



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

SPOTMASTER 73-119

Broadcast: Wednesday, June 13, 1973

The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, June 13 has two actualities dealing with the environment.

"Environmental quality is a goal, not a constraint." That comment was made today by John Hirten, Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation speaking to the Environmental Assessments and Impact Statements Conference in Philadelphia. He also declared:

"Environmental impact statements should not be considered a burden. Rather, they are simply a documentation of the kind of planning that should go into each and every project that you design. The environmental concern sweeping the country today is not simply a matter of aesthetics, of saving the trees and open spaces, of good guys and bad guys. It is in fact a basic issue of planning and design in the broadest sense. It requires that before building any federally-assisted project, we ask the fundamental question of purpose.

"Let me urge you to give Environmental Impact Statements the attention they deserve and to establish a planning attitude in your community and state which is an environmental concern in the largest sense. You can be assured the Department of Transportation and other Federal agencies are ready and able to give you all possible support. Further, Environmental Impact Statements offer an opportunity for you to achieve a better designed project, once it is decided upon that you will do the project at all, which will become a welcome addition to the community in which it is constructed."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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