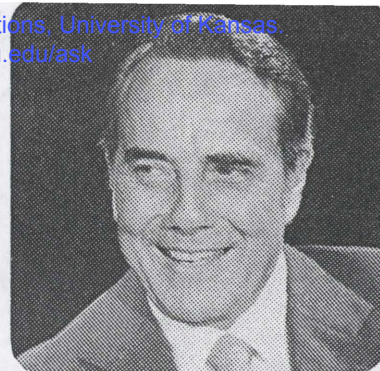


# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 12, 1990

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DOLE SAYS IMPENDING SANTA FE TRACK DEAL IS GOOD NEWS;  
SHORTLINE SALES, NOT ABANDONMENT, THE WAY TO GO

WASHINGTON - KANSAS GRAIN SHIPPERS AND RAIL USERS COULD BE GETTING SOME GOOD NEWS SOON WITH AN EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SANTA FE RAILROAD THAT IT PLANS TO SELL 282 MILES OF TRACK IN SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA TO THE SOUTH KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA RAILROAD, BASED IN COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS.

SKO HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO OPERATE THE RAIL LINES AS A SHORTLINE RAILROAD AND COORDINATE MARKETING AND SERVICE WITH SANTA FE.

SANTA FE CHAIRMAN ROBERT KREBS AND DOLE SPOKE BY TELEPHONE THIS MORNING REGARDING SANTA FE'S INTENTIONS. DOLE HAS ALSO SPOKEN TO RICHARD B. WEBB, PRESIDENT OF SKO IN COFFEYVILLE.

"I AM ENCOURAGED TO SEE SANTA FE MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF SHORTLINE SALES VERSUS ABANDONMENTS. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, WE NEED TO USE THESE VALUABLE TRACKS. WHEN THIS PROJECT IS FULLY IN PLACE, KANSAS FARMERS, GRAIN SHIPPERS AND RAIL USERS WILL ALL BENEFIT. IT MAKES SENSE TO SET UP SHORTLINE SYSTEMS THAT ARE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND EFFICIENT WHERE POSSIBLE," SAID DOLE.

DOLE SAID THAT SEVERAL ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDING FINANCING, BUT THAT PLANS WERE PROCEEDING. THE TRACK SEGMENTS ARE IOLA TO TULSA, OKLAHOMA; CHERRYVALE TO COFFEYVILLE; CHANUTE TO WINFIELD; AND WN JUNCTION (NEAR WINFIELD) TO WELLINGTON. SKO INTENDS TO FILE A PETITION WITH THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION IN DECEMBER.

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