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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 2, 1971 --- Commenting on the railroad strike settlement today, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said he was relieved that "an expanded rail strike has been avoided and that full rail service will soon be restored throughout the nation."

The Kansas Senator said the settlement "was especially important for the agricultural sector," and added that "a crisis situation was rapidly being approached due to the perishable summer produce and other foodstuffs that were unable to reach consumers." He pointed out that in many plains states, a record wheat harvest was being dumped on the ground for storage due to the rail strike.

Dole said he hoped work rules changes that were agreed to by the parties which could increase productivity, would offset the potential inflationary effects of the 42 per cent increase.

He said it was regrettable that the strike occurred in the first place.

If Congress had enacted the legislation to deal with labor disputes in the transportation industry that the President had requested 18 months ago, these issues would have been settled without the disruption of a strike and the rail companies, union members and the American public would have been spared the inconvenience and the economic hardship caused by the strike.

"I am hopeful," Dole said, "that Congress will soon act to end the threat of recurring strikes in the nation's vital transportation industry. The President has presented a sound, workable proposal which Congress has a vital obligation to consider and improve upon if possible."