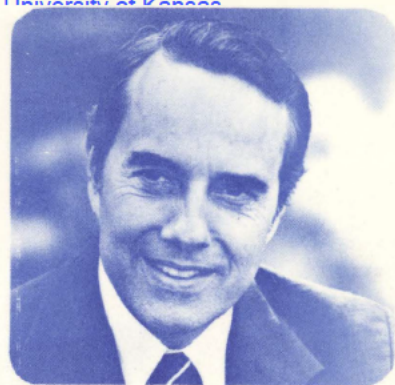


News from Senator BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1980

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DOLE PRAISES ICC POSTPONEMENT OF ROCK ISLAND PHASE-OUT

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today praised Commissioner George M. Stafford of the Interstate Commerce Commission for delaying a shut-down of the Rock Island Railroad.

"I am glad we have a Kansan on the ICC who understands the importance of this railroad to our state and the Midwest," Dole said. "For the past week, I have been urging the ICC to postpone closing down the Rock, as requested by the railroad's management."

Since last Oct. 5, the Kansas City Terminal Company, a consortium of 12 railroads, has been running the Rock Island under a directed service order. This order is scheduled to expire March 2. As a result, the KCT recently asked the ICC for authority to begin phasing out operations through the use of freight traffic embargoes. Under the KCT's plan, the first lines would shut down Feb. 16 in Kansas. By Feb. 22, all Rock Island traffic in Kansas would have been terminated, even though directed service does not terminate until March 2. Last Friday, at Commissioner Stafford's request, the ICC ordered that no freight be embargoed before Feb. 15, and no lines shut down before March 2.

"Since I became aware of the KCT plans to shut down the Rock Island before the scheduled expiration of directed service on March 2, I have made it clear to the ICC that I oppose such a move," Dole said. "When the ICC approved directed service over Rock Island track until at least March 2, the shippers of Kansas relied on that decision. Those of us in Congress who supported directed service and voted additional funding for it believed the emergency service would extend at least to the promised dates, if not longer. Commissioner Stafford's actions are welcome."

The Interstate Commerce Commission has scheduled a hearing in Washington this Thursday to discuss continuing directed service for another 90 days beyond March 2.

"This meeting is important to the communities and shippers served by the Rock Island," Dole said. "If directed service is not extended, dozens of Kansas communities will be left without rail service."