



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

7AD-493 60)
NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

76-S-72

REMARKS BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE FOR DEDICATION OF MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING, AERONAUTICAL CENTER, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1972.

It's wonderful to be back in Oklahoma. I have made four visits to this city and every time I have enjoyed myself more. And today -- perhaps because of the presence of our charming First Lady -- everything seems a little brighter than before.

I want to congratulate and thank everybody who had a hand in constructing this new building. First, the good people of Oklahoma City, their city government and it's Oklahoma City Airport Trust. Thanks to this unique arrangement, our Aeronautical Center has a wonderful new building at its disposal, and it has, in the Airport Trust, a fine landlord.

I also want to congratulate and thank those who did the work -- the architects, the contractor -- and especially his men who set the foundations, built the walls and put in the plumbing and the electricity and all the other facilities. I am a former hod carrier and I also have built quite a few buildings myself. I can appreciate the work that went into this building. I certainly would be proud to have had my old firm's name on it. And so to Hudgins, Thompson and Ball who did the architectural work, and to the United Builders of Shawnee, my thanks and congratulations. And to my good friend, Al Coulter, Director of the Aeronautical Center, I say well done. You can be proud.

I am impressed by the descriptive words "multi-purpose" that define this building. These words refer to the elements of several different modes of transportation which will be housed here. We shall have here administrative offices of the Federal Railroad Administration and other offices for our United States Coast Guard. The Transportation Safety Institute will also be housed here and, of course, a number of facilities of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aeronautical Center. This is the

kind of joining together of transportation modes that we like to see. It is the kind of cooperation we shall all have to practice if we are going to meet the Nation's transportation challenges -- meet them and resolve them.

I shall defer to Mrs. Nixon who will tell you of the broader significance of this building and this Aeronautical Center. I do, however, want to use this occasion to cite the FAA Academy and one of its special programs -- the "150" Program. This training plan is designed to improve the employment opportunities of disadvantaged young people. The name of the program -- the 150 -- refers to the total number of people -- instructors and trainees -- involved at any one time.

This program works with people who show potential but can not qualify for air traffic control or electronic maintenance training. The 150 Program, through intensive instruction, brings them up to the point when they are eligible for further training as controllers or electronic specialists. This is a heartwarming plan. This is my kind of program. This is a sample of President Nixon's determination to make equal opportunity a reality.

And so I feel very excited about the Aeronautical Center and its new building.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my rare privilege and great honor to introduce to you today our special guest who will dedicate this new facility. Ladies and gentlemen, our gracious First Lady, Mrs. Richard Nixon.

#####