

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
FAREWELL PARTY FOR CHRIS ROONEY
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
FEBRUARY 5, 1987
WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHAT A JOY TO JOIN ALL OF YOU IN A FOND FAREWELL TO ONE OF THE TRULY BRILLIANT STARS OF OUR DOT TEAM.

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE TO TELL ANYONE IN THIS ROOM THAT CHRIS REALLY HAS HAD A MARVELOUS CAREER HERE. HIS FIRST REAL "BAPTISM OF FIRE" CAME SHORTLY AFTER HE ARRIVED AT DOT IN 1982, IN HIS WORDS, "JUST A FORMER INVESTMENT BANKER". IN REALITY, HE CAME TO US FROM A SENIOR VICE PRESIDENCY IN THE INVESTMENT BANKING FIRM, THE CHICAGO CORPORATION, TO BECOME ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR POLICY. A FEW DAYS INTO THE NEW JOB CHRIS HAD TO DO A SOLO APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SENATOR METZENBAUM WHO WAS AIDED AND ABETTED BY SENATOR SPECTER. WHEN THEY FINISHED WITH HIM, HE MANAGED TO DRAG HIMSELF BACK TO THE NASSIF BUILDING, REGAIN HIS STRENGTH AND REJOIN THE CONRAIL FRAY.

ON JANUARY 5, 1985, CHRIS BECAME DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION AND THUS BEGAN THE REAL CONRAIL MARATHON.

CHRIS WORKED TIRELESSLY THROUGHOUT THE CONRAIL NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ENTIRE CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS. HIS STAMINA AND ENTHUSIASM WAS ENDLESS. HE WAS A SOURCE OF MOTIVATION TO ALL OF US. IN FACT, WHEN THE CONRAIL EFFORT WAS EXTREMELY HOT, I UNDERSTAND THE MIDNIGHT PIZZAS IN THE FRA POLICY OFFICE KEPT CHRIS, JOHN RILEY, AND ALL THE STAFF WORKING INTO THE WEE HOURS OF MANY MORNINGS, FINISHING JUST ONE MORE PRESENTATION.

CHRIS AND LISA PALACHE WERE THE SECOND HALF OF OUR DOUBLE TEAM OFFENSIVE ON THE HILL ON THE CONRAIL ISSUE. AFTER JOHN AND I PAID OUR VISITS, CHRIS AND LISA WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH A SECOND DOSE OF

DETAILS. I GUESS THEY MADE MORE VISITS, ANSWERED MORE QUESTIONS THAN JUST ABOUT ANYBODY INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE AND WE SIMPLY COULDN'T HAVE SUCCEEDED WITHOUT THEIR EFFORT.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE SEEMED AS IF CONRAIL WAS CHRIS' ONLY LIFE, HE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS EXPERTISE ACROSS-THE-BOARD ON RAIL ISSUES. HE HAS BEEN OUR MAINSTAY ON ANY PROBLEM ANYWHERE IN THE NATIONAL RAIL SYSTEM. REGARDLESS OF WHAT SHIPPER OR WHICH RAIL LINE OR THE DEPTH OF THE PROBLEM AT HAND, CHRIS IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTOOD THE ISSUES AND HAD THE ANSWERS. AND WE WILL MISS HIS SKILLS AND HIS WARM PERSONALITY VERY MUCH.

AS YOU ALL KNOW CHRIS LEFT THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. WE ARE TOLD THAT IN ADDITION TO THE CONRAIL SALE LEGISLATION ONE OF

HIS LEGACIES IS THE DARTMOUTH GREEN CARPET IN THE FRA POLICY OFFICE, WHICH WAS INSTALLED DURING HIS STAY THERE.

JACKIE, HIS WIFE, USED TO SADLY SAY "THE KIDS AND I NEVER SEE CHRIS SINCE HE STARTED WORKING ON THE CONRAIL SALE." SOMEONE ASKED AFTER THE BIG SNOWS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS IF SHE HAD CHANGED HER TUNE?

CHRIS HASN'T ANNOUNCED HIS FUTURE CAREER PLANS. WE ALL KNOW HE'S AN AVID MODEL TRAIN BUFF, BUT I DOUBT HE WASTES MUCH TIME ON HIS HOBBY. I THINK WE WILL BE HEARING BIG THINGS FROM CHRIS ROONEY IN THE FUTURE. CHRIS, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I WILL MISS YOU AND YOUR SOUND ADVICE VERY MUCH AND I HOPE THAT YOUR FUTURE IS FILLED WITH AS MUCH SUCCESS AS YOUR PAST. I'M CONFIDENT IT WILL BE.

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