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TALKING POINTS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT, ENERGY CONSERVATION BREAKFAST, DENVER, COLORADO MAY 1, 1980

There should be no doubt about what the greatest threat to this nation's security and our people's freedom is today.

It is not the crisis in Iran, though the safety of our hostages there continues to be of the highest concern. Nor is it the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, though we regard it as an unacceptable display of brutal force.

The greatest danger is one we have created for ourselves over the past 40 years, and which we are only now coming to terms with: our over-dependence on foreign oil.

Today we import nearly 50 percent of the oil we use. And it is costing us dearly: in inflation, in jobs, in our balance of payments. Our economy at home and our ability to act in the world depends on a precarious supply of oil from a politically unstable part of the world.

But if we got ourselves into this predicament, surely we have the ability to get ourselves out of it. It will not be a quick or easy thing to do--like the 40 year process that led to the problem, the solution will require time, steadfast effort, and our united support --not only from the government but from the private sector as well. A united partnership will demonstrate this nation's resolve to do what is necessary to preserve our freedom and act upon our long-standing values of hard work, productivity and efficiency.

The place to begin this effort is in transportation. Transportation uses over 50 percent of our total oil consumption; the private auto and light truck use over one-third of the total. And far too much of that oil is simply wasted. For example, 50 million Americans commute to and from work each day alone. Of the roughly 1.8 million barrels of oil used each day by the auto, these single-occupancy commuters use roughly 1.4 million barrels.

The most direct, least expensive, most sensible way to preserve our nation's security, bolster our economy and maintain our mobility is to conserve energy.

In recognition of this fact, this past Tuesday President Carter launched a nation-wide effort to conserve energy through common sense transportation initiatives. The President realized that the key to this effort was the forging of a public-private partnership to promote ride-sharing and transit use; to enhance driver efficiency and to encourage all Americans to do their part to conserve energy.

The response has been heartening around the nation and in the Denver area in particular. Nationally, Americans are driving about 15 miles per week less and oil use associated with autos is down approximately 9 percent. An effort spearheaded by the President's National Task Force on Ridesharing and chaired by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley is finding a great response from state and local governments, private companies and labor unions.

Waste is not an American habit. And as a people we are eager to eliminate waste and inefficiency when we see it. Our common effort can take us to our common goal.

At the Department of Transportation we are eager to do all we can to work as partners to meet our goal of getting 30 million Americans --40 percent of the commuting workforce--into the ridesharing movement by 1985.

- * We are setting up a national ridesharing information center and a toll-free hotline where anyone interested can call for information, technical materials, or consulting assistance.

- * We are supporting the President's Ridesharing Task Force in establishing a network of public and private sector managers, with direct experience in running employer and public programs, who will be available for telephone or on-site consultation. This loaned executive program will speed the transfer of knowledge so that the program grows at as fast a rate as possible.

- * We are mounting a campaign to enlist the chief executive officers of major corporations in establishing ridesharing programs within their companies.

- * We are commencing a series of training workshops for managers designated to set up programs in private firms, and in state and local governments.

With your help, we can do it. Denver already has a record of national leadership in this area. The success of ridesharing programs here demonstrates that energy conservation in transportation is a good way to save energy, save money and save our mobility. Now I am asking

you to enter with us a 20/20 program: 20 percent employee participation in ridesharing or transit use, or a 20 percent increase over the current level. I know we can do it--and I know that the 400,000 barrels of oil we will save each day by 1990 through this effort will help our nation sustain its promise of freedom, economic growth and liveability to future generations of Americans.

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