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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY ALAN S. BOYD
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OPENING A CONFERENCE
ON "LONG-RANGE POLAR OBJECTIVES," AT THE FAA
AUDITORIUM, AT 2:30 P. M., MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1968

Admiral Henderson; Distinguished Guests.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this conference on the Polar Region.

I apologize for one bad piece of scheduling. The snow we had last Friday was originally ordered for today to help set the mood for you. Fortunately, it is still good and cold and I hope that will help.

A great deal has been written about the Polar Region -- not all of it kind. Something under 100 years ago, an English novelist, W. Winwood Reade, said of the Arctic that it was "the Gloomy Region, where the year is divided into one day and one night, lying entirely outside the mainstream of history.

And if Thomas Jefferson were President today, it is possible he would have forbidden a conference like this, let alone encouraged it. Mr. Jefferson dealt as harshly with the subject of cold as the cold apparently dealt with Mr. Jefferson. And he once wrote: "Cold is the source of more suffering to all animal nature than hunger, thirst, sickness and all the other pains of life and of death itself put together."

I am sure many people would agree with Mr. Jefferson.

I doubt that many would agree anymore with Mr. Reade. If the Polar Regions have, indeed, been outside the mainstream of history, they are not outside any longer.

Their influence on weather; their potential as a source of raw material; their importance to defense -- all combine to make the Polar Regions very important to us.

Transportation is a crucial element of any plan for developing the resource of the Arctic or the Antarctic -- crucial and challenging.

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It is one thing to clear snow from the streets of Washington. It is another to work out a transportation plan for the cover of the Arctic basin.

But before we can develop a scheme for logistics, we need to know just what the Nation's goals and objectives are. Take the Arctic area of Alaska for example, if our goal is to rescue the Eskimo from poverty, that calls for one kind of transportation system. If we want to remove copper, then we are looking for a different system altogether. If we want to settle the territory, then we have still another transportation problem on our hands.

So we have asked you to come together to tell us where to start.

Among our many interests in the Department are the Marine Sciences -- the deep frontier. Another area in which we are deeply involved is Alaska. And the man who has had primary responsibility for both of these areas is Under Secretary Everett Hutchinson.

He is chairing the steering committee for this conference. He is vitally interested in the subjects. He will start our people working on the basis of the information you are able to provide today.

So it is, again, a pleasure to welcome you and to thank you for the effort you will be putting in during the next two days.

And it is a pleasure to present to you Under Secretary Everett Hutchinson.

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