

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
VOTE AMERICA BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5, 1992
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Event: 25-30 members. 12-13 minute talk. 10 minute Q&A.

Introduction

- Thank you *Joe Rodgers*, Chairman of Vote America.
- The work you do -- to get young people ages 18-24 to vote -- is very important. No doubt the only election that many of them ever voted in was the one for the new Elvis stamp -- and even then they picked the "wrong" Elvis! Coming from a political family, voting in our household was both a duty and obligation -- "Grandmother" story.
- Would like to talk briefly about the revolution going on in the world today and in my area of expertise -- transportation.

President Agent of Change

- President Bush agent of revolutionary change in America and the world: signing of new arms reduction treaties ... breakup of former Soviet Union ... Liberation of Kuwait ... negotiations on a free trade agreement

with Mexico-- would create the largest and richest free-trade zone in the world and would be of major benefit to our economy.

- Trade agreement just one example of how the President is building a stronger America. He's pushing hard for a number of key initiatives: tax incentives for R&D ... measures to allow first-time home buyers to tap IRA accounts ... major tort reform ... cut in capital gains tax ... America 2000 schools ... urban enterprise zones.

- President's agenda will make U.S more competitive in world markets. Although economy continues to grow more slowly than we would like -- good news is around the corner. Look at the trend lines: GDP has increased five straight quarters ... inflation under control ... stock market at record highs ... corporate profits up.

Revolution in Transportation

- President also creating a revolution in our transportation system. President champion of maritime reform ... trucking and airline deregulation ... implementing new ISTEA bill.

ISTEA

- ISTEA revolutionary piece of legislation -- pump \$155 billion into economy and create nearly 600, 000 jobs over six years. Bill contains two words not usually used or heard in government -- 'intermodal' and 'efficiency.'

- Need to think intermodally -- create a seamless transportation network. Get people in highways to think about rail, mass transit, aviation.

- Unprecedented flexibility -- state and local officials can now use funds as they see fit. Highway funds can be shifted to transit programs, safety programs or even to address wetland problems.

- ISTEA also encourages for first time, private sector involvement in building / operating of our transportation infrastructure -- such as toll roads. Also funds R&D for IVHS technology -- or "smart cars" and "smart highways."

Funds out the Pipeline

- Doing all I can to see that ISTEA funds flow out of the pipeline. ● As of July 28, states have obligated nearly \$12 billion of federal highway funds -- almost 74

percent of 1992 funding. Individual states range from virtually 100 percent (South Dakota) to about 35 percent (Hawaii).

- To further speed the process, encouraging states with financial problems to use temporary waivers on state and local matching funds for both highway and transit projects.

Conclusion

- President is agent of change -- at home and overseas. He has addressed the need for change through innovative and hard hitting policy initiatives -- especially in transportation.

- The work you do in getting young people to participate in electoral system will also help change America for the better -- we support your efforts.

- I've spoke long enough -- any questions?

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