



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE  
AT TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM SPRINGER  
PARIS, ILLINOIS, SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1970, 8 P.M.

It is an honor and a pleasure to be here with you this evening. As one who has made politics and government a "second career" -- after spending considerable time in the private sector -- I know how meaningful it is when a leader in Government is honored by his friends and neighbors.

There is a quotation I would like to share with you. Lincoln once wrote: "Gold -- is good in its place. But living, brave patriotic men are better than gold".

I submit that Lincoln was writing about men like Bill Springer.

Few people outside of Washington fully appreciate exactly how the Congress operates. Few realize that the hard work of legislating -- the day by day negotiating -- the give and take of coming to an agreement -- few understand that all this is done in committee. And this is where Bill Springer is tops. He is the number one Republican on the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee -- just about the most important Committee in the Congress.

Over the course of the past year, I have been working very closely with your Congressman on a piece of legislation that will -- ultimately -- provide \$15 billion in Federal, State and local funds for a massive upgrading of our nation's airport-airways system. In fact, he introduced the bill for us in the House, and he has been extremely instrumental in shepherding it along the intricate course toward final passage.

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This legislation -- which will provide funds for 900 new airports as well as improvements at some 2700 fields, which will enable us to hire and train many more air traffic controllers, will allow us to go ahead with advanced radar systems and navigation aids -- sailed through the House by the astonishing margin of 337 to 6. And then the Senate passed it 77 to 0. It's in Conference Committee now, and we are hopeful and confident that it will be ready for the President's signature any day now.

Yes, Bill Springer is a tremendous Congressman, a hard worker, a proud fighter for progress -- and you can be sure that he represents you all in the very best way possible.

Bill is typical of the entire Illinois Republican delegation. Senator Chuck Percy is doing a terrific job in Washington, and Ralph Smith has firmly established himself as a leader in Senate affairs. His career is full of promise.

And at the State level -- I am well aware of the outstanding job Dick Ogilvie is doing as Governor. He has given the Illinois Republican Party new leadership, and it is now one of the most dynamic statewide party organizations in the nation. . . dedicated not to smoke-filled rooms and machine politics, but dedicated to progress and prosperity.

We Republicans firmly believe that this great country of ours is still the land of freedom and opportunity. And with your help we are determined to keep it that way.

There are those -- including some of our young -- who would have us believe the time of opportunity is over. Don't you believe it.

We Republicans look to the future. It is, in fact, this vision of a better tomorrow that gives us our drive. And look what we have done! President Nixon has been in the White House only 15 months but already he has a solid record of achievement. He has the people behind him.

I was with the President earlier this year when he visited Indiana and Illinois -- when he spoke at Hanover Park, outside of Chicago. He wanted to bring the Government to the people -- rather than having people go to Washington to learn about their Government.

And it was there that he outlined the basic philosophy we are adopting here in the last third of this century: the new philosophy of the three R's.

He spoke of reform -- of restoration and of renewal.

Reform -- of our Governmental institutions to bring them up-to-date to deal with our problems.



Restoration -- of the human and natural resources upon which our progress and physical survival depend.

But most of all -- renewal. Renewal of the spirit of self-confidence of all Americans so that we can rise to meet the challenges.

Let's take a look at the three "R's" -- starting first with "reform".

All of us -- especially you housewives -- know the hideous impact of inflation. You know that the household budget won't balance if the Federal budget won't balance. And President Nixon's new budget tells the story -- a balanced budget, with no new taxes. A budget that will slow down the rising prices -- a budget that gets our national priorities straight: for the first time in twenty years, we are now spending more for helping human beings than for national defense. This is a great triumph.

In foreign policy, the President is making plain to friend and foe that the new Nixon doctrine is going to be a new spirit of partnership -- a partnership in which other nations bear the fair share of their own defense. Some people said a year ago that Vietnamization of the war would never work. But it is working. U.S. troops are on the way home. And you can rest assured that President Nixon is doing everything in his power to bring them all home, fast, and bring this war to an honorable conclusion.

On the domestic scene as well, we see reform take hold. Our manpower programs, so long a place of disorganization and confusion, have been streamlined to make job training possible for millions of Americans. This Administration is determined to bring efficiency. Proof of this was the President's action in cutting out 57 programs that were outmoded and a waste of taxpayers' money.

This is the kind of action that insures that the American taxpayer gets a dollar's worth of value for every dollar spent.

And in all our domestic policies, the theme is "restoration". In the State of the Union Message, and in legislative proposals that followed it up, the President committed the nation to the restoration of the environment.

He sent a \$10 billion Clean Waters Act to Congress, along with strong new legal weapons to stop the pollution of our waters.

On other battlefronts, the President is setting new and more rigorous standards to stop the smog that hovers over our cities; he will be turning more Federal land into parks and recreation areas.

And here again, this subject of environmental protection is most pertinent to our gathering here this evening.



When President Nixon announced his new program for the environment, a Member of Congress took the Floor in the House and said "I commend the President on a sensible, realistic approach which does not make idle recommendations incapable of accomplishment, but tries to set forth those things that can improve our environment as quickly as possible. Great progress should be possible under such leadership."

The speaker was Bill Springer.

Long before the environment became a popular cause, Bill Springer was hard at work. He is an authority on the battle against air pollution. He is well aware of solid waste disposal problems. He has been working with industry and with local, State, and Federal agencies to resolve these problems. He knows of the difficulties, but he is also aware of the solutions. So when you read in the papers this coming week about the activities in connection with "Earth Day", remind yourselves that Bill Springer recognized these challenges months ago and went to work then.

We in the Department of Transportation are 100% behind the President in his determination to lick environmental problems. We are acting to control aircraft noise and jet engine pollution. We are putting controls on automobile exhaust emissions. And we have a steady, organized, and effective "crash program" (if you will) to reduce highway fatalities. We want most definitely to restore safety to all aspects of American transportation.

We are also seeking to restore mobility in the nation's critical urban areas -- in cities large and small. We have before the Congress a bill that will provide more than \$3 billion in Federal funds for a re-vitalization of public transportation. Too many bus companies have gone out of business, too many cities are growing and sprawling, and yet too many people cannot afford the luxury of a private automobile.

This legislation passed the Senate by the lopsided count of 88 to 4 and will soon be up for debate in the House.

As well as restoring the environment -- and restoring urban mobility -- this Administration is also determined to restore respect for the law. The great single cause of street crime in many of our major cities is drug addiction, which is now reaching out for teenagers as well as adults. You know the sad stories. You see them in the papers. As the Seventies began, we announced the first steps in a greatly expanded Federal effort to combat dangerous drugs, including strong new legislation to make Washington, D. C. a model city in the campaign against crime.

My friends, I could go on at length about our work in Washington.

I could talk about the men who are running the Federal Government -- in both the Executive and Legislative Branches. But I would rather use the remaining few moments to talk briefly about the immediate future...the future of our nation.



The great American Statesman Henry Clay once observed that Government is a trust -- the officers of the Government are the trustees and both the trust and trustees exist for the benefit of the people. I suggest that is a very sound definition of the role of Government.

My friends -- in private life I was a builder, a contractor, and I know it is more difficult to build something than to wreck it. Yet I know that our decision -- as Americans -- must be to build, not destroy.

I wish the small, vocal minority of wreckers in our society would see the light. It is easier to tear down. It is easy to destroy. Yet criticism -- destruction, solves no problems. Destruction cures no ills. Writer Eric Fromm says, "Destructiveness is the outcome of unlived lives." I believe it well -- and I would say to those who would tear down this nation: "Join with us and build. Join with us and live and work and create and produce."

Yes, my friends, there is much to be done.

But -- in truth -- America is only getting started. Our best days lie ahead. We are moving forward.

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