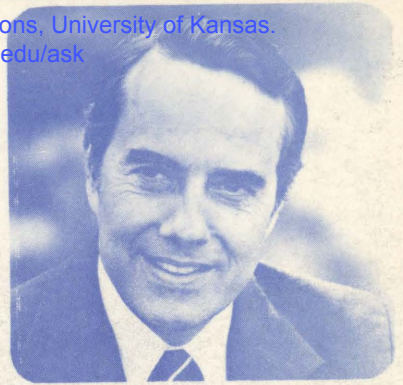


# News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO KEEP ROCK ISLAND RR RUNNING

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas), joined by Senators Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R.-Kansas) and David L. Boren (D.-Oklahoma), today introduced legislation which would keep the troubled Rock Island Railroad running.

According to Dole, "My bill would require the Interstate Commerce Commission to extend directed service over the Rock Island Railroad by the Kansas City Terminal Co. for an addition 90 days."

Yesterday the I.C.C. indicated it will not extend directed service beyond the present March 2, 1980, deadline.

"I, and many other representatives of midwestern states served by the Rock Island, had asked the I.C.C. to allow the Kansas City Terminal Co. to operate this railroad for an additional 90 days, as allowed by law. We argued that this service was necessary to bridge the gap between current Rock Island service and potential operation by health railroads of portions of the Rock Island system. Purchase of at least part of the system is, as I understand it, a very real possibility. Unfortunately, the I.C.C. seems unwilling to give the Rock Island service consumers even a fighting chance to bring this about," said Dole.

"I have spoken with some of the interested parties. They have indicated to me that it will be all but impossible for them to complete purchase of portions of the dying Rock Island before March 2nd. Thirty days is simply too little time to do something that complex. That is why I have filed this legislation-- to give the various parties a chance to work this thing out," said Dole.

"Some have argued that it costs too much to keep the Rock Island alive. I say it will cost far more if we let it die. This railroad is a vital lifeline for many, many Kansas communities. It carries fertilizer into our state and the food to feed millions out. It would be short-sighted-- even foolish-- to let this railroad resource slip away because a government agency in Washington doesn't fully understand the situation," concluded Dole.