



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, March 30 has a story on the nation's freight car shortage, an actuality dealing with Federal air quality standards, and another on the Federal budget.

First, a story on the freight car shortage.

"Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar said today he has established a full time task force to deal with the nation's freight car shortage. Speaking in Wichita, Kansas, Secretary Brinegar noted that the shortage is especially critical to the movement of grain. He indicated that nearly 10,000 freight cars of grain are currently tied-up at various ports throughout the country.

The Secretary said he has sent specialists to expedite the movement of those cars and will dispatch more expediting teams as they become available."

Next, excerpts from a speech by Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Consumer Affairs, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., speaking before the American Society of Quality Control in San Francisco, California.

"Today, Los Angeles is a national test case. The city must meet Federal air quality standards by 1975 but, in effect, the battle has already been joined. The Environmental Protection Agency was under a court order to present by last January 15, a plan of transportation controls which could achieve the Federal air quality standards in the Los Angeles Basin. That plan proved to be something of a shock for Los Angeles; it calls for a reduction of up to 82% in automobile miles traveled during critical months. If adopted, it would surely mean gasoline rationing. And it would be a ruinous blow to one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country. EPA admits it, too.

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Next, excerpts from a speech by Deputy Under Secretary of Transportation Theodore Lutz speaking in Omaha, Nebraska.

"President Nixon has resolved to keep taxes down, to reform Federal spending, to place more revenues in local hands and to allow our country to continue its progress without renewed inflation.

"The President is committed to these goals. He is fully aware of what is needed to curb rising prices, and he is starting this downward spending spiral in his own backyard. I ask you to give him your strong support."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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