



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole announced through his Washington office today that he has visited more than 40 Kansas communities and that the critical shortage of boxcars still persists in Kansas. Dole has therefore been in contact with George Stafford, Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), asking that an immediate survey be made of the situation because of the critical need for boxcars to ship wheat from terminals and local elevators and make it possible for the farmers to sell their wheat. Some elevators are also concerned with relocating wheat so that sufficient space will be available to receive the coming feed grain harvest.

As a result of Dole's request, the U. S. Department of Agriculture will monitor regularly the grain storage availability and need for cars and keep the ICC informed. "We must get the wheat shipped immediately", Dole said. "Currently, the need is for 13,000 boxcars and 11,000 hopper cars -- which is 6-7,000 less than the extremely critical situation we faced back in March."

Dole also urged the ICC to take action, if necessary, to avoid any excess accumulation of cars in the Gulf port areas. A similar situation developed last winter when an excess number of boxcars overburdened railroad switching facilities in the port areas. "This must be averted so that the grain can be emptied from the cars and the equipment returned to the grain-producing areas as promptly as possible", Dole stated. "I have urged Stafford to consider a prohibition of additional shipments going into the port areas or perhaps put a limit on the number of cars that can be in the port areas so that we can avoid a recurrence of last winter's problem."