

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY GOVERNOR JOHN A. VOLPE,
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE INAUGURATION
OF METROLINER SERVICES, UNION STATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
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I appreciate your invitation to be here.

I congratulate you, Secretary Boyd, and your Department of Transportation and also the officials and employees of Penn Central, the Budd Company and General Electric for the daring and originality of this venture.

Now daring and originality are strong words. So they are.. But consider, too, that many persons today would argue that the day of the passenger train is over. Yet you gentlemen have the conviction--based on the best knowledge of the experts that there is a place and a need for passenger train service in the future. Such is the strength of your belief that you were willing to invest your time and energy and funds to bring a new train into service. And now you have succeeded in splendid fashion. I congratulate you on your endeavor and I wish you well.

Let me here note that I, too, share your faith. I, too, believe we shall long have continuing need for speedy and efficient passenger train service.

Consequently, I wish the Metroliner a long and prosperous future.

There is another matter that should be touched on here this morning--and I suspect my colleagues will be too polite to mention it. But it may come to be that the success of the Metroliner will be one of my concerns. I am moreover, a very practical man with a direct approach to things. So to the general public--the good people of Washington who are not here this morning, let me say: Ladies and Gentlemen, the Metroliner is your train. So let's all line up--and everybody buy tickets!

Thank you.