



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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BROADCAST NEWS SERVICE 73-229

Broadcast: Wednesday, November 14, 1973

The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, November 14, has an actuality with the Under Secretary on traffic courts and a story on a speed limit change on the Dulles access road.

Under Secretary of Transportation John Barnum spoke to highway safety leaders and judicial delegates from 9 states and the District of Columbia in New York Tuesday evening at a conference aimed at making traffic courts more responsive to the needs of highway safety. He pointed out some problems.

"While the unsafe highway environment and defective vehicles still cause automobile crashes, driver error is by far the largest culprit we have to collar. Improper driving is involved in four-fifths of all crashes. Poorly understood and non-uniform traffic laws, lack of enforcement by police or courts, and failure to retain problem drivers contribute to the problem.

"Crucial to all of the Department of Transportation's special driver control demonstration efforts is the adjudication and sentencing of traffic violators. Adjudication serves as the balance wheel in the traffic law system. It also provides the constitutional due process necessary for a nation ruled by law. The serious plight of the Nation's lower criminal courts is largely due to their processing extensive petty offense caseloads, dominated by a high percentage of traffic cases.

Next a story by a Department spokesman on a new speed limit for the road to Dulles.

"Fifty miles an hour is the new maximum speed limit on the Dulles Airport Access Road. The reduced speed limit was set by the Department

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-2-

of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration in the continuing program to conserve fuel.

"Police will begin ticketing violators by next Monday."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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