



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE REGARDING
THE AMERICAN SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, MARCH 18, 1971

It is my firm hope that today's adverse action in the House will be corrected when the Senate takes up the SST Program.

There is no doubt whatever in my mind that the development of the two SST experimental test planes -- and the concurrent environment study -- should continue. I have confidence that American ingenuity can overcome any problems and create a plane which will have no damaging effect on the earth's environment. Completion of the final two years of this 12 year program will answer those questions. Without the experimental program, of course, we will have lost our opportunity to test the technological, environmental and economic feasibility of this plane. Thus, we will leave to other nations this critical responsibility.

What is happening here in Washington now, with respect to the SST, will be written in the history of the future. If Congress fails to continue this program tens of thousands of workers will feel the effects in the years to come. Our Country will lose leadership in the most important field of this air-space age and our economy will suffer great losses.

As a person who has pride and faith in his Country, I am hopeful that the Senate will support our proposal and that -- in conference -- the test program will be continued.

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