



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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307

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY JEAN CHAMANT,
FRENCH MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, JUNE 6, 1969.

Mr. Minister, Distinguished Guests:

I thank you, Mr. Minister, for your kind words. Let me say that for my part I have looked forward with great expectation to my visit to your beautiful city. This is my first stop outside the United States since assuming the position of Secretary of Transportation for the United States. I have looked forward to it because of the opportunity it gives me to see Paris again and to visit the 29th International Air Show. However, as Secretary of Transportation, my responsibilities go beyond the admittedly important and glamorous field of air transportation. This visit is therefore important to me because it affords me the opportunity to meet with you and other high officials who are grappling with the basic and difficult problems of transportation.

Fast, efficient and economical transport of people and goods is fundamental -- and essential -- to our present economic and social system. With each day it becomes increasingly important and, unfortunately, also increasingly complex. You and I, Mr. Minister, and all of us here are concerned in some way with these problems of transportation, with the movement of people and goods within cities and between cities and between countries.

Mr. Minister, our two nations have many common transportation challenges. These challenges in many cases may result in common answers. I have already learned much from you and from all those charged with various aspects of transportation here in France and I look forward to learning even more during the remainder of my visit. I hope that in return I shall have been able to impart to you and to your people some helpful ideas of how we in the United States are meeting our transportation problems.

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Having said this, I should like to propose a toast, Mr. Minister - a toast to the internationality of transportation - to its role in bringing together people, goods and ideas, and to the continued cooperation of our two countries in improving this essential service to our people.

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