

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, P.M.'S, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1968

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 24 -- Congressman Bob Dole today received a letter from Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson agreeing to review his request to "determine if there is justification for the scheduled closing of five post offices in Kansas."

Last week Dole notified postmasters in Hammond, Beaumont, Oak Hill, Garland and Treece that he is investigating the announced closings. Dole's action follows an announcement by Watson that he will close 347 of the Nation's fourth class post offices and curtail Saturday mail deliveries as an economy move.

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

"One of the biggest areas of failure", he added, "is in the top management of the Post Office Department itself."

Pointing out that the Postmaster General and many local postmasters are political appointees, Dole said, "There is no continuity or systematic approach to the management of the post office. Most are not career men, from the top man on down the line.

"The result is a hopeless, loosely-knit network run by new people every few years, but somehow held together by a mutual source of funds."

"If something is not done soon to correct inefficiencies and assure continuity of personnel and policy, the post office system, as we know it, will falter, then collapse."