



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole will be returning to Washington today from Kansas for three days of meetings with federal agency and department officials about Kansas problems recently brought to his attention.

Dole, who has been traveling in the state throughout the month of August, said he plans to return to Kansas for the Labor Day week-end after his meetings in Washington are completed.

Dole plans to meet personally with ICC Chairman George Stafford in his continuing effort to resolve the serious boxcar shortage in Kansas. In addition, he will meet with officials of the Cost of Living Council and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Dole will meet with Governor Love of the Energy Policy Office to discuss the present fuel situation in Kansas and the tight supply of LP gas expected this fall and winter.

The Kansas Senator expressed concern about the fertilizer shortages which are hampering the ability of some farmers to plant their winter wheat crops. Dole said that the shortage seems to be due to the Cost of Living Council's controls which have made it more profitable for manufacturers to export their fertilizer rather than selling it here at home. He indicated his intention to press CLC Director, John Dunlop for an immediate end to controls on domestic fertilizer prices.

Dole has already been in contact with HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger about a possible impact aid fund cut-off for some 95 Kansas school districts. He intends to follow up on these initial contacts with personal meetings with Department officials.

Last week, HEW notified Kansas that an apparent conflict between state and federal law was jeopardizing impact aid funding. "I have talked with many Kansas educators and legislators about the school finance situation," Dole said. "It is serious and stems basically from the fact that federal law is out-of-date in certain respects. I am hopeful that we can obtain an interim ruling that will allow funding of Kansas districts until the Congress can work out the necessary changes."