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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY THE HONORABLE JOHN A. VOLPE,
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AT THE AIRPORT OPERATORS
COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AND FEDERAL POLICIES
CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, JANUARY 29, 1969, 1:10 P.M.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I can't officially welcome
you to Washington. I still feel a bit like a visitor
myself.

For that and other reasons, I'm not here to make
a speech. I'm afraid Dick Mooney wouldn't let me back
into Boston again if I did.

I recall addressing your organization in Boston about
a year and a half ago. You had problems then - and I'm
sure they were of such magnitude that you are still
working on them.

There are days, of course, when it's difficult to
get into such busy terminals as Boston if you want to.
And on that score, I'd like to say that I've done enough
commuting the past several weeks to be well aware of the
problems of limited capacity which we who want to fly and
you who want us to fly are facing together.

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These aren't easy matters to solve, as you well know.

But I assure you I intend to give them my earnest attention and my very best efforts.

Incidentally, I think that with all the criticism of the airways and the number of complaints being voiced about the crowded conditions of airports and the like, we're overlooking the really remarkable job you and your associates are doing to keep traffic flowing, and to keep the vast majority of airline and airport patrons happy.

I recall that airports have grown up in this country with the reputation of being exciting places to visit. Traditionally, they've also been friendly places.

I am also aware that airports are the principal gateways to our country--the face of our society visitors from abroad see first.

Airports, again, afford domestic travelers their first impressions of a new city--the link between flight and destination. I suspect that a lot of opinions are formed on the basis of the traveler's eye view of the airport--the way it looks to him and the way it receives him.

I want personally to do what I can to help you in AOCI keep airports exciting and friendly, as well as efficient and profitable.

I'm glad, therefore, to have this chance to say "hello" and meet with you. I shall be interested in the results of your conference and I shall be considering your recommendations during our deliberations of future airport policy.

I hope, too, that in the months ahead I shall be meeting some of you members of the Airport Operators Council International personally. Conference reports, committee resolutions and letters are one thing. But they are no substitute for a handshake and frank business talk between friends. Moreover, these meetings will give me a chance to tell my side. I find I have a few problems myself.....

Some of these problems are, of course, the very things you are concerned with here today--limited capacity during peak hours--financing the improvements and expansion of your airports--and, finally, noise. I assure you, my staff and I are giving these matters our close and careful attention. I'm confident that together, and along with the other members of the civil aviation community, we can take steps to overcome these difficulties that are frustrating us and move to realize some of the many opportunities that beckon us.

For the moment, then let me say I wish you well. I hope you have a very profitable and most pleasant conference, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you.

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