

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS DELIVERED BY  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
-- GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS EXCERPT --  
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There is so much out there that will be confronting us as we move down the road this year. Not the least of those is the federal deficit. And, certainly, that's one of the key issues that the Administration has focused on right now as we move forward to present our 1987 budget here in the next few days -- of course, the State of the Union message. And this is going to be something that all of us will have to be focused on in terms of how we get those deficits down and bring spending under control and ensure that economic expansion and recovery indeed continues for this nation.

Gramm-Rudman has produced something that is almost worse than the deficit. That is, of course, across-the-board cuts. Those have got to be avoided at all costs. But whatever we think about Gramm-Rudman in terms of the merits, most decidedly it has produced real discipline in the system, the necessity to set priorities and, I think, we've got to make a lot of tough choices because of Gramm-Rudman. So it is certainly producing that discipline that is needed in the system.

As I look at my agenda, no question about it, I've had to re-think transportation policy and just what the federal role should be in transportation policy, looking at the necessity to cut these deficits. My view was, I'm going to come in on the President's budget because I believe that this is absolutely necessary. We've got to do this as a country. We've got to make those hard choices. And we have to do some re-thinking.

What are the roles that are really important and proper for the federal government across-the-board in terms of defense, facilitation of interstate commerce and the rest. And where are those functions that might be desirable, but not absolutely essential and necessary at this point, where perhaps in the regional areas, the states, the localities, they can do a better job of it. And, some of them, of course, are very much in the black where as we're very much in the red ink. So we've had to do some adjusting. All that will be forthcoming in a few days now.