



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NEWS

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE
UPON HOUSE APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT,
MAY 27, 1970

The House of Representatives has voted in favor of the Department of Transportation budget request for fiscal year 1971, including the funding asked for the Supersonic Transport program.

I am pleased that the House has substantiated the faith that both President Nixon and I have in the importance of the SST prototype development program to the economy of our country, and to the continuing leadership of U.S. aviation in the world marketplace.

By voting to supply the funds requested, the Members of the House have assured that the prototype construction program can go forward on schedule, and that projected costs and dates can be met.

We have informed the Members of the Congress, and I have the assurance of the President, that all necessary research will be undertaken to insure that SST operations are environmentally acceptable. I would not pursue the development of an American SST, nor would I ask the Congress to continue to support the program, if I were not convinced -- on the basis of the evidence available to us -- that the program is economically viable and that safeguards exist to protect the environment against any adverse consequences of SST flights.

I appreciate the searching examination the Congress has again accorded the program. Today's vote, following spirited and exhaustive appraisals both in committee and on the Floor, further reassures me that the issues are being carefully considered, and that on the basis of a balanced examination the SST's value to the National interest has been reaffirmed.

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