



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, June 5, has a story on fuel conservation preceeded by a lead-in; and a story involving the physically handicapped in air transportation. First, fuel conservation:

The Deputy Under Secretary of Transportation said in Albuquerque today that the best way to cope with the present gasoline shortage is for the public to exercise voluntary restraint in the use of the fuel. And, Theodore Lutz added:

"There are a variety of alternatives available to use to cope with the present gasoline shortage. The least desired and certainly the most unlikely alternative is gas rationing. What we are recommending, and what the oil companies themselves are advocating, is a program of voluntary restraint on the part of the public in the use of gasoline.

One suggestion is that the national speed limit (actually, there is no "national" speed limit as such, since limits are set and controlled by the states) be lowered to 50 mph. An individual car, operating at 50 rather than 70 miles per hour, uses approximately 20 percent less fuel. But since not everyone drives at top highway speeds, our computations indicate that a 50 mph limit on the highways would translate into a 2-1/2 percent fuel savings for the nation. We would do almost as well -- we could realize a 1-1/2 to 2 percent savings -- that "gallon a week" -- by simply enforcing the speed limits we already have. And our highways would be safer as a bonus."

Next, a Department spokesman with the air transportation story.

"The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration is asking for comments on a proposed regulation to assure more equitable treatment of the physically handicapped in air transportation.

"In announcing the move, Administrator Alexander Butterfield noted that their special needs 'have been ignored far too long by society as a whole.'

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"The problem centers on the evacuation of an aircraft in an emergency and the FAA is particularly interested in receiving the views of the handicapped on emergency procedures and how they might be improved to accomodate them.

"Normally, airlines and air taxi operators will not accept persons who cannot take care of their physical needs without assistance, unless they are accompanied by an attendant."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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