



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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AMTRAK DECISION EXPECTED SOON

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole again today urged Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar to institute the proposed Kansas City to Denver route as an experimental Amtrak line. In a telephone conversation, Brinegar told Dole that, while competition for the experimental line is keen, the Kansas City - Denver route is still in the running. Brinegar also said that he expected a decision on the designation of an experimental route soon, hopefully within the next ten days.

Dole has also received a briefing from Amtrak officials on the on-site evaluation of track and facilities along the proposed route. "The evaluation appears to show no insurmountable obstacles to restoring the route to passenger service," said Dole. Some refurbishing of stations is necessary as well as upgrading of roadbed conditions along part of the route. Cost estimates for these actions are presently being prepared by representatives of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Dole has been working since last November for the Amtrak experimental route to be designated in Kansas. Such a designation relieves the State from assuming responsibility for any financial losses that might be incurred during the first two years of operation. All financial responsibility would be assumed by Amtrak.