMERICA"

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE FLOOR OF THE U.S. SENATE:

I would like to bring to the Senate's attention a front-page article that appeared in Sunday's New York Times entitled "Tourists from Abroad Discover Mid-America."

Dated "Dodge City, Kansas", the October 20th article tells the millions of New York Times readers worldwide something Kansans have known for a long time -- that our state is a great place to visit, especially if you want to see frontier history up close and personal, and if you're eager to meet friendly folks wherever you go.

The good news is, foreign visitors are well aware of these great Kansas attractions, and are now flocking to the Sunflower State in record numbers. During the past five years, according to The Times, foreign tourism to Kansas has increased by a whopping -- and welcome -- 213%.

And these tourists are quite clear about why they are coming to the heartland: they are coming to Kansas to see and hear the story of America -- the opening of the frontier; the sights and sounds of the old west; and the majestic sweep of waving wheat all the way to the horizon.

It's a powerful story, told by frontier towns named Dodge City and Fort Hays, Nicodemus and Fort Larned; it's the home of the Pony Express, Boot Hill and the Santa Fe Trail; and it's the land of natural treasures such as the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Refuge and the Flint Hills.

It's a story that proudly includes President Dwight Eisenhower, aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart, and frontier legends Buffalo Bill Cody, Wyatt Earp, Wild Bill Hickok and Bat Masterson.

In short, what awaits visitors to Kansas is the real thing, not the "Frontier World" of some artificial theme park, and certainly not the Hollywood Kansas of "The Wizard of Oz."

This past weekend, during a series of town meetings in Kansas, I hosted a distinguished visitor from abroad -- Andrei Kolosovsky, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the newly-independent Russian Republic. Like many other visitors to our state, Mr. Kolosovsky was on vacation, and we're proud he chose Kansas as one of his destinations.

We in Kansas are eager to tell our story, and the door is always open, not only to travellers from abroad but to folks from the 49 other states as well.

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