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EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JOHN A. VOLPE, BEFORE THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, DINNER, AMERICANA HOTEL,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1970,
7:30 p.m.

I am delighted to be here for your Annual Major Industries Dinner. As Governor of Massachusetts I spoke on several occasions at the National Conference of Christians and Jews Banquet in Boston. I am well aware of the outstanding work this organization does to build better relationships among men of all religions, races, and nationalities. In the family of man, brotherhood is an heirloom to be cherished.

In these difficult and precarious times, a distinguished service award in the field of human relations is of special significance. Some pundits have called this an era of "inhuman relations."

Certainly, it is an era that calls unmistakably for individual courage and moral leadership.

Tonight the conference honors -- and all of us here honor -- a man who has demonstrated those qualities in his private life, in his business life, and in his concern for the welfare of the Nation. I am indeed honored to help pay tribute to Floyd Hall.

I first met Floyd in 1965 when I was Governor of Massachusetts. I was privileged to attend Eastern Air Lines'

Corporate Management Conference where we discussed their proposed new terminal at Boston's Logan Airport. That building is now completed, by the way, and it is truly a showcase.

Since I have been Secretary of Transportation, of course, we have met often concerning matters of mutual interest in the aviation field. In fact, he and I will be having dinner again tomorrow night in Washington along with several other airline presidents.

In transportation circles, Floyd Hall is known as a man of considerable dignity who has been a dynamic force in the development of commercial aviation. He was instrumental in the growth of passenger aircraft from pistons to jets; and now to the wide-bodied 747.

One of the things that really made me sit up and pay attention when I became Secretary was the fact that in the past ten years alone, the number of airline passengers increased by 204-percent, and revenue miles jumped by some 250-percent.

And Floyd Hall has fostered this growth and made it efficient and effective. He is truly a leader of his industry.*/

As president of Eastern Air Lines -- and as a man who has dedicated considerable time and energy to such organizations as the American Cancer Society, the Urban Coalition, Recordings for the Blind, and the U.S. Savings Bond Campaign -- Floyd Hall truly exemplifies the objectives of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. You could not have made a better choice for the Brotherhood Award.

You have made it eminently clear that "the wings of man" and the brotherhood of man fly in the same clear skies.

And I am sure that you -- like all Americans today -- are feeling a widespread concern for the state of the Nation.

As never before, the hearts of Americans are crying for peace. Peace between nations. Peace between generations. Peace between individuals. In every case, the ingredients that can make peace a reality are the same -- understanding, tolerance, forgiveness and love.

These are the simple lessons of coexistence taught by prophets in the streets of Jerusalem. Why are those lessons, those teachings, hard to find today -- on the streets of New York, or Moscow, or Hanoi, or any other city?

Perhaps it is because these virtues have become hidden under the pretense and problems of modern life.

In the United States, we are now a Nation of over 200 million people. But we are even more crowded than that.

Preliminary totals from the 1970 Census indicate 36.2 million people -- 18 percent of all United States residents -- live between Boston and Washington. Seven cities in that corridor have over one million residents. This city -- New York -- has 11.4 million.

It isn't easy to keep your perspective when your next door neighbors number in the thousands. Malcolm Boyd, who has been referred to as "chaplain-at-large to university students," touched on this problem in a book of prayers he published a few years back. The title of the book, which sums up today's fast pace, is: "Are You Running With Me, Jesus?"

Some people might react to a title like that by saying "slow down, America...retrench, think again, go back to the 'good old days'." Well I know, and you know, and Floyd Hall knows -- that no matter how hard we might try to run BACKWARDS, retrenchment has never been able to make troubles disappear.

You know -- and I know -- that we can't shrink our 50 great States back to 13 feeble colonies.

You know -- and I know -- that we can't put a half-century of incredible technology on a garbage scow and tow it out to sea.