



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

BROADCAST NEWS SERVICE 73-224

Broadcast: Wednesday, November 7, 1973

The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, November 7, has excerpts from Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar's news briefing today dealing with efforts to solve the Northeast railroad problems.

First, Secretary Brinegar discusses the current bill before the House of Representatives.

"H.R. 9142, which is now before the full House, provides a framework for finding the needed solution that is structurally sound in most respects, and I wish to commend the House Commerce Committee for its diligence. But along with the strengths that this Bill has, there is a serious flaw. It's damned expensive. And unnecessarily so, in our opinion."

Next, Secretary Brinegar notes that some of the costs -- most of which are to help displaced labor -- are reasonable social costs. However, he took issue with others.

"But some of them -- which could exceed \$4 billion in the worst set of circumstances -- are not reasonable. The Nation's taxpayers should not be expected to shoulder such a heavy burden to protect what must eventually be looked upon as a private sector responsibility."

Finally, Secretary Brinegar warned about the entire railroad system.

"I think the important thing, and I've said this to this group before, is that we do not ruin the rest of the Nation's railroads while we're working in this part of the country. There are 200,000 miles of main line track, more or less, in this country. Probably 160,000 miles of it is doing quite well, in terms of raising their own money and managing their own affairs. So at this point let's not invent a creature that moves its way out and pulls them down to the inevitable heavy hand of the Federal government."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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