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Nov. 26, 1974

SIGNING OF MASS TRANSPORTATION
ASSISTANCE ACT

NEWS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE NATIONAL MASS TRANSPORTATION

ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 REACHED ME OVERSEAS. I CONSIDERED THE

ACT A TOP PRIORITY OF THE 93rd CONGRESS, AND I CONGRATULATE

THE SENATE AND HOUSE FOR ACTING SO QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY.

THIS MARKS A VITAL LONG-TERM MAJOR FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO

MASS TRANSPORTATION.

THIS LEGISLATION REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE IN THE
BEST SENSE OF THE TERM. ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT POSITIONS
WERE SET FORTH IN THE BEGINNING -- THE VIEWS OF THE
ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS, GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND
OTHERS -- WE WERE ABLE TO RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES AND
DEVELOP LEGISLATION TO MEET OUR MOST URGENT NEEDS IN MASS
TRANSPORTATION AT A COST WHICH IS NOT INFLATIONARY.

THIS LEGISLATION IS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST EXCESSIVE USE OF PETROLEUM, IN OUR ECONOMIC BATTLE, AND IN OUR EFFORTS TO CURB URBAN POLLUTION AND REDUCE CONGESTION. IT ASSURES THAT 11.8 BILLION DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP STATES AND CITIES MEET TRANSIT NEEDS FOR THE REST OF THE DECADE.

THIS ASSURANCE OF STEADY AND PREDICTABLE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC
TRANSIT -- FOR THE FIRST TIME -- WILL ENABLE LOCALITIES TO
PLAN INTELLIGENTLY FOR THEIR LONG-TERM NEEDS. ALSO, FOR THE
FIRST TIME, THIS LEGISLATION WILL PERMIT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO PROVIDE LIMITED ASSISTANCE TOWARD THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF
TRANSIT SYSTEMS. PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WILL MINIMIZE
POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH DEFICITS.

THE ACT CONTAINS FUNDS -- AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME --
WHICH CAN BE USED FOR RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

MANY WORKED HARD TO DEVELOP THIS LEGISLATION AND I
AM PLEASED SOME OF YOU COULD BE HERE TODAY -- SECRETARY BRINEGAR,
FRANK HERRINGER, JOHN TOWER, BETE WILLIAMS, JOE MINISH,
BILL WIDNALL, GARY BROWN, JIM DELANEY AND JOHN ANDERSON --
DESERVE SPECIAL MENTION. SO DO MANY MAYORS WHO MADE
NUMEROUS JOURNEYS TO WASHINGTON.

I AM ENCOURAGING HERE AND NOW THE USE -- THE EXCESSIVE
USE -- OF CERTAIN ENERGY. THAT IS THE KIND OF ENERGY
EXPENDED TO ENACT THIS LEGISLATION BY THE CONGRESS AND BY ITS
SUPPORTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY. LET US PUT MORE AND MORE
OF THIS PERSONAL ENERGY INTO THE EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF THE
IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION TODAY. WE SURELY WILL
FIND SOLUTIONS -- AND AT A PRICE THAT IS RIGHT!

IT IS WITH GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE THAT I SIGN THE
NATIONAL MASS TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974.

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