

Feb. 22 -- Copies of statement to Sparky, Lastelic, AP, UPI here; Release called to Bee for AP, UPI distrib there; FYI copies of statement sent to all dailies.

Feb. 21 -- Copies for Dodge City media air, special to Bee

FOR RELEASE PM'S FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1968

DODGE CITY, Kans., Feb. 23 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said he is "unalterably opposed" to the proposed discontinuance of Santa Fe passenger trains (No. 19, 20, 23 and 24) between Chicago and Los Angeles.

In a statement prepared for an Interstate Commerce Commission hearing here, Dole said, "In providing passenger service between those two great cities, these trains also serve 63 communities in Kansas. These trains cover many of our metropolitan areas reasonably well. They serve much of our rural community very well."

"I am unalterably opposed to the discontinuance of this service," the Kansas Congressman added.

Pointing out recent Santa Fe records show the four trains are carrying more passengers each year, Dole said, "From 1962 to 1966, while auto registration continued to climb, use of airways skyrocketed and many interstate highways were being completed, still the number of railway patrons managed to increase."

Nothing the Santa Fe Company's net revenues jumped from \$127.6 million in 1962 to \$162.5 million in 1966, Dole said, "These are not statistics of decline."

Dole added the Santa Fe records also show trains 19 and 20 earned \$1.1 million and trains 23 and 24 earned \$1.4 million in 1966.

"Before discontinuance of any passenger train is approved," Dole said, "the carrier should be required to show that continued service would cause serious damage to the financial condition of the company."