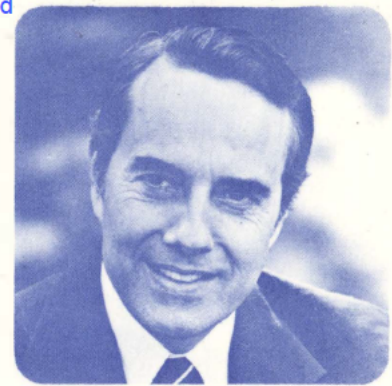


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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PUBLIC MEETING ON ROCK ISLAND TO BE HELD IN TOPEKA ON APRIL 7TH

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today announced that he and Interstate Commerce Commission member George Stafford will conduct a public meeting in Topeka, Kansas, on Monday, April 7, at 9:30 A.M., to discuss ongoing problems connected with continued service on the Rock Island Railroad.

"I am extremely pleased Commissioner Stafford has agreed to attend this meeting. Mr. Stafford has been a leading proponent of continued directed service on the Rock Island, and is actively involved in all I.C.C. proceedings relating to rail service in our state. As a native Kansan, he is particularly sensitive to the impact of the Rock's demise on our state," said Dole.

Monday's meeting will be an informal hearing, with representatives of shippers, railroads, unions and government presenting prepared testimony. There will also be a period for questions and discussion.

"We don't want this to be too rigidly structured," said Senator Dole.

"Now that directed service has ended and both the House and Senate have completed consideration of separate Rock Island assistance bills, this would be a good time to assess where we are now. Shipper groups are attempting to buy track. Former Rock Island employees are attempting to find other jobs and work out labor agreements. The Southern Pacific and its clients are going through a transition in service. Many shippers are forced to find alternatives to rail transportation. We can discuss these problems and take a look at future needs," said Dole.

The Rock Island meeting will be held in the second floor auditorium of the Kansas Power Building, located at 818 Kansas Avenue in Topeka. All interested parties are invited to attend.