



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

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REMARKS AS DELIVERED BY
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE FORT LAUDERDALE/HOLLYWOOD
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
AUGUST 1, 1985

Thank you for that very gracious welcome to Broward County. What a joy it is to be here today to celebrate the grand opening of the new Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport -- a project that was completed on schedule and under budget. What a feat!

I am delighted to see so many good friends of this airport: DOT's own FAA regional personnel; Mrs. Sheila Smith, wife of Congressman Larry Smith; State Senator Ken Jenne; your County Commissioners; Bill Clark, State Representative; Eastern Airlines' Frank Borman; and Delta's Witt Hawkins, gentlemen whom I have the pleasure of working with on a number of important aviation issues; Tim Campbell; and Richard Mooney. And I think all of us feel Ralph Marrinson has done a tremendous job of coordinating this evening's festivities.

I want you to know that as this project developed, Clay Shaw played a most important role in achieving the necessary funding. He kept me well informed of the progress. Clay talked with me many times about this airport and I can testify that it has been one of his top priorities. Clay may be the only Florida member of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, but with his strong commitment to this state and his persuasive arguments on your behalf, we've all become avid supporters of Florida back in Washington. In fact, you are blessed with a superb delegation -- your outstanding Senator Paula Hawkins is highly respected by her peers. Senator Hawkins had looked forward to being with you tonight, but due to the upcoming budget vote, she had to remain in Washington. She asked that I convey her disappointment to you. Paula Hawkins is great to work with. She doesn't hesitate to tackle some of the toughest issues we face in this country today -- like drug interdiction -- an issue on which we've worked closely. I know Senator Lawton Chiles is very important to you -- and he is very important to us, as the ranking member of the Transportation Appropriations

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Committee. In fact, I've found the Florida delegation to be among the most highly skilled and conscientious legislators in Washington, and I appreciate this opportunity to say so publicly.

Ladies and gentlemen, you seem to do it again and again: your successes have made this one of the fastest growing counties in one of the nation's fastest growing states. Broward County has developed extensively over the past decade and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, which already handles traffic at the rate of 7 million passengers a year, is now ready for more.

People are attracted to Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood not only because of the climate of this beautiful area, but for its vigorous business climate as well. And you have really put together a model effort here at the airport, strengthened by the cooperation shown at the local, state and federal levels -- business and government working together to build what this county must have to handle its air transportation needs. I can tell you that back in Washington you just don't find that many projects that come in under cost. In this case, initial costs were estimated at \$408 million and then reduced to \$262 million -- creating a savings of \$146 million, through modifications initiated by your hardworking county officials.

In addition, after construction started, even more savings were realized through the application of value engineering concepts, bid underruns, municipal investment returns, state grants -- and unexpected federal grants -- once again, that's the Florida delegation at work! The result: a strong financial position which allows you to undertake other major capital improvements such as runway extensions and taxiway modifications that will further increase airport capacity.

Looking around today at the Flight 1 Terminal -- the first new terminal developed by Broward County in a quarter century -- I believe the \$25 million the federal government has contributed to the project has been put to good use. Throughout this project your concern has been to combine function with cost-effectiveness. You have built a terminal that provides added convenience to the traveling public and improved facilities for modern aircraft to operate safely and efficiently at this airport.

Your main accomplishment has been to build what was needed to keep traffic moving at one of the world's 50 busiest airports and one of this country's 22 pacing airports -- or in layman's language, those airports that set the pace for the traffic flow from airports around the country. You have meshed beautifully the needs of the traveling public, of Broward County, and of the airlines that serve you.

Tonight, we are ushering in a new era at this airport, but we are also applauding an achievement made possible through the hard work and long hours of a lot of people. With this new airport, Broward County as a community is making a strong commitment to efficient transportation for the business men and women and families who come here by the millions. I feel privileged you asked me to join you at this celebration of success tonight and I'm going to tell anyone in search of excellence to come to Broward County and see how it's done.

Thank you very much.

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