



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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SENATE ACCEPTS DOLE AMENDMENT TO PRESERVE THE SIX-DAY MAIL DELIVERY WEEK

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Senate today approved Senator Bob Dole's amendment which Dole said "is intended to put Congress on record as being opposed to a reduction in the current six-day mail delivery week.

Dole said that while the practical impact of his amendment to the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill will be limited, "adoption of the amendment will help enunciate the concern with which Congress looks upon proposals to reduce mail delivery to only five days per week." In April, the Special Commission on Postal Service recommended a conversion to five-day mail delivery for all addresses.

"Elimination of one day of mail delivery service would have a major detrimental impact on rural newspaper delivery service," Dole pointed out. "Many of the nation's rural newspapers and certainly many in my own State of Kansas, are distributed through the Postal system. If Saturday mail delivery was eliminated rural residents would not receive Friday's newspaper until Monday at the earliest. Because of increased mail congestion, delivery would probably be even later."

CONGRESS SERVES NOTICE

"If the Postal Service expects to continue to raise its postage rates and continues to expect Congress to provide limited subsidies, it is time we draw the line on further cutbacks in postal services to consumers. The United States Postal Service -- under the provisions of the 1970 Postal Reform Act -- has the legal authority to make such cutbacks without reference to Congressional opinion. But I believe that adoption of my amendment today clearly expresses Congressional will on the issue, and will thereby substantially discourage any arbitrary decisions by the Postal Board of Governors to eliminate the sixth day of mail delivery services."