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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *df*

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF WILLIAM COLEMAN**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1975**

MR. SECRETARY, YOU HAVE YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU.

THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF YOUR DEPARTMENT WILL  
PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE AS THIS NATION PROCEEDS TOWARD ENERGY  
INDEPENDENCE. TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNTS FOR OVER FIFTY PERCENT  
OF OUR TOTAL PETROLEUM USE. TO ATTAIN THE GOAL OF ENERGY  
INDEPENDENCE, WE NEED STRONG ASSISTANCE FROM THE TRANSPORTATION  
SECTOR.

IN JANUARY, I SIGNED A BILL MAKING THE FIFTY-FIVE  
MILES-PER-HOUR SPEED LIMIT MANDATORY. IT CONTAINS TOUGH  
PROVISIONS SO THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CAN ENSURE  
STRICT ENFORCEMENT BY THE STATES. THE STATE GOVERNMENTS  
WILL SOON BE CERTIFYING TO YOU THAT THEY ARE ENFORCING THE  
SPEED LIMIT PRIOR TO FUTURE RELEASE OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDS.  
STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE FIFTY-FIVE MILES-PER-HOUR LIMIT  
IS ESSENTIAL. IT WILL SAVE LIVES AS WELL AS ENERGY.  
I WILL LOOK TO YOU FOR STERN BUT EQUITABLE ENFORCEMENT.

YOU WILL ALSO BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH MY ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORS TO IMPROVE THE FUEL EFFICIENCY  
OF AUTOMOBILES PRODUCED IN THIS COUNTRY. I AM  
DETERMINED TO REACH THE GOAL OF A FORTY PERCENT IMPROVEMENT  
BY 1979 IN THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF NEW CARS SOLD IN THIS  
COUNTRY.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PART OF OUR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
AFFECTS ENERGY. IT IS THE NATIONAL MASS TRANSPORTATION  
ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 I SIGNED IN NOVEMBER. I WORKED FOR  
PASSAGE OF THIS BILL IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS  
AND I AM LOOKING TO YOU FOR VIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION.

IT PROVIDES ELEVEN POINT EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT SIX YEARS FOR MASS TRANSIT. THIS MEANS THAT WE WILL BE SPENDING IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR ALMOST SEVENTY PERCENT MORE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MASS TRANSIT THAN WE SPENT IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR.

WE MUST TAKE STEPS TO SAVE THE NATION'S RAILROADS.

THE UNITED STATES DESPERATELY NEEDS ITS RAILROADS TO TRANSPORT

THE VAST QUANTITY OF GOODS IN A FUEL-EFFICIENT MANNER

NECESSARY FOR OUR ECONOMY TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER.

RAILROADS ARE AN IMPORTANT MOVER OF ENERGY, ESPECIALLY COAL,

AND WE WILL NEED TO DOUBLE OUR COAL OUTPUT BY 1985.

RAILROADS WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN HELPING US TO

OBTAIN OUR ENERGY OBJECTIVES.



WORKING WITH YOU, MR. SECRETARY,

I PLAN TO SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS OVER THE NEXT

SEVERAL WEEKS VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION IN THE

TRANSPORTATION AREA. I WILL PROPOSE A NEW

HIGHWAY BILL WHICH WILL SET FORTH A REVISED HIGHWAY

PROGRAM THROUGH THE YEAR 1980. ALSO, THE FEDERAL

AIRPORT PROGRAM EXPIRES ON JUNE 30. I WILL PROPOSE

MAJOR REVISIONS IN THE AIRPORT AND AVIATION PROGRAMS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE WHICH  
THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CONGRESS  
CONCERNS REFORM OF THE ECONOMIC REGULATION OF TRANSPORTATION  
BY THE INDEPENDENT FEDERAL AGENCIES. REGULATORY REFORM  
IS CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO REDUCE THE RATE OF INFLATION WHICH  
INFLECTS THIS NATION. NOTHING IS WORSE THAN INFLATION  
CAUSED BY GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS.

MR. SECRETARY, I AM PLEASED TO WELCOME  
YOU INTO ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CABINET POSTS IN  
GOVERNMENT -- AND TO WISH YOU SUCCESS AS  
WE WORK TOGETHER. NOW, IF YOU STILL WANT THE JOB,  
I WILL ASK MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL TO PLEASE ADMINISTER  
THE OATH.

END OF TEXT