

569



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE AGAINST POSTAL RATE INCREASE WITHOUT BETTER SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole, in a letter today to Postmaster General F.T. Klassen, relayed the concern he has heard from Kansans over the proposed increase in postal rates. He cited "widespread feeling that the quality of postal service has steadily deteriorated in recent years and that in the drive for higher and higher rates, the Postal Service is quite possibly defeating its own financial goals."

Urging Klassen not to enact the higher rates, Dole said, "the proposed increases allowed by the Cost of Living Council are in my opinion excessive and should not be permitted." The full text of Senator Dole's letter follows:

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

In my personal contact with the voters of Kansas, one almost universal concern is the proposed increase in postal rates which they view as totally unjustified and inflationary, the reduction in revenue increases ordered by the Cost of Living Council on December 21, 1973, notwithstanding.

There is widespread feeling that the quality of postal service has steadily deteriorated in recent years and that in the drive for higher and higher rates, the Postal Service is quite possibly defeating its own financial goals. The emphasis on the system's paying its own way ought not to be allowed to override the basic duty to provide our citizens cheap, convenient and efficient postal service.

If the present trend of continuing rate increases continues without a corresponding improvement in service, I predict that many Americans will decrease their reliance on the mails, thereby defeating the objectives of making the Postal Service self-supporting. In any case, the proposed increases allowed by the Cost of Living Council are in my opinion excessive and should not be permitted.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate