

OPENING REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES
September 30, 1974
WICHITA, KANSAS

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, KANSAS IS RECOGNIZED AS AN AGRICULTURAL STATE. THE LEADING PRODUCER OF WHEAT, NEAR THE TOP OF THE PRODUCTION OF NEARLY EVERY OTHER FARM PRODUCT, THE NATION SEES KANSAS AS ITS BREADBASKET AND BELIEVES MOST KANSANS LIVE AND WORK ON FARMS.

YET, AS YOU AND I KNOW, 79 PERCENT OF ALL KANSANS LIVE IN THIS STATE'S CITIES. THUS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THOSE OF US WHO REPRESENT YOU IN CONGRESS TO BE COGNIZANT NOT ONLY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE STATE, BUT ALSO TO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE ROLE OF THE CITY AND CITY GOVERNMENT IN SERVING THE NEEDS OF KANSANS.

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DURING MY SIX YEARS IN THE SENATE, I FEEL I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN POSITIONS ON KEY SENATE COMMITTEES WHICH HELP GIVE YOU A STRONG VOICE IN NATIONAL DECISIONS AFFECTING BOTH AGRICULTURE AND ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO KANSAS CITIES. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I WILL BECOME THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR, A POSITION WHICH WILL GIVE ME AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT KANSAS INTERESTS AND VIEWS IN THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICIES. I FEEL THIS POSITION IS IMPORTANT TO KANSAS CITIES ALSO. EVEN THE BIGGER CITIES OF KANSAS -- WICHITA, TOPEKA, AND KANSAS CITY -- ARE TRADE CENTERS FOR THE SMALLER COMMUNITIES THAT SURROUND THEM. THEIR ECONOMY IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE VITALITY OF THE KANSAS AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY.

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I WAS ALSO RECENTLY APPOINTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE, A COMMITTEE WHICH I FEEL WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES. THE SENATE AND HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEES, UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE RECENTLY PASSED BUDGET CONTROL ACT, WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING CEILING. POSSIBLY MORE IMPORTANT, IT WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ADJUSTING SPENDING PRIORITIES WITHIN THE SPENDING CEILING WHICH IS FINALLY ESTABLISHED. THIS POSITION ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO THOSE IN CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE STATE BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES WILL PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION. ADDITIONALLY, WITH THE U. S. FEDERAL SPENDING PRIORITIES IN A STATE OF FLUX, I BELIEVE MY POSITION ON THAT BUDGET COMMITTEE WILL GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT KANSAS SPENDING PRIORITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SPENDING POLICY.

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TWO YEARS AGO, I WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, A COMMITTEE I CONSIDER TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND IMPORTANT IN THE SENATE. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS JURISDICTION OVER TAXES, TRADE, HEALTH, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND PENSION LEGISLATION, AND OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO YOU -- GENERAL REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I AM A STRONG ADVOCATE OF REVENUE SHARING. I BELIEVE THE NATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I WAS AN ORIGINAL SPONSOR OF THE GENERAL REVENUE SHARING BILL AND HAVE THIS YEAR INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE PROGRAM FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS. I DID THIS BECAUSE I FEEL THE STABILITY OF THE PROGRAM AND AN ASSURANCE OF ITS CONTINUITY IS NEEDED IF CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE TO EFFECTIVELY PLAN FOR AND EFFICIENTLY USE FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS THAT ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

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I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. YOU ARE CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE TO BE SERVED AND ARE BEST SUITED AND EQUIPPED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE. REVENUE SHARING HAS BEEN GOOD FOR KANSAS. IT HAS PROVIDED EDUCATION FUNDING, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY, AND ASSISTED A MYRIAD OF LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS. AND IT HAS PROVIDED THIS ASSISTANCE WITH LITTLE, IF ANY, FEDERAL INTERFERENCE IN THE LOCAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS. I SUPPORT THIS PHILOSOPHY. I TRUST KANSANS WITH THEIR TAX DOLLARS AND FEEL THAT THE REVENUE SHARING CONCEPT AND THE NEW FEDERALISM APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT MUST BE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED.

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ALONG THIS SAME LINE, I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLIMENT THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES FOR ITS FINE WORK AND OUTSTANDING RECORD. IN WASHINGTON YOU ARE KNOWN TO BE ONE OF THE PREMIER ORGANIZATIONS OF YOUR KIND IN THE COUNTRY, AND I APPLAUD THE EXCELLENT JOB YOU ARE DOING TO IMPROVE CITY GOVERNMENT IN KANSAS. I TRUST I WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND THE INDIVIDUALS YOU REPRESENT ACROSS THE STATE.