

TALKING POINTS PREPARED FOR SECRETARY DOLE
REP. JACK FIELDS' CONGRESSIONAL CLUB BREAKFAST
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 1987

- THANK YOU JACK (CONGRESSMAN FIELDS), FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION. DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU THIS MORNING.
- HAVE THE HIGHEST RESPECT FOR JACK FIELDS -- HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH JACK AND TAKE AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF HOUSTON'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM LAST SPRING.
- WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WITH YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES THIS MORNING TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON WHAT WE ARE DOING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

BUDGET

- OVERALL THEME OF DOT FY 1988 BUDGET REFLECTS COMMITMENT TO BOTH A SAFE, EFFICIENT NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.
- REASSESSED FEDERAL ROLE IN TRANSPORTATION POLICY -- CAN'T CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE'VE BEEN DOING.

- IF I GET MY WAY, MY \$27 BILLION BUDGET WILL DROP TO \$23.6 BILLION; WILL ALSO BE 85 PERCENT USER FEE FINANCED.

HIGHWAY ISSUES

- FOR FOURTH TIME IN FIVE YEARS, NATION'S HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM GRIDLOCKED BECAUSE CONGRESS WANTS TO DICTATE SPENDING RATHER THAN ALLOWING STATES TO SET OWN PRIORITIES.
- OVER HALF THE STATES HAVE RUN OUT OF FUNDS, KEY PROJECTS DELAYED, JOBS JEAPORDIZED.
- EACH MONTH THAT CONGRESS FAILS TO ACT, AN AVERAGE OF \$11 BILLION AND 4,000 MAN YEARS IS LOST FOR FY 1987.
- SPEED LIMIT: SUPPORT FLEXIBILITY FOR GOVERNORS TO GO TO HIGHER SPEEDS AND LET POLICE REORDER THEIR PRIORITIES TO AREAS WHERE THEY FEEL THEY CAN PROVIDE MORE LIFESAVING ACTIVITIES. SUPPORT

RAISING LIMIT ON SOME RURAL INTERSTATES, WHICH WOULD BE THE BEST BUILT, LOWEST VOLUME, LOW FATALITY ROADS. (NOTE: FIELDS IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF RAISING THE SPEED LIMIT; HAS NUMEROUS RURAL HIGHWAYS IN HIS DISTRICT)

PRIVATIZATION

- OBLIGATION TO GET GOVERNMENT OUT OF BUSINESSES THAT SHOULD BE RUN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR
- HANDED OVER KEYS ON MONDAY TO THE LAST TWO FEDERALLY-OWNED AIRPORTS, WASHINGTON NATIONAL AND DULLES, TO AN INDEPENDENT REGIONAL COMMISSION.
- CONRAIL -- FLAGSHIP OF PRIVATIZATION. LARGEST INITIAL INDUSTRIAL PUBLIC OFFERING IN U.S. HISTORY.
- SPACE PRIVATIZATION

SAFETY

- WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS ALL ACROSS AMERICA, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO CUT DOWN ON DRINKING AND DRIVING. WILL CONTINUE UNTIL WE GET EVERY DRUNK DRIVER OFF THE ROADS AND HIGHWAYS OF THIS COUNTRY.
- BEST DEFENSE AGAINST DRUNK DRIVER IS SAFETY BELT. (TEXAS HAS A SEAT BELT LAW; USAGE ESTIMATED AT 65 PERCENT SINCE LAW ENACTED)
- TERRIBLE AMTRAK/CONRAIL CRASH -- COULD NOT HAVE TESTED BRAKEMAN AND ENGINEER WITHOUT DRUG/ALCOHOL RULE WE PUT INTO PLACE 11 MONTHS AGO. (NOTE: FIELDS HAS NUMEROUS RAIL WORKERS AND RETIREES IN HIS DISTRICT)
- EVEN WITH RULE IN PLACE, WE'VE FOUND THAT ALMOST FOUR PERCENT OF EMPLOYEES TESTED AFTER ACCIDENTS THIS PAST YEAR HAD DRUGS IN THEIR SYSTEM.

- BELIEVE EVEN STRONGER MEASURES ARE NECESSARY. ASKED CONGRESS TO IMMEDIATELY GIVE DOT AUTHORITY TO REGULATE DIRECTLY THE CONDUCT OF RAILROAD EMPLOYEES IN SAFETY RELATED REPONSIBILITIES.
- NOW TAKING BIG STEP TO PROVIDE HELP FOR EMPLOYEES WITH PROBLEMS
 - RANDOM DRUG TESTING OF 26,500 EMPLOYEES IN SAFETY AND SECURITY POSITIONS (AIRLINE AND RAILROAD EMPLOYEES, AIR, BOATING SAFETY, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS)

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