

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 2 -- Congressman Bob Dole, Republican candidate for the Senate seat being vacated by U. S. Senator Frank Carlson, today said the outlook for passage of the telephone supplemental financing bill is good, if the measure clears the House Rules Committee.

Speaking at the 14th annual meeting of the National Telephone Cooperative Association here, Dole said, "The bill has been stymied in the Committee for many months. If it passes the Committee, I am hopeful the Congress will act favorably on the measure to insure continued reliable telephone service."

The Kansas Congressman pointed out the bill's chances for passage are increased by:

- 1) Support of all types of telephone systems for the measure, and
- 2) Congressional bi-partisan support of the bill.

In his speech, Dole also urged the Association's leaders to help preserve the small rural telephone companies.

"It is not in the best interests of America to have one, two or even three companies supplying all of the communications service," Dole said.

Pointing out the Kansas Independent Telephone Association is carrying on a statewide campaign, "It's great to be independent", Dole recommended adoption of a similar program across the nation.

"Full telephone service for rural America is not a blessing that any of us should take for granted," he said.

Dole has been instrumental in securing passage of a supplemental financing bill in the House Agriculture Committee since 1966.