



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

Contact: Tom Blank
Dick Schoenfeld
Tel.: (202) 426-4570

Suggested Remarks for
Secretary Elizabeth Hanford Dole
American Women in Radio and Television
February 15, 1983

It is a great pleasure to be with you today.

Your gracious invitation has again caught me in a personal transition period. I last spoke to the American Women in Radio and Television in October, 1978, shortly before I left the Federal Trade Commission in 1979 to join my husband's campaign for the Presidency. This invitation came, of course, while I was still at the White House as the President's Assistant for Public Liaison.

So I stand before you today in a more or less dual capacity -- as one who has held several thousand meetings with representatives of business, labor, agriculture and a diversity of interest groups ranging from women to veterans, and also as the President's new Secretary of Transportation. A state of transition is not uncommon for me and perhaps not for many of you. As women, we have been involved for the past 20 years or so in a quiet revolution. We have been making the transition to important new roles that utilize our skills and motivation. All across this country millions of women are taking advantage of new opportunities and their horizons are broadening.

My oath of office last week was administered by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who upon completing law school, was offered a legal secretary's position and is now the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court of the United States. And, of course, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, a fellow member of the Cabinet and the first woman Ambassador to the United Nations, is turning in an outstanding performance.

Today, I find myself at the head of an organization with 102,018 employees and a proposed budget of \$27 billion. Ultimately, I'm in charge of one branch of the Armed Services -- the Coast Guard is our oldest continuing seagoing Armed Service. Of course, the Coast Guard not only saves life and property -- as it did Sunday morning when a coal ship sank off the coast of Virginia -- but polices our shores and is ready to defend them in time of war. My management responsibilities include two four-year colleges -- the Merchant Marine Academy and the Coast Guard Academy -- and the well-being of a national transportation system that spans air, sea, highways, rail and urban transportation.

- more -