



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JOHN A. VOLPE AT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EIP) BUS
DEMONSTRATION, DECEMBER 16, 1969

I am delighted to participate in this demonstration. We have here tangible evidence of the automotive industry's efforts to reduce both air pollution and noise.

And the effort is successful. In just a moment we will demonstrate the difference between a conventional bus, and one that is equipped with G-M's new low-pollution device. The difference is quite apparent, buses with the modifications are quieter, emit fewer pollutants, and are less harmful to the environment.

General Motors is to be congratulated for these improvements.

The reductions are impressive: Significant reductions in hydrocarbons and overall smoke intensity -- other reductions of less magnitude in carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides. But, to me, far more important than the percentages is the fact that a strong beginning has been made and that the beginning has been successful.

This demonstration gives us confidence that we can reduce urban air pollution and that we can make our city streets quieter. This matter of cleaning up the air we breathe is one of the highest priority objectives of our Department and of this Administration. It is readily evident to me that we human beings can claim as a birthright the guarantee that the air we breathe -- the very air which sustains human life -- shall not contribute to harming human life. And we in the Department of Transportation

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intend to do our part to make the air fit to breathe. Consequently, I want to congratulate the entire automotive industry for their efforts in helping us build a better America.

Now, for purposes of demonstration, we are going to have the first bus -- the conventional bus -- started. This bus has no special device on it. It is the same type of bus we see on our city streets today.

Now, we'll take a look at the bus in the middle. This is the one that has the EIP modifications. The letters, incidentally, stand for "Environmental Improvement Program"

You can see and hear the difference.

The third bus represents the next generation of motive power. It is G-M's experimental "turbo-cruiser 3", and is representative of work which has been underway for two decades to find a solution to environmental problems.

While the EIP bus represents an evolutionary advancement, the turbo-cruiser -- and other turbine powered buses like it -- represent revolutionary progress. Could we have the turbine bus started, please.

We expect turbine buses to be in production within the next three years, perhaps a little sooner. The turbine engine is lighter in weight -- has less vibration -- a significantly lower emission, noise and odor levels -- and requires less maintenance.

While the turbine bus may be a few years away, the EIP modification that we have seen here today is here today.

I would like to point out that General Motors has been most generous in making a number of these EIP units available to us for a test and analysis program.

G-M has been most cooperative. Government and industry are working closely to find a solution to a serious environmental problem.

We are making a beginning. We are moving in the right direction. We are attacking the threat of air pollution foursquare, and I am most encouraged by today's demonstrations.

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