



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

BROADCAST NEWS SERVICE 73-240  
(LOCAL LINES)

Broadcast: Wednesday, November 28, 1973  
(Different versions were used  
on the National and local  
lines 11/28/73)

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 actuality has a lead in; the second deals with energy conservation.

Transportation Secretary Claude Brinegar said in Washington today he believes that once safety belt usage laws are enacted for automobile travelers, the occupants would, by and large, obey the law. He discussed the benefits of such action.

"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. As an example of inefficiency, we find in studying the use of the automobile that on the average it gets about 30 passenger miles per gallon, and considerably less in the conditions of congested urban travel. A good city bus, on the other hand, can deliver well over 100 passenger miles per gallon of fuel. So we

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can see that even a moderate shift from travel by car to travel by bus can produce significant savings. Car pooling can produce savings of similar magnitude, and even faster, because we don't have to wait for the buses to be delivered.

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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