



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Thursday, March 22, has two actualities -- Secretary Brinegar on the shipment of hazardous materials and Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Herringer on operating subsidies.

First, Secretary of Transportation Claude Brinegar and Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dixy Lee Ray today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Transportation of Radioactive Materials. Under the new provisions, the Department of Transportation will continue to regulate the handling and shipping of radioactive material while the evaluation and approval of certain packages will be transferred to the Atomic Energy Commission. At the signing ceremonies Secretary Brinegar commented:

"Ever since the release of nuclear energy, the safe shipment of radioactive materials has been of utmost importance to the nation. And now, because of the growing number of new nuclear power plants and, hopefully, expanding other uses of nuclear energy, we must increasingly concern ourselves with its safe movement. Nuclear energy is helping mankind and we must be certain that unexpected problems don't set back this needed progress. I'm most pleased with the cooperation that is evident in this memorandum. The Atomic Energy Commission is providing its broad expertise and we in the Department of Transportation are assisting with our knowledge of safety in transportation."

Next, the Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Frank Herringer voiced strong opposition to the use of operating subsidies in his appearance today before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Banking and Currency. He said the opposition stems from a genuine belief that an operating subsidy is not the proper role for the Federal government. Later, he elaborated on this theme:

"The proposed subsidy program is not a program that will help the people... or even help mass transit. It will only raise the cost of Government... it will only create more excessive spending, and it will lead us towards higher taxes. Certainly it is not in keeping with President Nixon's policy to hold the line on both taxes and spending."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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