



# Southwest Seventh

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS

No. 63

October 15, 1972



## METRO CONSTRUCTION

METRO construction in our vicinity is currently scheduled to start about the first week in November. The first phase is the underpinning of the DOT Headquarters Building and the Reporters' Building along the Seventh Street and the "D" Street sides. Work on the DOT Headquarters Building will begin from inside the garage on P-3. This will eliminate the driving aisle along the "D" Street side. Work on the Reporters' Building will require the closing of one traffic lane on "D" Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets. This first phase is expected to continue for six months.

The closing of one lane on "D" Street will have a serious impact on our rush hour exodus from the DOT Headquarters Building garage. As those who are now involved in that peak period will know, any impedence to traffic outside the garage has a direct and immediate back-up effect inside the garage proper. There probably is no way to avoid the problem entirely, but there are ways to at least reduce it. One way would be to seek an alternate route home which would avoid exiting on "D" Street. For example, if you customarily travel the Southwest Freeway, try using the entry at Second Street and Virginia Avenue which



is four blocks east of here. You can use the "E" Street exit and drive east to Second Street (Market Inn), left under the railroad underpass, and an immediate right to the freeway entry. The entry divides: right for southbound traffic (via U.S. 95) and left for South Capital traffic (to U.S. 295).

Investigate the alternate routes available to you. Construction of one kind or another will be with us in this area for a long time to come!

#### HEALTH BENEFITS - OPEN SEASON

All employees enrolled in plans offered under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will have an opportunity to change their enrollments during the open season scheduled for November 15-30, 1972. Eligible employees who are not now enrolled will be able to enroll during this open season.

Changes enrolled employees may make are: (1) from one plan to another; (2) from one option in their present plan to another option; (3) from one option in their present plan to the same or another option in a different plan; and (4) from self only to self and family.

The brochures for all health benefits plans participating in this program have been revised; most plans have changed benefits or rates or both. Distribution of new brochures and Open Season Instruction Pamphlets is now underway.

#### ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 7, 1972

This is a reminder that in accordance with Civil Service and Departmental regulations, employees are entitled to time off to vote, including an amount of excused absence, if necessary, that will afford a three-hour period either after the polls open or before the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time away from the job. Polls will be open in the District of Columbia from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; in Maryland from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and in Virginia from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. This means that D.C. and Maryland voters may receive up to 30 minutes of excused absence if they work 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Virginia voters get 15 minutes off if they work from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and up to 30 minutes if they work 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you don't find your local voting place and working hours listed in the above two sentences it means that your local voting hours and hours of duty are such that you have a "built-in" three-hour period either before or after work, and aren't eligible for any extra time off to vote. Employees who vote absentee ballots are also reminded to mail their ballots in time to meet their State's absentee-ballot deadlines.

Exercise your right as a citizen and vote on election day.