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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY JOHN A. VOLPE, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AT THE INTRODUCTION OF A PLAN TO DEVELOP AND COORDINATE A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, AT THE WHITE HOUSE, MARCH 5, 1969, 11:30 A.M.

I come here today to offer minority businessmen both the full assistance of the Department of Transportation and my own personal support. I, myself, began my career as a minority businessman. I knew prejudice. I knew what it was to be outside. I have in my political life, consequently, always made it a point to give extra attention to the newcomer -- to the fellow who was trying to break through the barriers of prejudice, tradition and custom.

I recall it was just about a year ago today that I was, as Governor of Massachusetts, participating in -- and endorsing -- the new Unity Bank in Roxbury. We very much intend to continue this partiality to the disadvantaged. We want to work with you.

One of the major efforts of our Department of Transportation is designed to help you. We are seeking in our Urban Mass Transportation Administration and our Federal Highway Administration to revitalize the central city areas of the Nation. We are

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determined to improve transportation in these central cities. We want to make it easy for shoppers to get downtown -- easy for workers to travel to their jobs. In some cities, Baltimore and Chicago and others, we have set up special teams which are working with local governments and local neighborhoods to lay out transportation facilities which will serve local interests. The members of these teams are interested in your requirements.

Our Federal assistance does not very often get to the level where we deal with individual businessmen. I want it known, however, that we are ready to help you in any way we can. Let's you and I get to know each other. Let us know about the transportation problems you are encountering. And, we in turn, will keep you informed about how we are trying to help. I hope the new minority business office will have a channel to handle transportation matters whether this involves movement of customers, employees, or goods. And if there's any way challenges can be met, we'll help you find it. I want to see this program work. I believe in it. I will work for it. I will do everything I can to make it a success.

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