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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ASKS ASSURANCE THAT RURAL AREAS RECEIVE FAIR SHARE

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS--In a letter today to Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar, Senator Bob Dole asked him to give "proper, if not priority, preference to the importance of rail service to rural communities of less than 50,000 population." Dole was referring to the Federal Railroad Administration's planned program of \$180 million in railroad subsidies to prevent the abandonment of some segments of rail service in marginal revenue areas.

"When railroad service is abandoned it is the rural communities which suffer the greatest losses," Dole told Brinegar. He traced the cause of "many of the social and economic problems of this nation" to the fact that rural communities have been relegated "to a back seat" by many federal programs. "It is most important that this not happen again in the administration of your proposed subsidy program." Dole added.

"Unless some rail service is maintained in many of these communities, we will see further problems arise in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas far more costly to the federal government than your proposed maintenance subsidy."