

FROM: OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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TOPEKA, Kans., Aug. 14 -- Congressman Bob Dole today said the Post Office Department "seems unwilling to fully share its responsibility for deteriorating mail service."

In a statement issued upon receipt of a letter from Assistant Postmaster General W. M. McMillan, Dole said, "Mr. McMillan places the burden of the blame on delays in air and rail schedules."

"In part, I can appreciate this point," the Congressman said. "The same frustration and concern has been expressed by many local postal employees who while doing everything possible to speed up their handling of the mail, are obviously powerless to process and deliver the mail until it arrives."

Pointing out postal rates continue to rise while the Post Office Department continues to incur large debits and the quality of service declines, Dole said, "It seems apparent one of the biggest areas of failure is in the top management of the Department itself."

Noting a lack of continuity in the management of the post office, Dole added, "The effect is a hopeless, loosely-knit network run by a new politically-appointed Postmaster General every few years, but somehow held together by a mutual source of funds."

"Any nation as capable of the progress and achievement as is America is surely able to correct the inefficiencies in something as basic as the post office system," he added. "It is imperative that something be done at the federal level before this vital public service is further enfeebled."

McMillan's letter was in reply to Dole's inquiries to Postmaster General Larry Watson about reports of unsatisfactory mail service in Kansas.