

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1980

CONTACT: BILL KATS
(202) 224-8947

DOLE REITERATES REQUEST TO HOUSE TO FREE ROCK ISLAND LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today renewed his request to House leaders to separate the Rock Island Railroad provisions from the Northeast Corridor legislation passed in late March by the House so that Congress could promptly approve the Rock Island legislation.

Dole wrote to House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill (D-Mass.), Representatives James Florio (D-N.J.) and Harley Staggers (D-W.Va.) of the House Commerce Committee and other House-appointed Rock Island conferees, urging a quick resolution to the Rock Island problem.

"As I traveled Kansas during the Easter recess, the need for prompt passage of this legislation was repeatedly underlined," Dole said. "Employees, shippers and railroads in Kansas and the Midwest cannot afford to wait much longer for these important provisions to be enacted.

"Thousands of former Rock Island employees are out of work and are desperately waiting for the labor protection provisions of the legislation to become effective. Hundreds of shippers, many of whom have no alternate rail service, need additional directed service and rehabilitation."

Dole hosted a Rock Island meeting in Topeka on April 7, which brought together railroad employees and officials with legislators and governmental officials in an effort to openly discuss some of the problems with the railroad and how to resolve them. Dole initially wrote to the above-mentioned House members on April 8, urging their consideration in freeing the Rock Island legislation.