



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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This is the Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, January 10 with excerpts from testimony today by Transportation Secretary John Volpe before the Senate Commerce Committee's Aviation Subcommittee on the Administration's Civil Aviation Security Program.

"The Administration believes in the principle that the users of the air transportation system should pay for its costs, and that the cost of providing police officers at airports must be considered as part of the system's costs. Indeed, all costs related to the Federal Aviation Security Program should be considered an integral part of the total system cost. These costs should be considered no differently than costs such as aircraft maintenance, flight crew training, pilots' wages, and crash and fire services. These new security-related costs should not be considered as a separate cost item and should not be borne solely by the local community or by the local airport or by the air carriers. Any additional charges necessary to protect passenger and crew should be reflected in the fare structure.

"The Federal government is committed to a policy designed to protect air travelers.

"We are committed to the closest of ties and cooperation with the aviation industry and local communities.

"We are committed to support airports and airline moves to pass on, as necessary, the increased costs of a strengthened security program to the direct beneficiaries -- those who fly.

"We are committed to the proposition that no local community will lose air service because of security costs.

"We are committed to the extension of international cooperation in the field of security."

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"We are committed to bringing every air pirate, every air saboteur, and every person who attacks an aviation facility to justice."

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