



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

*Secretary Adams:  
Biographical  
information*

BROCK ADAMS

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

Brock Adams was sworn in as the nation's fifth Secretary of Transportation on January 23, 1977, in ceremonies presided over by President Jimmy Carter. President Carter nominated Secretary Adams to the Cabinet position on January 20, 1977, and the Senate confirmed his nomination the same day.

Secretary Adams came to the Department of Transportation following 12 years service in Congress as Representative from Washington State's Seventh District. In Congress, Secretary Adams became a widely-recognized expert in transportation and budget matters.

He served, until becoming transportation secretary, as chairman of the House Budget Committee from early 1974. The committee has responsibility for setting Federal budget targets and priorities as well as approximate tax and debt levels.

The Secretary also served as a member of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and its Transportation and Commerce Subcommittee.

While a member of that Committee, Adams was a major contributor to Congress' efforts to deal with the problems of the transportation industry. He had a leading role in the development and passage of several major pieces of legislation dealing with transportation, including:

-- The Airport and Airways Development Act (ADAP) of 1970, which created a 10-year program to modernize airports and air navigation facilities, financed by user charges.

-- The Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, which created AMTRAK to provide national rail passenger service under one organizational authority.

-- The Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, which established the planning structure to design a railroad, ConRail, in order to rebuild and operate lines of six bankrupt railroads in the Northeast.

-- The Rail Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act (RRRR) of 1976, which provided funds to finance ConRail as a privately-owned successor to the bankrupt railroads in the Northeast and authorized loan guarantees and low cost loans for other railroads to modernize facilities and equipment and to complete deferred maintenance.

As a Congressman, the Secretary also was active in the D.C. Government Operations Subcommittee, where, at the special request of then-Speaker Carl Albert, he helped write and guide through Congress a D.C. Home Rule bill. He also served as chairman of a Democratic Study Group Task Force on Law Enforcement and actively supported legislation for juvenile delinquency prevention, court modernization, and correctional reform.

Secretary Adams began his government career in 1961 when President John F. Kennedy appointed him U.S. District Attorney for Western Washington. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 and re-elected six times prior to becoming U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 13, 1927, the Secretary was graduated from high school in Seattle. In 1944 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he rose to the rank of petty officer and received his honorable discharge in 1946.

He was graduated summa cum laude in economics from the University of Washington in 1949. He was the only University of Washington student to serve as Student Body President and to receive the President's Medal as the University's top scholar in the same year. Secretary Adams earned a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard law school in 1952.

From 1952 to 1961, Secretary Adams practiced law in Seattle, where he was a partner in the firms of Little, LeSourd, Palmer, Scott & Slemmons and later LeSourd, Patten & Adams.

The Secretary is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a former Vestryman of Epiphany Episcopal Church. He is a former trustee of the University of Washington Alumni Association; a former president of the Neighborhood Settlement House; and former trustee of the Civic Unity Committee of the City of Seattle.

Secretary Adams and his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Scott of Jacksonville, Florida, were married in 1952. They have four children: Scott, Dean, Katherine and Aleen.

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