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# Albertson wasn't closed, despite Dole claim

By DAVID BAKER  
Hays Daily News

A "communications problem" with representatives of Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., may have caused Dole to believe Albertson Hall had been closed by the state, Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond said this morning.

Dole wrote in a letter to the editor that appeared in the Sunday edition of The Hays Daily News, "Is it any wonder the state of Kansas has closed the building (Albertson) on numerous occasions for fire and safety code violations."

Hammond said no such closings

have taken place to the university's knowledge.

Dole's letter was in response to a editorial in last week's Daily News saying a \$4 million federal appropriation for a science building at FHSU to replace Albertson might be a "pork-barrel project."

On Aug. 2, the Senate passed a energy and water bill that included the \$4 million "at Dole's urging," according to a news release from the senator's Washington office.

A call to Dole's office this morning was returned by deputy press secretary Clarkston Hine, who said someone from FHSU would have

the information about the letter's claim.

He added, "Sen. Dole will keep fighting for this state-of-the-art addition to Kansas education."

Hammond said the tour of Albertson given to representatives of Dole's office was the same as one given last fall to the state Board of Regents, which was attended by a reporter from The Daily News.

That tour mentioned closing of Albertson for other reasons, such as upgrading to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards, Hammond said.

But "the presentation that was

made to the Washington people didn't mention closure of the building" based on fire or safety code violations.

Hammond added that problems with Albertson's ventilation systems and wiring mentioned in Dole's letter did exist and that the lack of code violations did not detract from the need for the new building.

The building is expected to cost \$12 million, with the remaining \$8 million coming from state and private resources. The \$4 million federal appropriation must be approved in a conference committee.