

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WICHITA, Kans., April 5 -- Congressman Bob Dole today said the House Rules Committee has temporarily blocked efforts of independent telephone companies to pay their own way, despite the companies' good credit record.

Urging Congressional action on a supplemental financing bill which has been pigeonholed in the House Rules Committee, Dole said, "We are doing everything possible to pry it loose. I am hopeful the Congress will act favorably on the measure yet this year."

Dole, a ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee which wrote the bill, spoke at the annual meeting of the State Independent Telephone Association here.

"The past four years have seen the failure of the Administration to request sufficient funds to meet your growing capital needs," the Kansas Congressman added.

The result, he said, "is a widening gap between the needs for rural telephone service and the financial ability of the rural telephone systems to meet those needs."

Dole pointed out there is a \$265 million backlog in loan applications in the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

Commending the independents for "full financial integrity" in REA loan repayment \$500,000 ahead of schedule, Dole said, "In this era of demands on the government for giveaway programs, you have met your obligations and paid your own way."

The supplemental financing bill, he added, "demonstrates again the fact the independents want to relieve as much as possible the financial burden on the taxpayers."