



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, October 9 has excerpts from a speech by Secretary Brinegar on the Coast Guard.

Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar spoke today to the Coast Guard Officers Wives Club in Washington, and commented on some new developments in the Coast Guard battle against oil pollution:

"I'm quite pleased to learn about the development of the new Vessel Control System that we're placing in the harbors such as San Francisco and Puget Sound -- this is an idea that is long overdue, (it is) somewhat analogous to the work of our Federal Aviation Administration in controlling air traffic -- and I'm hopeful that it can soon be expanded to other crowded and perilous ship channels. As one who in my business career struggled through the TORY CANYON mess and the Santa Barbara mess, I can say first hand it's far better to keep the ship from spilling the oil than it is to clean up the beaches and birds afterwards. The Coast Guard is also working on a research and development program hopefully that will lead to some kind of new airborne equipment -- and probably a new type of airplane -- that will 'sniff-out' and hopefully enable us to identify early on the various kinds of oil that we see in the waters, and to get at them before they have done serious damage."

Secretary Brinegar also commented on the challenging problems in small boat safety, saying:

"We know well how to pull people out of the water, but how indeed do we prevent them from getting there in the first place? Not only is the boating population expanding enormously -- the small boats, the recreational boats -- but we must learn how to cope with an extraordinary variety of boats and equipment, a large number of strange places where they can be found, and with the highly uneven skills of the boaters. And, certainly, to get on top of this assignment, the Coast Guardsmen will clearly have to use their ingenuity, patience, and good public manners to the utmost."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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