



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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This is the Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, January 31.

First, an excerpt from a Tuesday night speech by Assistant Secretary for Safety and Consumer Affairs Benjamin Davis before the Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity in Alexandria, Va.

"The order to screen all passengers, to search all hand luggage has been in effect for almost a month now and the results are highly encouraging. The FAA and airlines officials have reported minor delays at the airports, perhaps 5 to 10 minutes, but it's been going very smoothly. A girl baggage inspector at Dulles International told us she expected the ladies to put up a fuss about their handbags but instead they handed them right over. Comments from the passengers have been very good. Instead of complaining about the minor inconvenience, they seem to have the attitude of 'better safe than sorry.'

"Six days from now, all airports must have armed guards deployed at every gate where passengers are loaded. This is Phase II of the DOT's 60-day edict. We are going to have a continuity of purpose based on Federal Regulations. And in the end, we will eliminate the hijacker in this country. There will be incidents, I am sure. Here and there, a criminal may break through. But I know we have taken the right course. We are putting our trust in the airlines and the airports and in the thousands of employees who serve them. We are confident of a positive response."

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Next, James Wilson, an Associate Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, discusses legislation dealing with emergency medical services for motor vehicle accidents. Testifying before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Wilson said additional authority is not needed for this program.

"Since initiation of the Highway Safety Act, we have provided emergency medical services management training to the states and communities. An 81 hour course for ambulance attendants has been developed. We're now working on a 480 hour course for ambulance attendants to provide medical treatment to the injured on the way to the emergency room. We have developed an ambulance criteria. We are trying to improve the quality of services throughout the country. The proposed legislation that is pending before the Congress at this time seems to duplicate some of the programs that are already underway. We believe that with sufficient resources made available for programs in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Department of Defense, and Department of Transportation, that sufficient upgrading of emergency medical services can take place."

This has been the Transportation News Report for Wednesday, January 31.

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