



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

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CONTACT: BILL KATS

## HOPPER CAR SHORTAGE CAUSED BY PEAK DEMAND AND OVERREGULATION OF RAILROADS

WASHINGTON, D.C....."The worst hopper car shortage in recent times has been caused by a record demand for hopper cars and by a railroad system that is over-taxed, over-regulated, and over-unionized," Senator Bob Dole said today.

Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said the railroads are just not equipped to handle the demand for railway services in 1978. They are overburdened by heavy property taxes, suffocating under complicated government regulations, and economically inefficient under out-dated union work rules.

"As a result the American farmer is being hurt and is suffering millions of dollars in losses due to reduced prices for grain, penalties for delayed shipping of grain, and losses from having to put wheat on the ground when elevators are full. The farmer once again is the victim," Dole said.

"It has been estimated that grain prices are down 20¢ per bushel in many areas due to the shipping delays. Farmers are already economically hurt and should not have to bear the burden of a shortage of railway cars. Farmers have suffered economic defeats at the hands of the weather, the Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, the President, and now because of railway car shortages," the Kansas Senator said.

"It is a good thing most farmers have nine-lives," Dole said, "If they didn't have the ability to bounce back from economic losses our food supply would be in sad shape."

"In the long run this whole mess means higher prices for consumers. Whenever the food production system is not allowed to be efficient and operate at the lowest cost the consumer will pay higher prices. The whole cost of a over-taxed, over-regulated, over-unionized railroad is ultimately borne by the consumer through higher prices for consumer goods, higher freight rates, and poorer service from the railroads," Dole said.