

TALKING POINTS FOR
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
AT NHTSA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
SEPTEMBER 9, 1986
WASHINGTON, D.C.

- * THANK YOU DIANE (STEED) FOR WARM WELCOME. JOY TO JOIN IN THIS CELEBRATION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY. DELIGHTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AND VINCE AND LARRY -- THE NEW CRASH DUMMIES AND VERY EFFECTIVE PARTNERS IN OUR SAFETY BELT CAMPAIGN.
- * TODAY, COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF TWO LANDMARK PIECES OF LEGISLATION THAT SHOWED THE COMMITMENT OF AMERICANS TO THE VALUE WE PLACE ON HUMAN LIFE: THE HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT OF 1966 AND THE TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT OF 1966.
- * MANDATE: TO DRAW TOGETHER ALL ESSENTIAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ACTIVITIES, CREATING A PROFESSIONAL SAFETY COMMUNITY WITH THE EXPERTISE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE--A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES, IN WAYS THAT TOUCH ALL AMERICANS. THE POTENTIAL WE HAVE TO SAVE LIVES IS VERY REAL AND EXTREMELY REWARDING.

* I'D LIKE TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HERE TODAY--AND THOSE OF YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO MAY STILL BE BACK AT THEIR DESKS--FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS COMMITMENT TO HIGHWAY SAFETY. DON'T HAVE THE CHANCE--AS OFTEN AS I WOULD LIKE--TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH YOUR EFFORTS MEAN TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO ME. WE JUST COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

* I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE HERE TODAY WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR 20 YEARS. NHTSA IS SUCH A STRONG NATIONAL VOICE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY TODAY, IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER THERE INDEED WAS A TIME, PRE-NHTSA, PRE-DOT EVEN PRE-NATIONAL TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU WHEN THIS AREA WAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. I THINK THESE PEOPLE DESERVE OUR GRATITUDE AND OUR THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE -- YOU ARE

TRULY AMONG THE BEST EXAMPLES OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS.

* I HAVE SAID FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF MY TENURE AS SECRETARY THAT SAFETY IS MY HIGHEST PRIORITY. PARTICULARLY IN HIGHWAY SAFETY--93 PERCENT OF FATALITIES.

* THREE-PRONGED APPROACH:

--REPAIRING ROADS AND BRIDGES

--VEHICLE: HIGH MOUNTED STOP LIGHT, REFERRED BY SOME AS DOLE LIGHT -- FLATTERED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH A POSITIVE SAFETY DEVICE; 900,000 ACCIDENTS; \$434 MILLION --BEHAVIOR OF DRIVER

* 208; SAFETY BELTS--FIRST LAW (NY) JUST 2 YEARS AGO, NOW 26 STATES & D.C.

CHILD SAFETY SEATS--ALL 50 STATES, SAVED LIVES OF 158 CHILDREN
IN 1984

* DRUNK DRIVING--MADD, SADD, BADD

* AGE 21, BLOOD BORDERS

* CAN BE PROUD OF THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER: 1985 HIGHWAY
FATALITIES LOWEST IN HISTORY AND THE NUMBER OF INTOXICATED DRIVERS
KILLED IN TRAFFIC CRASHES DECREASED BY 26 PERCENT BETWEEN 1980-1985.

* THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND HARD WORK -- LOOK FORWARD TO
DOUBLING AND TRIPLING OUR EFFORTS ON THESE SAFETY ISSUES THAT AFFECT
THE LIVES OF SO MANY AMERICANS.

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