



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

BROADCAST NEWS SERVICE 73-234

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, November 20 has an actuality with the FAA Administrator on aviation fuel conservation measures being ordered.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a Federal Aviation Administration fuel conservation plan designed to save up to 840,000 gallons of jet fuel a day. That's 2.7 percent of the daily consumption.

FAA Administrator Alexander Butterfield described the program for increasing aircraft operational efficiency, which he said is designed to fill the requirements of President Nixon's program for meeting the energy crisis.

"Specifically, the actions we are ordering are these:

First -- we are revising gate holding procedures at airports in order to reduce the time aircraft spend at the end of the runway waiting to take off.

Second -- we are revising air traffic flow procedures by reducing the time aircraft spend in holding patterns -- and one way to do this is to keep aircraft on the ground at their departure airports when really heavy congestion exists at the destination airports.

Third -- the FAA is encouraging increased use of optimum aircraft enroute cruising speeds. Most airlines are already practicing this, with negligible increases in flight time."

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"Fourth -- we are advising controllers to hold aircraft at high altitude when possible -- the higher planes fly, the less fuel they burn. Also, our FAA controllers will be assigning planes to the best possible fuel conservation routes.

Fifth -- taxiing aircraft with one or more engines shutdown will be encouraged.

Sixth -- we will be authorizing increased use of aircraft simulators for airline pilot training and for required periodic check flights.

The seventh and last of FAA's short term measures will be to accelerate construction of airport runway and taxiway improvements."

The Administrator said the program can be implemented within 90 days.

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