



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1979

CONTACT: BILL KATS, RANDY MILLER
(202) 224-8947, -8950

CONTINUED FUNDING FOR ROCK ISLAND NECESSARY, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today expressed concern that continued operation of the Rock Island Railroad under the Interstate Commerce Commission's directed service order may be threatened by a lack of funding.

"I am pleased that the Administration has finally acted to begin moving to market grain stored in elevators and on the ground throughout the Midwest," he said. "This directed service was desperately needed. However, the Office of Management and Budget and the ICC estimate that this service could cost up to \$100 million for the Rock Island alone. Yet, the ICC has only \$14 million available for this purpose. Clearly, additional congressional funding is needed to sustain this crucial rail service."

On Sept. 26, the Interstate Commerce Commission directed the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company to take over operation of the bankrupt and strike-bound Rock Island for the next 60 days. This order will begin service over the Rock Island Railroad after more than a month of idleness.

"Continued funding would be money well spent," Dole said. "The Rock Island operates over 7,000 miles of track in the Midwest. More than 1,000 miles of the track are in my state of Kansas, where elevators are already overflowing with wheat from the recent record crop. This wheat must be moved from the elevators to make room for expected good crops of milo and corn."

"The loss of service also comes at the worst possible time for those on the 1,700 miles of Rock Island track in Iowa, where farmers expect to harvest a record corn crop this month. If these trains do not continue to run, grain will continue to pile up, our economy will suffer, and our trade deficit will grow."

Dole said he would work in Congress to see that funding is approved to permit continued operation of the Rock Island.

"It is important that Congress provide this money in the next week," he said.