

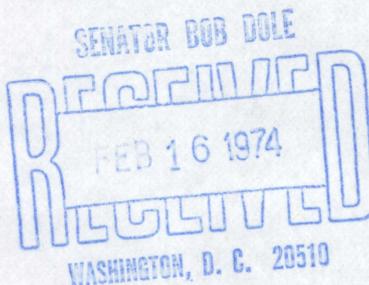
ALF M. LANDON

P.O. BOX 1280

February 13, 1974

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66601

Hon. Bob Dole
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510



Dear Bob:

I am sorry we didn't get more of a chance to talk today. Finishing up on my brief mention of my recent thinking on Docking's plans, I said to Jim McCain yesterday that, for the first time, I was giving some credibility to the thinking of some of my friends in the press gallery here that Docking might run for governor this year; that because of your growing strength, he would face a weaker gubernatorial candidate than a senatorial candidate.

I repeated to Huck Boyd - sitting here - what you told me about the question of the Democrat in Wichita. Huck said, "That's a very significant question."

As I said to you this noon, your position is getting stronger all the time. However, it is no time to be confident. You do need to develop more interest in the wide area that concerns so many people. Huck tells me that you asked for his well-thought-out and realistic plans for badly needed improving of health care, particularly in our rural areas where, from my own personal experience, I know are widely lacking in doctors. I think the President's State of the Union message contains some statements that warrant you, as a U. S. Senator, to discuss in more of a detailed way than was possible for the President to cover in his message.

I asked Mrs. Armstrong yesterday at the luncheon following her excellent remarks if the President's message did not pick up the Moynahan family plan. She answered, "Broadly, yes." And I also mentioned the shortage of doctors that Huck's been talking about. She said, "Yes, that's more of a detail of what he broadly outlined."

As I understand it, in this particular field she is one of the advisors of the President. I think you should not only think about introducing legislation that has priority over any other welfare plan in meeting the shortage of doctors in Kansas which Huck has so well documented, but also I think it would be worth your time to discuss with Mrs. Armstrong the importance of this legislation. This is something positive and constructive that you can tie into that not only is so badly needed in the rural areas of Kansas, but in many urban areas as well - and it also strengthens your position as well as the President's. I am sure Kansas is no exception in the country generally.

Let me repeat and urge your immediate attention to ^{this} sound public policy, as well as political. Here is a vacuum that needs to be filled and you're in a beautiful position to take the lead - state and national.

That was a beautiful story you got in the Star Sunday. It was somewhat surprising to me. Governor Rockefeller did a good job for you, too.

Don't let any grass grow under your feet.

Best as ever -

I said to Gov. Rockefeller as I was leaving that he was a real pro all right.
He didn't miss anyone in his remarks.

AML;j