

641



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

83-S-72

REMARKS BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE AT THE DEDICATION OF THE OAKLAND AIRPORT OFFICE CENTER COMPLEX, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1972.

I was very pleased when Boyd Gainor informed me that the dedication of this beautiful new complex would coincide with my visit to the San Francisco-Oakland Region.

The East Bay Area is one of the fastest growing communities in the entire country, and this development is ideally planned to accommodate present needs and future opportunities.

Earlier today I participated in the formal dedication of the BART system. And in just a few minutes I have to leave for our High Speed Ground Test Center at Pueblo, Colorado, where we are working with such things as tracked air cushion vehicles, the ultimate in rapid transit cars, linear induction motors, sophisticated wheel-rail dynamics testing, and a number of other breakthroughs aimed at opening bottlenecks.

Let me tell you it's gratifying to see progress in development and application of new transportation technologies. And while this building and the others that will grow up around it do not move people, they do serve the people of the transportation industry and the economy of the community in very significant ways.

So I commend the Oakland Port Authority and the people of the Oakland community for your foresight, your initiative, and your partnership together in planning and constructing this airport center.

This structure is well-suited to transportation-related business. It is also well-situated for access to air, highway, and rapid rail transportation. That kind of intermodal accessibility is essential if we are to keep traffic flowing in the busy years ahead.

Our forecasts indicate that U.S. airline passenger traffic, which topped 182 million last year, may reach 372 million by 1980... And go as high as 524 million by 1985. The projected growth figures for air cargo are equally impressive.

The passenger count here at Oakland International is expected to increase from today's 2.1 million to nearly 24 million before 1985.

So the prospects are staggering, and only by doing our homework -- and our groundwork -- early can we expect to meet the transportation needs of the 1980's, not only here in the fourth largest population center in the country, but throughout our nation as well.

I wish I could outline for you in some detail (but time does not permit) how firmly dedicated President Nixon is to the reform and redirection of transportation in America.

We are coming to grips with the really tough problems: The congestion, the pollution, the noise, the disruption of communities, and all the unpleasant by-products of outmoded transportation policies, practices and technologies. Perhaps here in the Bay Area -- because of BART -- ground transportation has been getting the major share of attention recently. But the President recognizes the need for improvements in all modes of transportation. The Airport-Airway Development Act of 1970, proposed by this Administration and passed with strong bi-partisan congressional support, has quadrupled the federal funds available for airports, and tripled the money for planning and design work. The Port of Oakland knows all about these so-called "ADAP" funds. As of a month ago you had applied for and received over \$2,200,000 for entrance road improvements and the start of additional air cargo facilities.

This is truly an air terminal with an eye to the future.

Yes, you really have an "edge on tomorrow" here in the Oakland-Bay Area.

You have the first new urban rail system to be built in the United States in 60 years.

You have an airport property located along an intermodal corridor, served by a modern highway system and near a planned extension of BART.

And you have a magnificent facility in this Oakland Airport Office Center complex ideally designed for the growth in the transportation business that is certain to come.

Thank you for your hospitality. It has been a pleasure for me to have this time with you.

#####