

## **NEWS**

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE, COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN "CONGRATULATIONS" LUNCHEON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1970, WASHINGTON, D.C.

I know I don't have to remind anyone in this room what a successful combined campaign can mean to this city and to the nation. A lot of people complain these days that there isn't much room left for individual-commitment in a world of vast impersonal organizations. But the CFC is one place where the individual can make an impact -- and where could you find a better cause?

It would be no exaggeration to say that the efforts you have made in this voluntary campaign may well make the difference between happiness and misery, opportunity and disappointment, even life and death for many tens of thousands of our citizens in need -- citizens of all races and classes and conditions in our society.

This metropolitan area really depends on you, and you have come through.

I am happy to announce that we raised a total of \$8,038,936 in just six weeks of strenuous effort. That is \$513,088 more than during the 1968 campaign. The average of all gifts was \$25.62 this year -- up more than \$2.00 from last year's average. I think it is highly gratifying and very promising for the future of the CFC that the average payroll deduction rose a significant \$9.50 to a level of \$45.64. In fact, the payroll deduction accounts for \$417,000 of the \$513,000 increase this year. What this means is that we have reached the very respectable figure of 59% of all receipts -- \$4,718,000 -- in the form of payroll deductions. This will help assure the CFC of the necessary stability to budget properly in this era of soaring needs.

You have done your job and laid a solid foundation for future accomplishment. Of 102 Departments, Agencies, and Commissions participating in the 1969-70 campaign, 26 have achieved a 10% or better increase in payroll deduction accounts, and we are awarding these plaques as proof and formal commendation of that record.

I want to reiterate how proud I am to have been associated with all of you in this campaign. It proves that voluntarism -- the old American tradition of willingness to help a neighbor -- is still alive and well and living in the hearts of good Americans. This vast metropolitan community in which we live and work will -- as a consequence -- be healthier morally, physically, and spiritually.

Now that we know we can achieve such a record in spite of inflation and declining employee rolls, I think we should pledge ourselves to break that record next year.