

HJ3

RS -- 30th Video -- 690 words (including LBJ's)

draft 2 -- by Ilene

On camera:

30 years have shown what Lyndon Johnson knew in his heart was right: America needed a Department of Transportation.

As we celebrate our 30th year, we want all Americans to know: because of this great leader, today America has the finest transportation system in the world. A system worthy of America.

Let me read you part of what he wrote to Congress in March, 1966, when he called for a Transportation Department.

Two centuries ago, the American nation came into being. Three bonds united them.

There was the cultural bond of a single language.

A moral bond of a thirst for liberty.

And a physical bond of a few roads and rivers.

Two centuries later, the language is the same. The thirst for liberty endures.

The primitive roads have become a powerful network on which the prosperity of our society depends.

In a nation that spans a continent, transportation is the web of union.

(Music, pretty bridge shots, etc.)

Off camera:

For three decades, presidents and senators had tried making Transportation a Cabinet-level Department. But it was Lyndon Johnson's pleas that moved it forward:



(LBJ: Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> tape: We must know and we must let our people know that our system is no longer adequate. Through the next two decades the demand for transportation is going to more than double)

Transportation was a major force in the 1960s.

A source of jobs ... the biggest industry ... the lifeline of travel and commerce.

But too many highways were congested and unsafe ... airways were saturated ... equipment was obsolete .... and government policies needed better coordination.

Senator Magnuson and Congressman Holifield introduced the legislation that passed in the fall of 1966.

Listen to President Johnson at the signing ceremony:

LBJ Tape: We have come into this historic East Room of the White House to bring into being a Department of Transportation ... it will be an enormous task to build a system America is deserving of.

In January 1967, President Johnson swore in the first Secretary, Alan Boyd. You might call him the George Washington of Transportation.

LBJ Tape: I said, when I realized we would have a new Transportation Department, that I wanted to look this country over and select the most competent man available for this assignment. And the one and only name that came up was Alan Boyd.

(Possible Boyd Interview; if get interview, skip the above



quote.)

On April 1, 1967 the doors opened. Coming together were nearly 100,000 people, from seven departments and agencies, with a budget of \$6 billion.

30 years is not a long time in the life of an organization. But we have had a good beginning. We invested about half a trillion dollars in building infrastructure, including the great interstate system. We deregulated our major transportation industries. Now every state has a transportation department. 4 million citizens are employed in high-paying jobs, moving goods and people.

And what would Lyndon Johnson think -- today?

He would be pleased that 600 million people fly a year ... that 10,000 fewer people die a year on our highways ... that we have a vibrant national freight railroad system ... and public transit helping build communities.

He would look at the Coast Guard with pride, as they save 5,000 lives and billions in property -- every year

He would be proud that America's transportation ties are growing, from Europe, to Asia, to Latin America, to Africa ... and that America is producing ships, again, for export.

And Mrs. Johnson is so very proud to know the road-buildingest nation on earth knows that "where flowers bloom, so does hope."

(Mrs. Johnson speaking: shots of wildflowers)