



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

BROADCAST NEWS SERVICE 73-174

Broadcast: Friday, August 31, 1973

The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, August 31 through Labor Day weekend has three safety messages from Department officials.

First, Dr. James Gregory, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator, has two statements on safety recommendations for the Labor Day weekend.

"It's become almost an American tradition, as a long holiday weekend rolls around, to remind ourselves and each other of the death and injury that may await us on our streets and highways. Predictions of these highway tragedies to occur on this Labor Day weekend came across my desk this morning.

We all know that we can help defeat these predictions by being alert, whether driving or walking; by knowing and obeying traffic laws; by driving defensively and courteously; by buckling up those lap and shoulder belts for protection; and by not driving after drinking.

We wish you a happy holiday. And, our thanks in advance for doing everything you can to make it a safe one."

"We all know that driving at safe speeds is important in reducing highway deaths and injuries. Today keeping our driving speed at reasonable safe levels will also help conserve gasoline at a time when we are all concerned about the energy supply in our country. The U.S. Senate recently asked all citizens to cooperate in this action for safety and energy conservation. We at the Department of Transportation agree: highway safety, energy conservation -- a worthwhile combination for everyone to consider."

Next, a statement by Admiral John Thompson, Chief, Office of Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard on the importance of sound boating practices over the Labor Day weekend.

"Some recreational boatmen who plan to make the Labor Day weekend their last boating weekend of the season, end up making it their last boating weekend ever!

- more -

"In past years, this holiday period has been marred by an overwhelming number of boating accidents with resulting injuries and fatalities.

"With so many Americans taking to the already crowded waters, I urge recreational boatmen to familiarize themselves with all safe boating practices, and to use an extra measure of caution during this holiday period."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

####