



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE INTRODUCES AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT APPEALS FOR MONEY BY FRANKED MAIL

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Calling franking an "official privilege," Senator Bob Dole today introduced legislation to prohibit "any Senator, Congressman, Resident Commissioner or Delegate from using the frank to make solicitations for money." Many Members of Congress have, by franked mail, appealed to their constituents for money to help defer the cost of newsletters. Dole's amendment was passed by the Senate late today.

The frank is a signature used in place of paid postage by government officials for mailing official business. "The frank is intended simply and clearly to enable a Member of Congress to communicate with his constituents on official matters, and on this basis I believe it serves a highly important and valuable public purpose," Dole said. "There are, admittedly, many gray areas in the franking law, but most officials agree that appeals for money should not be considered official business, and therefore are not eligible to be franked."

Noting that the House Commission on Congressional Mailing has found that solicitations under the frank are improper, the Kansas Senator said he believes "it would be proper and appropriate to provide an absolute and unquestionable legislative answer to this question. This should end any doubt or confusion and provide the public with firm assurance that we in Congress are vigilant in eliminating the opportunities for abuse of the franking privilege."