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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, March 23 has actualities on the President's budget, the highway trust fund, and the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

First, Under Secretary of Transportation Egil Krogh, Jr., speaking Friday to the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, was asked about the President's budget reductions. His comments follow.

"Unfortunately in the rhetoric that has been used the last few weeks, it looks as if this is a very stingy budget. That is not true, it is a \$19 billion increase over fiscal year 1973. But what has happened is that the increases which people had anticipated and they wanted for some programs have just not been allowed. But it is not an absolute reduction in the amount of the Federal budget. I don't think there's any way humanly possible that you could achieve that. The President in speaking to the group yesterday morning wanted to make it crystal clear that this is a responsible budget, it does meet the needs as he and others have seen them all over the country. And that it should not be considered that we are trying to adopt an unhumanitarian stand, so what have you. That is not the case, and that is not what the budget has presented last month as so indicated."

Next, an excerpt from Urban Mass Transportation Administrator Frank Herringer's speech to the Governor's Conference in Boston Massachusetts on Friday on the proposed Highway Trust Fund measure.

"It is only equitable that Highway Trust Fund money be available for use for transportation purposes that benefit large segments of our population, both urban and rural...both driver and public transit user. The Federal-Aid Highway and Public Transportation Act of 1973 is designed to benefit that portion of our population that moves...by whatever means. That is, indeed, a large portion of our population!"

Finally, a statement by Saint Lawrence Seaway Administrator David Oberlin on the early opening of the system's navigation season on March 28.

"This is the earliest opening date in the history of the Seaway, and is fully two weeks ahead of the average normal date. One of the reasons for the early opening date is so that farm products - the movement of farm products resulting from the sale of grain to the Soviet Union can proceed. This in turn stems from the efforts of President Nixon to normalize trade efforts with the Soviet Union. We look for a record year as a result, on the Saint Lawrence Seaway this year. "

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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