



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Friday, October 19 has an actuality with Secretary Brinegar and a story on motor fuel consumption.

First, Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar, speaking to the annual Presidents' Forum of the American Paper Institute today in Phoenix, talked about the pressing problems of the Northeast railroads and the legislation now before the House Commerce Committee proposing a national railway association:

"Although we have these problems with the bill, I'd like to stress to this group our strong desire to work with Congress in the spirit of "responsible cooperation" that President Nixon is seeking in his relations with Congress. I am meeting daily and now almost hourly with various Senate and House members on this legislation, as well as labor leaders, rail industry leaders, and shipping groups. I am encouraged by the positive attitude being shown by all sides -- there are honest differences - we are trying to work them out -- and hopeful that we will be able to find a responsible solution. We certainly do not want to stumble into what amounts to an impasse in the eyes of Judge Fullam, forcing the court to order a shutdown of Penn Central in order to bring the issue to a head. But then neither can we ask the taxpayers to simply step up and bail out the creditors -- an action that I believe could be that first wrong big step toward nationalization."

Next, a story on motor-fuel consumption.

"Although motor fuel consumption in the United States for 1973 will show an increase over last year, the percentage of increase is expected to be smaller than last year. A report released today by the Federal Highway Administration shows the pattern of increase changing as fuel shortages began to occur in late spring and summer. The motor fuel consumption is expected to exceed 115 billion gallons in 1973, a 6 percent increase over 1972. The highway use of motor fuel is expected to be 112 billion gallons in 1973, 6.3 percent more than last year, compared with a 7.7 percent increase in 1972. The use of gasoline for farming, aviation, and boating is expected to decline slightly this year."

This has been the Transportation News Report.