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Tomanek Hall: Newspaper, If it looks like fat and smells like fat....

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EDITORIAL

If it looks like fat and smells like fat . . .

A sliver of gristle often separates fat from meat — that's true in the grocery store and it's true in politics.

Consider the case of the highway improvement project in west Wichita. Sen. Bob Dole is trying to drive \$10.9 million to Wichita by way of a federal highway bill passed by the U.S. Senate.

Dole took the wheel after the interchange project failed to win support in the state highway program.

To people everywhere outside of Wichita, the project looks like pork-barrel fat, but to the residents of Wichita, it tastes like meat.

Or, consider the case of \$4 million in federal funds for a science building at Fort Hays State University. The proposal's architect is FHSU President Ed Hammond. The lead contractor in Washington, D.C., is, again, Bob

Dole.

Dole worked the appropriation into an energy and water bill approved by the Senate last week.

Now, if you didn't live in Hays, but knew enrollment at FHSU was flat and down substantially from 10 years ago, you might start thinking this was a pork-barrel project. If you considered the ample space the university enjoys because of enrollment declines, you might swear you can all but taste that pork fat.

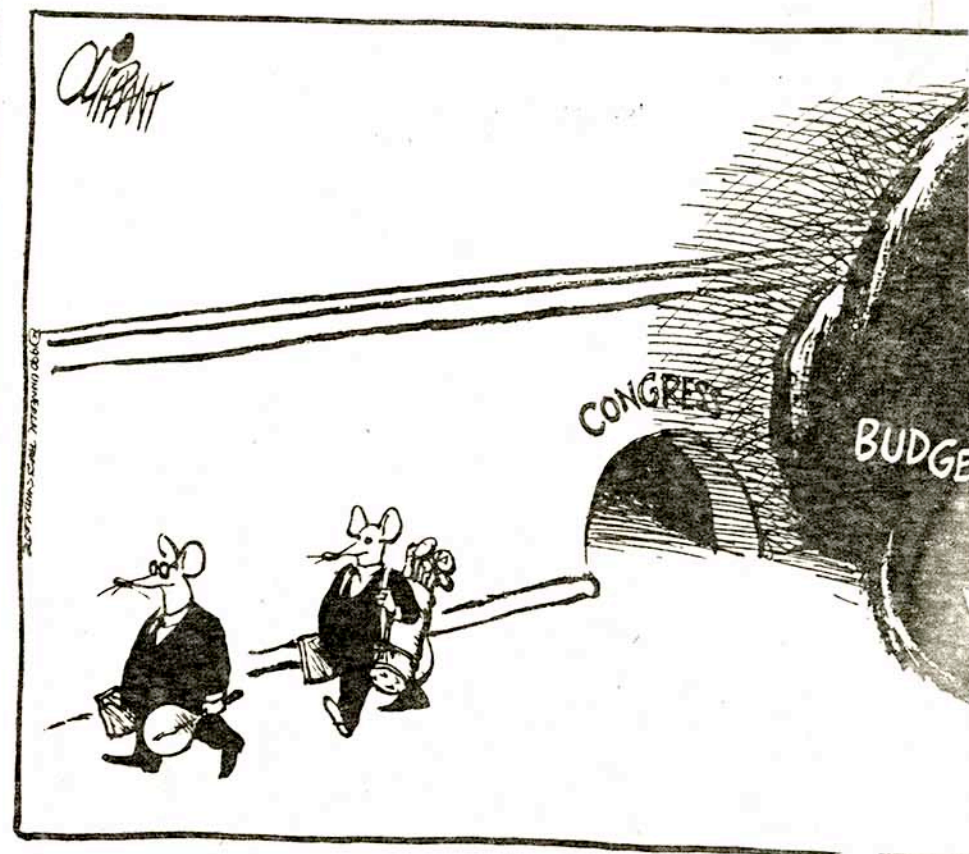
But all that is illusory.

Because the project is to be built right here in Hays, it must be needed. Because it benefits everyone who lives in the region, it must be a prudent expense of U.S. tax dollars.

So, although it may look as if Dole is filling the barrel with fat, those who get the highways, buildings and other largess know better; they know he's just bringing home the bacon.

OTHER EDITORS

OPINION



Iraq throws unpleasant reality

By MIKE ROYKO

TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

His shoulders slumping as he leaned on the bar, Slat Grobnik mumbled: "This is so embarrassing. Who would have thunk it?"

Who would have thunk what?



lay down on the couch and say: 'I'm so depressed because the United States is denouncing me?'

No, that's unlikely, but he knows that he has aroused our displeasure.

"Oh, boy, I think you been reading the New York Times too much."

What would you have us do?

"I dunno. That's the trouble. thought we were a whatchamacallit perpower."

That we are, this is the trouble.