

79



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
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DOLE TESTIFIES FOR RAILROAD JOBS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Appearing at joint hearings before the Senate Commerce and Labor and Public Welfare Committees this morning, Senator Bob Dole expressed his support of proposed legislation to fund jobs for railroad maintenance programs.

The bills under consideration would authorize approximately \$700 million for that purpose, with about \$40 million of the total going to the financially-troubled Rock Island Railroad.

"These allocations would serve the dual objective of rebuilding the nation's deteriorating railway roadbeds, while providing re-employment security -- and in some cases creating new jobs -- for maintenance-of-way workers," Dole said following the hearing. "In the case of Rock Island, this could very well be the key to insuring its continued operation, while helping to bring about reversal of its present financial instability."

The Kansas Senator noted that the earlier so-called "public service jobs" bill gave very little attention to the manner in which the billions of dollars authorized could be most effectively utilized.

"These new proposals, however, are designed to meet two of our most urgent priorities -- that of strengthening our rail transportation system and reducing unemployment," Dole said. For that reason, he suggested that they represented "the type of direction and vision we need" in developing legislative relief measures.

Following his own testimony, Dole introduced a delegation of concerned citizens from Herington "whose very existence depends on the future of the Rock Island Railroad and these types of assistance programs," Dole said. These Kansans also testified on the importance of the pending legislation to both Herington and the State as a whole.

Up to 50,000 workers could be employed as a result of the bills being considered today, with a substantial number of those conceivably being in Kansas. Similar legislation is pending in the House, and early action is expected so that maximum advantage can be taken of the summer construction season.