



NEWS from 11379
U.S. Senator
Bob Dole

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(R.--Kans.)

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DODGE CITY, Kan. (Special)--Amidst rumors President Gerald R. Ford would veto the new railroad retirement legislation U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R.--Kan.) this afternoon dispatched a telegram to the White House urging immediate approval of the measure.

Echoing an earlier position Sen. Dole advised the President "H.R. 15301 is extremely vital to the thousands of railroad workers and pensioners in the state of Kansas, and its enactment is essential to the survival of the entire Railroad Retirement System.

"While we are all concerned about fighting inflation and reducing federal spending, we simply cannot afford to jeopardize the future of a retirement structure upon which so many past and present members of the American work force are dependent," the Senator emphasized.

"The railroad people who have made such a significant contribution to the development of our nation are counting heavily on this new law to ensure their future security and I firmly believe that we have an obligation to protect what they have earned."

The Senator observed that the measure in question had passed 343-10 in the House and 86-1 in the Senate. He predicted that--should a veto be forthcoming during the pending election recess, Congress would send an identical bill to the President when the legislators reconvene in November.

Speaking from what is considered one of Kansas' more important railroad hubs, Sen. Dole proclaimed he would personally re-introduce the appropriate legislation--if necessary--and would push for its approval before adjournment. In the meantime he has instructed his Washington office staff to keep in close touch with the White House on the issue.

The bill in question would strengthen and stabilize the present Railroad Retirement System at a cost from the general funds of \$285 million annually for the next 25 years. However, nearly the same total amount required has already been lost in the past--because of reduced reimbursements through so-called "transfer exchange" arrangements with the Social Security System.

There are approximately 26,000 beneficiaries currently on the Railroad Retirement rolls in Kansas, Sen. Dole has said. Temporary benefit increases are to expire Dec. 31--unless new legislation is enacted.

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ZIP 66601

► SENATOR ROBERT J DOLE ATTN SAM RICHARDSON SECRETARY
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THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

9133576201 TDBN TOPEKA KS 113 10-10 0408P EDT
PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD
WHITE HOUSE DC

"H.R.15301 IS EXTREMELY VITAL TO THE THOUSANDS OF RAILROADWORKERS AND PENSIONERS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS, AND ITS ENACTMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE ENTIRE RAILROAD RETIREMENT SYSTEM. WHILE WE ARE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT FIGHTING INFLATION AND REDUCING FEDERAL SPENDING, WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO JEOPARDIZM THE FUTURE OF A RETIREMENT STRUCTURE UPON WHICH SO MANY PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN WORKFORCE ARE DEPENDENT. THE RAILROAD PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE SUCH A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION ACCOUNTING HEAVILY ON THIS NEW LAW TO INSURE THEIR FUTURE SECURITY, AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT WHAT THEY HAVE EARNED."

SENATOR ROBERT J DOLE PORT OR ORIGIN DODGE CITY KANSAS

1610 EDT

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