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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

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DOLE QUESTIONS POSTMASTER GENERAL ON CLOSINGS RECOMMENDED BY GAO

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole met Thursday, (July 10) with Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailor and expressed once again his concern over a recent recommendation by the General Accounting Office that some 12,000 rural post offices should be closed. The two met in the Senator's Washington office.

Senator Dole pointed out the importance of the local post office to rural community life, and told Mr. Bailor that it is particularly important to ensure that the quality of mail service to rural residents does not deteriorate. An acceleration of closings, as suggested in the GAO report, could increase the incidence of postal problems in sparsely populated areas, Dole said.

In response to Senator Dole's comments, the Postmaster General assured him that the Postal Service shares that general concern about service quality and does not intend to take any "precipitous" action with regard to closing 3rd and 4th class post offices.

Several weeks ago, Senator Dole had stated that he would oppose any immediate implementation of the GAO recommendations, and that he felt further Congressional study should take place before any changes are made in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970.