



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, November 28 has two actualities by Secretary of Transportation Claude Brinegar. They were taken from his speech today before the National Safety Belt Usage Conference in Washington. The first deals with the benefits of increased usage through the passage of laws; the second involves energy conservation.

"At present, lap belts are available in about nine out of ten cars on the road, yet as I said, they are used about a quarter of the time. Despite even this low usage, our calculations tell us the belts that are being worn are saving 3,000 or so lives a year. And, we know for sure that if this usage rate could be pushed up significantly -- say up to 70 percent -- we would quickly save 10,000 to 15,000 lives a year. I know of no other single act in the field of safety that so quickly could save so many lives.

"The Nation clearly can bring about a substantial savings in energy usage by revising its transportation habits. A greater use of mass transit is certainly before us, and car pooling is before us. All of these things will be needed to achieve the savings we must come up with."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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