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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE MEETS ON AMTRAK; REQUESTS MORE INFORMATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole met today with AMTRAK Vice President Harold Graham, Interstate Commerce Commission Chairman George Stafford and Kansas House Majority Leader, Donn J. Everett to discuss possible alternatives for establishment of the proposed Kansas City to Denver AMTRAK route.

Dole yesterday received a feasibility study he had requested on the route from AMTRAK. The report anticipates a first year loss of \$1,985,000 for a route added as an extension of existing AMTRAK service. If a separate train originating in Kansas City were employed, the loss estimate is \$2,361,000. Dole stressed that the feasibility study discussed today does not include estimates of cost which may be incurred from improvements to track, station, storage facilities and similar capital costs.

In the meeting today, Dole requested that on-site investigations necessary to develop these figures be started as soon as possible so that "we may have a more precise estimate of the expected costs of operation." Graham assured the Senator that investigations would begin immediately and that Dole would have the results as soon as possible, probably within the next two weeks.

Dole said the feasibility study convinced him that he should proceed with his efforts to establish the Kansas City to Denver line as an AMTRAK experimental route. "The study anticipates significant loss in the first year of operation, but I am convinced that the energy crisis, and the quality of service AMTRAK could provide, would, over time, increase actual ridership over present estimates and that the line could be a success," Dole said. "The two available alternatives seem to be either the establishment of the experimental route funded totally by AMTRAK for a period of two years or a commitment by the State Legislature to cooperate in funding the line by picking up 2/3 of whatever operating losses may actually be incurred."

Dole said he would confer with Senator Peter Dominick to enlist his aid in getting the Kansas City - Denver route designated as an AMTRAK experimental route.