

TALKING POINTS PREPARED FOR
SECRETARY ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
TO THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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* I'm delighted to meet all of you.

* I have always had a great deal of admiration for those who serve this country as part of the reserves.

* There are representatives here from all segments of the Armed Services -- Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. But I must admit a touch of favoritism for the Coast Guard.

* You must share my feelings since your President, Bud Sparks, is from the Coast Guard.

* Bud has been active in the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve for over 40 years. As his friends all know, Bud not only fulfills his duties as President of the Reserve Officers Association, but he manages to find the time and energy to run four businesses and serve as Reserve District Inspector in the 11th District. We all come to depend upon people like him and it is because of the contributions of those like Bud that the Coast Guard has such a sterling reputation.

* I know Admiral Gracey spoke with you yesterday and I expect that he has given you a complete update on the Department's programs.

* But I just wanted to drop by this morning to say "hello."

* Since I became Secretary of Transportation, much has been said about the fact that I am the first woman to fill this post.

* Yet, I believe I've found my own footnote in history by becoming the first woman to head a branch of the Armed Services. As you know, the Coast Guard falls within the jurisdiction of the Transportation Department in peace time.

* I hasten to assure you that I don't intend to lead the Coast Guard into war -- in the event, God forbid, another war occurs.

* That awesome responsibility would transfer automatically to the Secretary of the Navy.

* I applaud all of you who work in the reserves, who stand prepared should you country call for your services.

* The Coast Guard reserve is unique in that reservists serve in peace as a part of their regular training program. Congress has acknowledged this exceptional program. The Coast Guard must fulfill many varied functions and the extra capability provided by reservists serves to augment available resources. We are grateful for their contributions.

* The Coast Guard budget passed by Congress for fiscal 1984 totals \$2.5 billion. We are particularly pleased that this budget includes the \$54 million we requested for reserve training.

* We share your concern for a strong defense. We are presently looking at our mobilization readiness and after we have established our requirements, we will continue to support the personnel needs at the appropriate levels.

* The men and women in the Coast Guard perform many vital services, but we are especially grateful for their successful efforts in the South Florida drug interdiction program.

* Clearing this country of illegal drug traffic is a top priority with the Administration and the Coast Guard has been doing an exceptional job toward reaching that goal.

* We were encouraged by a recent Court decision permitting Coast Guard crews to stop and examine vessels that might be transporting illegal cargoes. We believe this decision reaffirms long-standing Coast Guard and Customs procedures for dealing with contraband and we applaud the Court's ruling.

* In addition to special efforts such as the drug interdiction program, we have a strong responsibility for maritime safety. Our good safety record is a result of the high standards demanded by the Coast Guard.

* Since the Coast Guard is doing such an outstanding job, we will continue to make every effort to assure that they have the tools and resources they need. New HU-25 jet aircraft have come into use this year. We've acquired 41 new jets which are being assigned to Coast Guard air stations.

* The first 270-foot cutter will go into service in 1984, as will new HH-65 helicopters.

* We are excited about these additions to the fleet, as we are about the performance of the crews who use them.

* I am very pleased you invited me to join you this morning.

* This Association is second to none in its spirit of loyalty to our country and in its commitment to readiness.

* Thank you for your work.

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