

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DALLAS ROCK ISLAND MEETING 'UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS' SAYS SENATOR DOLE

WASHINGTON-- Meetings in Dallas yesterday to work out an agreement that would allow the Katy line to operate portions of the Rock Island Railroad were "an unqualified success" according to Kansas Senator Bob Dole.

"As a result of an understanding reached yesterday, I believe we have developed a timetable for the purchase of track from Herington, Kansas, through Wichita, to Fort Worth, Texas, by the Katy line. The Katy yesterday expressed its intention to operate from Herington to Fort Worth on a temporary basis with the hope of purchase. It is my understanding that they could begin operation as soon as the end of the month," said Dole. "Also, the Katy has withdrawn its request for \$3 million in federal assistance, provided that shippers can come up with \$3 million in loans. In the next few weeks Kansas and Oklahoma shippers will be working to raise this money, much of which is already committed. So, while we still face several small hurdles to permanent service, I am pleased to say that we seem to be on our way to returning this portion of the old Rock Island to service."

Dole originally brought Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas shippers, I.C.C. officials, Katy representatives, Federal Railroad Administration officials and Senate staffers together for an April 23rd meeting "to get negotiations off dead center." Yesterday's Dallas meeting built upon progress made at that first meeting.

Still Working

"The fact that we've made progress on the Herington line isn't the end of the story," added Dole. "We are still hard at work to insure service on the Rock Island's northern Kansas line. We are pledged to work step by step to see that Kansas shippers retain rail service."