



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Thursday, November 8 has two actualities on the energy crisis and car pooling.

First, Secretary of Transportation Claude Brinegar testified today before the Senate Interior Committee on a panel of witnesses about the Administration's proposed legislation for coping with the energy crisis.

"The focus turns to the transportation system fairly quickly because if we're going to save a great deal of oil in a short term, it's going to have to come out of transportation. There is a lot of slack in the system. We can, in fact, find ways to cut back without seriously affecting the economy. But we must do it with care and not with a meat axe. And, I think that I endorse the Committee's efforts to find the proper emergency legislation. We must find a way to do it so that it can be done with great skill as we have this limited number of weeks ahead of us to cope with this crisis. Our Department is working with the airlines, with the truckers, with the railroads, and, ultimately, with the cities where most of the gasoline is used. We have to find a way to address this energy efficiency question."

Next, Assistant Secretary of Transportation Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., in a speech in Washington, D.C. Wednesday evening, talked about area car pooling and a study showing its advantages.

"The Department of Transportation is concentrating heavily these days on reaching the human component; we are appealing to common sense to encourage the use of buses and car pools. And we have plenty of incisive figures to back us up. Recently, the Highway Users Federation said it was urgent that motorists switch to car pools. According to a Federation study, car pooling in the Washington area could result in a maximum monthly saving of \$44 per passenger.

"The study breaks it down this way; the average cost of a one way, 10 mile trip downtown comes to \$2.64 for one car, one driver; but it is only 66¢ each in a three way car pool and 44¢ each in a six passenger pool. Furthermore, if car occupancy average were increased from 1.6, which it is today, to 2 persons a car, traffic during the peak hours would decline 20%. And don't forget the added energy conservation bonus we pick up along the way."

This has been the Transportation News Report.