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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- July 21 -- Congressman Bob Dole today notified postmasters in Hammond, Beaumont, Oak Hill, Garland, and Treece that he is investigating the announced closing of their post offices.

In letters to the five postmasters, Dole said, "I am investigating the announced closing of your post office to determine if there is justification for termination."

Dole's action followed an announcement by Postmaster General Marvin Watson that he will close 347 of the Nation's fourth class post offices shortly and curtail Saturday mail deliveries.

The Congressman said, "Eliminating fourth class post offices and Saturday deliveries will not bring about needed government economies."

"I consider such an announcement more of an harassment than a realistic attempt to cut government spending", he said.

"I oppose such budget cuts when their primary purpose appears to be intimidation of Congress into restoring the funds", he said.

"The Postmaster General could achieve real economies and improve mail service if he would implement some of the postal reforms suggested by the President's Commission on Postal Organization", Dole said.

"The Post Office Department, like many federal agencies affected by the \$6 billion federal spending cut voted by Congress last month, will try to make spending reductions in vital public service areas in an effort to turn the American people against Congress", he added.

"Every time there is a cut in government spending, the anguish inside the Washington bureaucracy becomes positively excruciating", Dole said.