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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CLAUDE S. BRINEGAR ON THE  
INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS' ISSUE, FEBRUARY 7, 1974.

The Department of Transportation has underway a thorough review of the question of increasing permissible weights and sizes of trucks using the Interstate System. As the speed limit reduction has reduced the productivity of the trucking industry, an increase in the carrying capacity of trucks is one way to offset this loss.

Another area we are looking into is the difference in State laws on truck sizes and weights. These differences cause numerous inefficiencies, including wasteful uses of fuel. The Department is also studying this problem, as well as other respects in which State laws and regulations impose undesirable burdens on interstate trucking.

I am giving these matters personal attention, and we expect to have recommendations for legislative or other action in the very near future.

Some of the truckers haul products, typically farm products, which are exempt from ICC rate regulations. To recover the increased costs of hauling these products, truckers have to negotiate with the shippers on appropriate rate increases. I am asking the shippers to recognize the need for higher rates.