

# U. S. Department of Transportation news:



Office of Assistant Secretary for Governmental and Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20590

## STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT AT WHITE HOUSE SWEARING IN CEREMONY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1979.

Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Mrs. Carter, friends, I cannot think of a nicer occasion than to come to the service of my country with a good friend, like Moon Landrieu. It is a wonderful feeling to be here among so many fine public servants who have been elected to high office, including many who are mayors and the staffs who have supported us and worked so hard. It is a pleasure to be here on all their behalfs.

I did not travel a particularly long road to come here. My age, I think, is witness to that fact. But I come through a very traditional route. I am a graduate of public education in the United States, a public education afforded by the taxpayers of my communities and the communities all over our land. To a Congress which has for so long appropriated the funds to make it possible for people like myself to go to school and to aspire to high office and to serve my country you have my deep thanks.

To my family -- who are with me today and to whom I owe so much -- I guess they already understand how I feel. I hope that the promise of these years can be fulfilled and I have given the President my

pledge and I will give it to all of you friends and those that I hope to meet as I travel and move about the United States on the President's behalf, that I will do everything in my power to make life in the United States a good one for all of those to whom I owe a best effort.

There has been much written about how difficult these times are, and for those of us who got our education not on the battlefields of Europe, but on the battlefields of Mississippi, those of us who got our understanding of higher education in the free speech movement in California, and for those of us who have had our beliefs challenged by Vietnam, everything in the future looks bright, looks hopeful and looks possible. I look forward to working with everybody in this country who feels as I do -- and I think that's just about everybody -- that they wouldn't live anyplace on earth before they'd live in America, to keep building, to keep growing and to keep loving.

Thank you.

#####