

NO. WDS - CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM UNLESS IT IS OTHERWISE INDICATED.	PRESS		OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM
					DPR	NPR	

Send the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

April 6, 1978

The Honorable A. Daniel O'Neal
Chairman, Interstate Commerce Commission
Twelfth Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Request you take immediate action to provide ample supply of covered hopper cars to grain elevators in Kansas and other grain producing states for shipment of grain during April.

Many small country elevators are behind over 100 cars on their car requests from railroads. Larger country elevators are behind 600 cars or more. These grain firms, both independent and cooperatives, are being forced to drop the price they pay farmers for grain to cover their interest costs and sales agreement discounts resulting from lack of covered hopper cars.

Unless an immediate supply of equipment is provided, elevators will drop their prices from 10¢ to 25¢ per bushel in the next ten days.

I have received reports that railroads are circumventing ICC car orders relative to unit trains and are cooperating with grain companies to delay shipments to ports due to the loss of two port grain elevators this year from dust explosions.

Farmers pay for all the costs of these delays and discounts through lower grain prices at country elevators. They should not be penalized for the actions of others.

Please act immediately to issue priority orders providing covered hopper cars to country elevators over other points.

BOB DOLE
United States Senate