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SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the week of February 17, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE February 13, 1997

FROM: Secretary Peo

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of February 17, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Possible Strike Against American Airlines: The Department is working closely with various principals concerning a possible strike against American by the Allied Pilots Association--an independent union representing American's 9,300 pilots. We are coordinating our analysis and monitoring efforts with both the White House staff and the National Mediation Board. Supermediation is currently underway in Washington, with the possibility of a total shutdown of American's world-wide operations as a result of a walkout by the pilots, as early as 12:01 a. m. February 15.

Military Aircraft Proximity to Civil Aircraft: On February 5, two F-16 aircraft from the Air National Guard flew near a Nations Air 727 passenger jet, resulting in evasive action by the 727. This incident and similar types of events in the succeeding days have led to investigations by the NTSB, the Department of Defense, and the FAA regarding procedures involving civil and military use of airspace. To date investigators have visited the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center and Washington Air National Guard facilities. The FAA is working with the U.S. Navy to review procedures governing special use airspace.

Secretary Designate Slater Swearing In: Mr. Rodney Slater will be sworn in as Secretary of Transportation on February 14 in a small ceremony at the White House. A ceremonial swearing in and reception is being planned for February 21.

Coast Guard Accident in Washington: On February 12, the Coast Guard responded to a distress call from a sailing vessel off the coast of Washington. The 4 crewmen responding overturned in their 44-foot motor lifeboat. The seas were very rough with 18-foot waves and the winds were 35 knots gusting to 45 knots. Three of the Coast Guard members died and

their bodies have been recovered. The fourth is hospitalized in good condition. The 2 people on the sailboat were rescued just before their boat went on the rocks and broke up. This is the first total loss of a 44 ft. motor lifeboat and the first loss of life on this type of boat. The Coast Guard will investigate the accident. Congressional members and staffs have been notified. There has been extensive media interest. A memorial service has not yet been planned, but Secretary Designate Slater will likely attend.

President's Radio Address: President Clinton's Saturday radio address will focus on DOT's efforts to improve child passenger safety. The President will announce plans to move forward with a rule requiring uniform anchorage/attachment systems for child seats. This is expected to save lives and prevent injuries. A follow up media event is being planned for next week.

Aviation Excise Tax Bill: On February 12, the House Ways and Means Committee marked up and approved by voice vote a bill reinstating aviation excise taxes in the short term and authorized the Treasury to transfer taxes to the aviation trust fund. The Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved by a voice vote legislation to reinstate the aviation ticket tax through the end of FY97 on February 5. Senate and House floor action is not scheduled yet.

Gore Commission: On February 11-12, the Gore Commission held a final meeting and presented the final report to President Clinton following the meeting. Secretary Peña attended. Secretary designate Slater met with the Commission members following the meeting.

Mid-size Community Air Service: On February 7, Deputy Assistant Secretary Patrick V. Murphy attended a conference on mid-size community air service in Chattanooga, TN. Attending the meeting were 12 communities and 10 carriers. The all-day conference was chaired by Senator Bill Frist and Congressman Zach Wamp. The conference centered on the problems that mid-size communities experience in receiving air service. No conclusions were reached but Congressman Wamp expressed his intent to convene an informal working group composed of members of the Congress to further consider this issue.

Chicago Meigs Field Reopening: On February 10, Meigs Field in Chicago reopened. The airport, which had been closed since October 1, 1996, reopened after an agreement was reached between the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois to keep the airport open for five years and then close it permanently. The staffing of the control tower will be contracted out by the FAA. There has been extensive press interest on this issue.

Two Pipeline Incidents in Washington: On February 8, a 26-inch natural gas pipeline operated by Northwest Pipeline Corporation ruptured and ignited in a rural area near Everson, WA. On February 9, the same 26-inch natural gas pipeline failed and ignited near Kalama, Washington, 240 miles south of the first incident site. Neither ruptures caused any fatalities, injuries, or significant property damage. On February 13, the pipeline was shut down to inspect and to determine the cause of the explosions. A RSPA pipeline inspector arrived in Washington on February 10. The program

manager of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Pipeline Safety Program will also be assisting the investigation.

Honduran Freighter Seized with Cocaine: On February 8, a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment from the Navy frigate USS CLARK boarded the Honduran freighter GOLD STAR, enroute to Port au Prince, HA, and found 1,130 lbs. of cocaine. The vessel was seized and is being escorted to Miami for a more detailed inspection. The master of the vessel has been detained.

Coast Guard-Customs Seize Personal Watercraft Carrying Marijuana: On February 8, in the waters of San Diego, the Coast Guard and Customs teamed up to apprehend a drug trafficker on a personal watercraft (jetski). The Cutter POINT BRIDGE, its small boat, and a Customs fast boat chased the trafficker at high speeds, before the operator entered the water and was injured. Approximately 220 lbs. of marijuana was found on the craft.

Colombia, United States Initial Counterdrug Agreement: On February 2, a U.S. delegation of State Department, Joint Inter-Agency Task Force East, and Coast Guard officials signed a draft bilateral maritime counterdrug agreement with Colombia. The agreement, which will significantly enhance regional law enforcement operations, will be formally signed on February 14 by the U.S. Ambassador and the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Containership Refloated in Florida Keys: On February 8, the 652 ft. container ship CONSHIP HOUSTON, which ran aground on February 3 near Key West, FL, was refloated without incident and towed to Miami for repairs. Damage to the coral reef is widely scattered and is still being determined. The responsible party for the ship has posted a \$6 million Letter of Undertaking to cover potential claims from the National Marine Sanctuary and the State of FL.

ValuJet: ValuJet is seeking to expand service to Akron, OH, starting March 6. This is contingent on FAA's review and approval. The carrier has agreed that if it does not receive timely FAA approval of any new station, it will pay to accommodate its passengers on other carriers, regardless of cost.

U.S. Carrier Implementation of the Warsaw Liability Waiver Agreement: Effective February 6, twelve U.S. carriers filed tariffs implementing the three IATA/ATA Agreements waiving the \$75,000 international passenger liability limit applicable under the Warsaw Convention. The ATA Agreement, subscribed to only by U.S. carriers, waives the Warsaw limit in its entirety; provides for strict liability up to 100,000 SDRs (approximately \$139,000), and provides for application of the law of the domicile or permanent residence of the passenger regardless of where a suit may be brought. The twelve carriers are American, American Eagle, AMR Combs, Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia, Delta, Hawaiian, Northwest, Tower Air, TWA, United, and USAir.

California Emergency Funds Update: Approximately 18 state highways are still closed because of storm damage. About eight state highways are partially closed, permitting only one-way controlled traffic. Two major corridors reopened: State Route 70 north of Oroville, closed since New

Year's has been opened, and State Route 1 south of Monterey with a 30 mile stretch closed since New Year's has also been reopened. The estimated ER cost for damage to Federal-aid highways is currently at \$381 million.

Bill to Impose Speed Limit Introduced in Montana: The Montana State Legislature is introducing a bill setting a numerical speed limit of 75 mph for the Interstate and 65 mph for other roads. Montanas current law provides for a reasonable and prudent speed limit.

Comment Period Closes on NHTSAs Air Bag Regulation Changes: On February 5, the open public comment period closed on the two proposed air bag regulation changes. On January 6, NHTSA proposed two specific regulatory changes: (1) a new regulation that would permit vehicle owners to have their air bag disconnected without obtaining a waiver from the government, and (2) a change in the vehicle test procedure that would permit depowering of air bags. As of February 6, the agency has received 424 public comments concerning air bag deactivation and 145 public comments on air bag depowering.

Child Passenger Safety/Air Bag Safety Awareness Week: The week of February 9-15 is National Child Passenger Safety/Air Bag Safety Awareness Week. NHTSA Administrator Martinez was available to the media on February 11 at a child safety seat checkpoint that was held in collaboration with the DC Metropolitan Police Department and the DC SAFE KIDS Coalition. The checkpoint was to highlight the safe transport of children, particularly in vehicles with passenger side air bags.

Presidential Initiative on Drugs, Driving and Youth: On February 7, the Report on the Presidential Initiative on Drugs, Driving and Youth was delivered to the White House with a cover letter from Secretary Peña and Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The report included recommendations to conduct a state demonstration program for drug testing of youth applying for a drivers license; state incentive grants to improve state drugged driving laws; increased Federal assistance to improve state drugged driving enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, and publicity; and expanded drug prevention, education, and treatment so that youth know about drug use and the drugged driving consequences and to help young drivers who are identified with drug abuse problems receive the treatment they need. The White House is expected to announce the Report soon, possibly as early as February 17.

BART/SFO Congressional Inquiries: On February 11, the Department sent to Representative Wolf, the joint FAA/FTA response, coordinated through this office, to his questions regarding the San Francisco International Airports financial support for the transit extension. Additional inquiries from Senators Shelby and McCain will be answered shortly. San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown will host a meeting on February 13, originally to be convened by Senator Feinstein, among airport, BART and airline representatives in an attempt to reach agreement over whether BART will pay rent to the airport. The public comment period for the FAAs proposed policy--allowing airports to offer below market rents to public transit--ends February 18.

Wisconsin Central Railroad Signs Agreement to Improve Safety: On February 7, FRA, signed a Safety Compliance Agreement with the Wisconsin Central Railroad to improve railroad safety throughout the railroad's four-state, 300-mile transportation network. A 1996 FRA safety audit found the railroad's accident rate for 1996 was nearly double all other U.S. railroads and 72 percent greater than all other railroads in its category, leading FRA to conclude that strict remedial measures were necessary immediately.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Highway Infrastructure Privatization Act: On February 5, Senator Chafee introduced the Highway Infrastructure Privatization Act, legislation designed to allow the private sector to take a more active role in building and operating our nation's highway infrastructure. The legislation, co-sponsored by Senators Warner, Bond and Moynihan, sets up a pilot program allowing 15 infrastructure projects designed and built by private contractors to use tax exempt bonds for financing.

Trust Funds Off-Budget: On February 5, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved by voice vote H.R. 4, the Truth in Budgeting Act, legislation introduced by Chairman Shuster to move the four transportation trust funds off-budget.

National Parks Overflights Act: On February 5, Senator McCain introduced the National Parks Overflights Act of 1997. The Senator intends to use the legislation to begin a dialogue on how best to balance safety and natural quiet with access to the parks.

ISTEA Hearings: On February 13, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold a transportation overview hearing. Issues to be covered include transportation trends, infrastructure funding requirements, and the impact of transportation on the economy. Deputy Secretary Mortimer Downey will testify on behalf of the Department. The second panel of witnesses will include representatives from AAMA, AASHTO and ENO. Two additional hearings on ISTEA reauthorization legislation are scheduled for February 26 by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and February 27 by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

AMTRAK Hearing: On February 25, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads will hold a hearing on Amtrak's financial situation. A Department witness will testify.

State Boating Safety Grant Program Hearing: On February 26, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing on reauthorization of the State Boating Safety Grant Program. The Coast Guard is expected to testify.

Deputy Secretary

February 15

The Deputy Secretary will address the Transportation Trades Department

AFL-CIOs (TTD) Executive Committee Meeting.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

February 14-18

RSPA Administrator Dr. D.K. Sharma will participate in the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.

February 18

The FAA Acting Deputy Administrator, Monte Belger, will attend a Managers meeting with FAA officials in Palm Coast, FL.

February 19

Admiral Kramek will attend the Reserve Officers Association mid-Winter Conference.

February 19-20

The SLSDC Administrator will attend a Seaway Advisory Board meeting in West Palm Beach, FL.

February 20

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at the Black History program in Philadelphia, PA.

February 21

The Associate Deputy Secretary, Michael P. Huerta, will address the Industrial College of Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.

February 24

The Acting FAA Deputy Administrator will attend the annual Masstricht Air Traffic Control Conference in Brussels.

February 25

The Associate Deputy Secretary, Michael P. Huerta, will be speaking before the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association in Washington, D.C.

The SLSDC Deputy Administrator, David Sanders, will attend a meeting of the full bi-national Steering Committee in Ottawa with Administrator Gail McDonald, and Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Charles Hunnicutt, representing the Department.

February 26

Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Defense University.

The SLSDC Administrator will be speaking at a Rotary Club Luncheon in Watertown, NY.

February 26 - March 3

Admiral Kramek will visit Coast Guard units in the State of Washington.

February 27

The SLSDC Administrator will host a tour of Snell Lock for reporters to view the winter maintenance program.

February 28

FTA Administrator Linton will be the speaker at the Transit Institute of the North Carolina A&T University for their program on ISTE.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will give remarks at the State Association of Chiefs of Police in Washington, D.C.

March 4

Admiral Kramek will address the CG Marine Safety Officers Conference in Washington.

March 5

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee (TIC) working lunch.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez will be a panelist at the Mid-Year Meeting of State and Provincial Police in Annapolis, MD.

March 5-6

Admiral Kramek will host the Coast Guard Senior Advisory Group.

March 6

Admiral Kramek will speak at the ONDCP Public Affairs meeting in Washington.

March 12

Admiral Kramek will testify at the Coast Guard appropriations hearing.

March 13

Admiral Kramek will speak to flag and general officers participating in the CAPSTONE program.

Vice Admiral Herr will visit the CG Petty Officers Academy in Petaluma, CA.

March 18-20

Admiral Kramek will host the Coast Guard Flag Officers/SES Conference at Andrews Air Force Base.

March 21

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Philip Recht will speak at the 1997 Annual Meeting of the Automotive Occupant Restraints Council in Tucson, AZ.

March 24

Admiral Kramek will attend the USO Annual Awards dinner in Washington.

March 26

Admiral Kramek will give the State of the Coast Guard address in Washington, D.C.

PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRIES
(New listings above asterisk)

A number of profile interview requests have been received for

Secretary-designate Slater, including NPR, C-Span, KARK (NBC, Little Rock), Congressional Quarterly and Traffic World.

NBC Meet the Press requests an appearance for Sunday, February 16, in the event of an American Airlines strike.

FAA received numerous media inquiries concerning civilian aviation encounters with Air Force jets.

MSNBC has requested a live appearance by Secretary Peña following the presentation of the Gore Commission report.

FHWA Deputy Administrator Garvey was interviewed by several reporters following Deputy Secretary Downey's FY 1998 budget briefing, February 6. These included the Chicago Sun-Times, Blade Communications, Inside DOT, Engineering News Record and ITS World.

FHWA Deputy Administrator Garvey was interviewed on the Washington Review program, sponsored by the American Trucking Association. The show is fed via satellite to more than 2,000 downlink sites around the country. The interview focused on ISTEA reauthorization, highway safety and the importance of transportation to the economy.

Nancy Keats, Dow-Jones, is writing for a column on DOT oversight and consumer complaints dealing with charter airline operations. She spoke to the Office of Aviation Consumer Protection February 10. Publication expected next week.

The Wall Street Journal is preparing an article on the status of the commuter rule and voluntary compliance program. Reporter received background briefings February 4. Publication date not known.

USA Today is preparing an article about enforcement actions taken against COMAIR. Reporter has submitted an FOIA. Publication date not known.

U.S. News and World Report is doing a story on U.S./Mexican relations (cover story for end of February). The Coast Guard has provided information on counter drug smuggling successes in the past two months and expects a follow-on interview.

Scientific American, February 3, requested an interview with Deputy Secretary Downey regarding how U.S. cities should address their commuting problems. Publication date unknown.

The Washington Post, February 4, interviewed NHTSA in connection with an unpublished 1976 analysis of air bag effectiveness. The Post will write from a historical perspective of dealing with the air bag issue 20 years ago. Publication date is not known.

NBC visited LaGuardia January 22 to film FAA's Weather Support for Deicing Decisionmaking testbed. Segment to air February 19.

A Washington Post reporter visited several Terminal Doppler Weather Radar installations and the DCA tower. A graphics-oriented feature is expected in mid-February.

Jack Anderson's column is looking into security spending and whether the amount of funds devoted to the area is inappropriate. Publication date unknown.

The Houston Chronicle is expected to run a story on the nation's pipeline system this month.

Prime Time Live will do a story in January or February on the TWA 800 accident, and using inert gases to reduce flammability of empty fuel tanks.

AP, January 3, called concerning an article on accidents involving school bus handrails that snag drawstrings on children's clothing. NHTSA provided historic information about injuries and its news releases containing warnings and recall information. This appears to be a feature story and may not be published immediately.

Jack Anderson's column requested information on service interruptions, technical upgrade and GAO report. A background interview was conducted, column is expected.

FOIA REQUESTS

ABC News 20/20: Investigations of elevator accidents and inspection and maintenance of elevators in DOT buildings from 1992 to 1996.

WHDH-TV-7: Air traffic control tapes of an accident in January 1997 near Lake Winnepesaukee involving the pilot and passenger being overcome by carbon monoxide.

KMFG-7: Air traffic control tapes between United Airlines Flight #7169 and Emery Air Freight at Denver International Airport on January 7, 1997.

Point of Contact: For the weekend of February 15-16, Nancy McFadden will be the contact. She can be reached at (202) 537-0266 (home) or through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

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CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan (CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 17:22:53.00

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MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE June 18, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of June 23, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Pilot Program: On June 19, Secretary Slater announced that 29 additional states have been approved to establish innovative state infrastructure banks (SIBs), bringing to 39 the total number of states participating in the Departments SIB program. The Department is announcing that \$150 million is being allocated among the 39 states participating in the pilot program. Each state will receive a minimum share of the \$150 million, with the remainder divided according to each states commitment to capitalize their SIB. The Administration has increased investment in public use infrastructure from an average of \$21.1 billion between 1990 and 1993, to an average of \$25.5 billion between 1994 and 1997. Under the budget agreement recently reached between the President and Congress, this investment will increase to an average of \$27.6 billion between 1998 and 2001.

Secretary Slater, Commandant Honor Alex Haley: On June 17, Secretary Slater, Admiral Kramek, Mr George Haley, and actress Jasmine Guy officiated at a ceremony in the DOT Plaza in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the book ROOTS, and its author and former Coast Guardsman, Alex Haley. Secretary Slater announced that the Coast Guard will name a Coast Guard cutter after Alex Haley.

APEC Ministerial Meeting: On June 21-24, Secretary Slater will travel to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council meeting. Secretary Slater has invited approximately 125 transportation industry CEOs to join him as part of the U.S. delegation to the second meeting of APEC Transportation Ministers. U.S. industry representatives will be able to participate in a government-industry symposium to discuss critical transportation issues with the Ministers and to determine future opportunities for public-private cooperation in developing the region's transportation system. A second industry forum will focus on

infrastructure development and overcoming barriers to growth in the region.

Secretary signs Open-Skies with New Zealand: On June 18, Secretary Slater signed formally the United States-New Zealand "Open-Skies" Aviation Agreement. Transport Minister Jenny Shipley signed on behalf of New Zealand.

Secretary to sign Open-Skies with Malaysia: On June 12, representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and the Malaysian Ministry of Transport initialed the text of an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. Secretary Slater will sign formally the agreement on behalf of the United States on June 21 when he meets in San Francisco with his Malaysian counterpart.

Secretary Travels to CA: On June 21, Secretary Slater will attend a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, CA. The Secretary will also make a \$30.9 million grant announcement for 36 trolley buses and rehabilitation of a maintenance facility in San Francisco. Mayor Brown will accept on behalf of the city.

Secretary to Attend Grant Agreement Signing: On June 20, Secretary Slater will participate in a signing ceremony for a FFGA to extend the Sacramento, CA light rail transit system 6.3 miles. This is one of the six FFGAs which the Administration announced an intent to enter into in March, 1996. He will also present a \$7.9 million grant to begin land acquisition and construction of the extension.

NSTC Transportation Research and Development Committee Meeting: On June 18, Deputy Secretary Downey chaired a NSTC Transportation Research and Development Committee meeting. Participants reviewed the progress of NSTC interagency teams in developing investment plans for the proposed transportation partnership initiatives and research and education agenda.

Access Control Problems at Miami International Airport: FAA Security is investigating apparent falsification of background/employment checks by Million Air, a cargo carrier at Miami International Airport. The problems were discovered by an INS sweep of Million Air's facility. It found a number of employees who are illegal aliens but have been issued IDs authorizing unescorted access to the airports secure areas.

Drugs Found on American Trans Air (AMTA): On June 10, a mechanic performing routine maintenance on an AMTA aircraft at St. Louis found four large suitcases containing 800 pounds of marijuana. The aircraft had arrived on June 9 from Montego Bay. ACS Security is working with Customs to determine where the bags were placed on the aircraft. Security concerns center on security of the aircraft and access controls at St. Louis, Montego Bay, and other airports at which the aircraft recently operated.

CSX Accidents and Audit Review: On June 16, a team from FRA met with CSX officials in Jacksonville, FL to discuss an action plan addressing the safety concerns of FRA following the recent accidents in Cypress, FL and Scary, WV. FRA will audit CSX's efficiency tests and procedures, begin a

review of the CSX Dispatch Center in Jacksonville, FL and inspect rail defect reports and track maintenance procedures.

Investigation into Vandalism of Pan American World Airways Aircraft at Kennedy International Airport: On June 11, during a preflight maintenance inspection at the TWA Terminal at JFK, several severed wires were found on a Pan American World Airways Airbus 300. FAA and the FBI are investigating. There has been considerable media reporting on the incident

U. S. Coast Guard and Haiti Seize Suspect Boat: On June 10, the Coast Guard Cutter THETIS, with an embarked Haitian ship riders, encountered a suspicious boat off Haiti. The boat headed to shore where 5 suspected smugglers escaped. Although no contraband was found, the Haitian government took possession of the boat. The Cutter THETIS was operating in support of Operation FRONTIER ADVANCE, a joint United States-Haitian counter narcotics operation centered around Haiti.

Update to Missing Coast Guard Helicopter in Humboldt Bay, CA: A massive search covering 27,000 square miles (roughly equivalent to the State of Maine) by 5 Coast Guard Cutters and 43 Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force search flights was suspended on June 12 after yielding only small pieces of the helicopter. The 4 Coast Guard aircrew, LT Jeffrey Crane, LTJG Charles Thigpen, AD3 Richard Hughes, and ASM3 James Caines are presumed lost. Acting on a Coast Guard request, the Navy is deploying deep submergence surveillance equipment to the crash area to assist in the ongoing investigation. Admiral Kramek officiated at a formal memorial ceremony at Coast Guard Air Station Humboldt Bay on June 16. A Coast Guard C-130 flew members of the immediate family over the crash site for a wreath-laying ceremony afterwards. Secretary Slater spoke with the relatives of the missing Coast Guardsmen by phone.

Drilling Rig Explosion: On June 16, 30 miles NW of Morgan City, LA, an uninspected drilling rig experienced a natural gas explosion and fire. Two persons are reported dead, two remain missing, and 18 were evacuated. Damage to the rig is estimated to be at \$10-12 million. No waterways have been reported closed. The Coast Guard is on scene and assisting the Federal On Scene Coordinator. The operator, Denby Management, Inc., has hired well control and spill response companies to extinguish the fire and reduce pollution.

Tanker Runs Aground in Texas, Refloated Safely: On June 15, the U. S. Tanker DENEBA ran aground outside the Sabine, TX channel. It was loaded with 521,110 barrels of crude oil. Tugs were able to safely refloat the tanker on June 16. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Port Arthur monitored the situation. An underwater hull survey is now being conducted on the tanker.

TWA 800 Search Leader Commander Retires: Rear Admiral John Linnon, Commander, First Coast Guard District (New York, New England) and commander of all Coast Guard search operations for TWA Flight 800 will retire after nearly 40 years of Coast Guard service in a formal ceremony in Boston, MA on June 28.

FAA Opens Door for More Controllers in New York, New Jersey: On June 11, in a report to Congress, the FAA announced that the three major New York area air traffic control towers will meet or exceed authorized staffing levels by the end of fiscal year 1997. By the end of fiscal year 1998, the larger facilities, the New York air route traffic control center and New York terminal radar approach control, will also have achieved their hiring goals.

Aviation - Brunei: In April, the United States and Brunei initialed the text of an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. It is anticipated that the agreement will be signed on June 20 at the State Department.

Aviation - Barbados: Aviation negotiations with Barbados will be held in Washington on June 19-20 to discuss the desire of Barbados for new route and code-sharing authority. The U.S. will seek an "Open-Skies" agreement.

Aviation - Egypt: Negotiations with Egypt are scheduled for the week of June 23 in Washington. Egypt requested the talks to discuss the expansion of civil aviation services between the United States and Egypt.

Aviation - France: The French have agreed to resume aviation negotiations in Paris on July 9-11 looking toward a liberal aviation agreement. While the U.S. is seeking an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement phased in over a 3-year period, the French have proposed a 9-year phase culminating in a liberal arrangement for U.S.-France services only.

Fly Quiet in Chicago: On June 17, FAA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Cecelia L. Hunziker joined the Chicago Department of Aviation for a press conference to announce a joint effort on noise control. This represents a partnership with OHare and Midway noise compatibility commissions, airlines, City of Chicago, other local communities surrounding OHare and the FAA. Efforts include soundproofing homes and schools surrounding OHare and Midway Airports.

NHTSA Pursues Automated Collection Notification(ACN) System: The NTSB, at their Board Meeting on June 10, talked about a black box for automobiles. As part of NHTSA's overall plan to improve highway safety and to facilitate the development and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), NHTSA is conducting an Operational Field Test of an ACN System (black box). This operational test commenced in October 1995 with the signing of a cooperative agreement between the Calspan Corporation and NHTSA. Between October, 1995 and June, 1997 the ACN system was designed and fabricated. From July to November, the systems will be installed in 1,000 volunteers vehicles. The start of data collection will coincide with the installation of the system and will continue for approximately 1 year. At the conclusion of data collection a final report, addressing the system performance in detail, will be issued.

Pennsylvania Avenue: On June 2, the Department of Treasury publicly released the Environmental Assessment on the Implementation of White House Security Review Vehicular Traffic Restriction Recommendations for the Pennsylvania Avenue. On June 16 and 18, the chief of staff and FHWA officials attended a White House meeting to discuss potential remedial traffic measures.

NTSB Finding in Amtrak Silver Spring Accident: On June 17, the NTSB issued the probable cause for the 1996 Amtrak/MARC accident that resulted in the deaths of 12 people at Silver Spring, MD. The NTSB cited the engineer, train crew, FRA, FTA, CSX Railroad and MARC as contributing to the cause of the accident. Specifically, the NTSB was critical of the FRA and FTA for failing to conduct a comprehensive human factors analysis before allowing the signal on the CSX line to be removed. The NTSB issued 13 recommendations to FRA, 3 to the FTA and 1 to the Department.

Piper PA-32 Landing Gear Collapse at National Airport: On June 16, a Piper PA-32 experienced the collapse of its left main landing gear after landing on Runway 15 at Washington National Airport. The airplane came to rest at the intersection of Runways 15 and 18, closing the airport for about one hour causing six aircraft to be delayed a maximum of 31 minutes. Prior to landing, the pilot reported landing gear problems and performed a fly-by. The tower controllers reported that the gear appeared to be extended. The three occupants were uninjured, but the aircraft sustained minor damage to the bottom of the left wing. An FAA inspector participated in the NTSB's on-scene investigation. The NTSB is continuing its investigation into the cause of the gear failure.

General Electric Engines Airworthiness Directive: On June 17, FAA issued a final rule airworthiness directive requiring replacement of existing fan guards with new, improved fan containment guards to be accomplished within two years on 200 aircraft which have General Electric CF700 series turbo fan engines. This is the result of an accident in Paris wherein uncontained fan blades separated from the engine during an overspeed, resulting in engine failure and a subsequent crash.

Submission of Aviation Accident Plans: After substantial compliance efforts by the Department and NTSB, all operating air carriers have now filed aviation accident plans as required under the Family Assistance Act. No new air carrier or air carrier whose authority has been suspended will be allowed to operate without first filing the required plan.

NTSB/TWA 800 Update: FAA and NTSB staff met on June 18 to discuss the status of FAA action on the NTSB recommendations, the data supporting those recommendations, and what other activities the FAA has accomplished since the recommendations were issued. FAA has placed a notice in the Federal Register asking for public comment on the NTSB recommendations by August 1. FAA is completing a formal report that summarizes our assessment of a possible TWA 800 accident scenario that may lead to an FAA airworthiness directive to inspect B-747 airplane wires in the inboard wing tanks. That report is due to be transmitted to NTSB by the end of June. FAA is working with Boeing to conduct detailed inspections of ten B-747 aircraft that have recently been taken out of service to assess the condition of the center fuel tank components. FAA is also publicly supporting Boeing's program to work with the airlines to inspect older B-747 aircraft to evaluate the condition of the wiring and other fuel tank components. FAA is also encouraging international aviation authorities to ask their airlines to support this action.

Acquisition Management System Report: On June 18, FAA issued a report on

its internal review of our one-year old acquisition management system for acquiring goods and services. The review shows that the new system is saving time and money for both the agency and the companies that bid for its contracts, cutting the time to award contracts greater than \$100,000 by more than a third. Based on interviews with industry executives, the reforms have saved industry an estimated 30-40 percent over previous bid and proposal costs. The report also outlines several areas where the FAA could improve our system. This internal evaluation complements a congressionally-mandated independent review of the FAA's acquisition system, which will be done by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., and should be completed this fall.

NTSB Hearing: On June 17, NTSB met to review the Delta MD-88 accident in which the aircraft struck approach lights and a runway support pier while landing at LaGuardia Airport in NY. The Board will issue a probable cause and recommendations.

Great Lakes Airlines Update: After voluntarily suspending service to 80 cities on May 16, at the request of the FAA, the carrier has now been permitted to resume service to 19 cities. Thirteen of their 58 aircraft have been returned to service.

Maritime Security Program - Lykes Transfer of Contracts/Foreign Interest: MARAD is continuing its review of Lykes latest submissions in its application for MARAD approval of a reorganization in bankruptcy and a proposed asset sale and vessel charter to a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Ltd. Final determination in this matter is expected by the end of June.

Japan/China Maritime Talks: Talks will be held with Japan beginning June 23, and with China beginning June 25. Japan has not made progress in resolving U.S. carrier doing business problems in Japanese ports as anticipated under a recent Memorandum of Consultations (MOC). With China, a negotiated solution was reached a year ago that would allow U.S. carriers to engage in freight forwarding. The Chinese have created a new roadblock to prevent that solution from taking effect. The Department hopes to make progress in eliminating these problems.

\$1.2 for Lansing Intermodal Transit Center: On June 13, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$1.2 million in FTA funds for the Capital Area Transportation Authority for the construction of the intermodal Ground Transportation Center in downtown Lansing.

FTA Grants Awarded: On June 16, FTA awarded \$10.8 million to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration for articulated buses for Baltimore, MD, and replacement buses for Montgomery County, MD. Also on June 16, FTA awarded \$1.1 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the expansion of a park-n-ride facility. On June 13, FTA awarded \$14.8 to the City of Richmond, VA for the rehabilitation of a downtown multimodal transportation center.

Federal Harbor Maintenance Tax Found Unconstitutional: On June 3, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed an earlier decision of the United States Court of International Trade, that had held that the federal ad valorem Harbor Maintenance Tax imposed on cargo moving

through U.S. ports is unconstitutional under the Export Clause of the Constitution insofar as it is levied on export cargo. In addition to providing the sole source for all federally-funded harbor maintenance and dredging projects, the Harbor Maintenance Tax also provides virtually all of the funding for the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Since the Federal Circuit's decision involves only the collection of fees on export shipments, it does not at this juncture end the Harbor Maintenance Tax in its entirety. The Commercial Litigation section of the Justice Department intends to ask the Solicitor General's Office to seek certiorari review of the decision before the Supreme Court. The Office of General Counsel is working on a letter to the Justice Department supporting Supreme Court review.

Revision of Gate Requirements for High-Lift Device Controls: On June 9, a NPRM to amend Part 25 of the Federal Aviation Regulations to revise the requirements concerning gated positions on the control used by the pilot to select the position of an airplanes high-lift devices was published in the Federal Register. The proposed amendment would update the current standards to take into account the multiple configurations of the high-lift devices provided on current airplanes to perform landings and go-around maneuvers. The proposed amendment would also harmonize these standards with those being proposed for the European Joint Aviation Requirements. The comment period will close September 8.

Emergency Relief for South Dakota, Ohio: On June 16, Secretary Slater announced an award of \$14.2 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to continue repairs on federal-aid roads and bridges in South Dakota damaged during spring flooding. In addition, to help Ohio in its flood-recovery efforts, Secretary Slater announced that the state would receive \$18.9 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to repair damage from storms and flooding in February and March.

Emergency Relief Funds - Idaho: Bingham and Jefferson counties in eastern Idaho declared a state of emergency on June 11 under the Governors May 18 statewide Emergency Proclamation because of flooding of the Snake River. The Idaho Transportation Department is taking measures in the Blackfoot area to keep the Snake River from flooding I-15. The situation may get worse because many of the reservoirs are at capacity. The only road closure is on Route 33 in the Driggs area.

Emergency Relief - Federal Lands: The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) reports the rapid melting of above average snowpack in northern parts of Washington and Idaho and in western Montana is causing severe flood damage. The Colville Indian Reservation recently suffered up to \$2 million in road and bridge damage. Eight National Forests in Idaho and Montana have road and bridge damage estimated at \$4 million. The Bureau of Land Management in Idaho is also reporting damage.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

WELFARE TO WORK

Transportation Workshops: On June 24, the FTA and HHS in Boston, MA will convene a meeting of stakeholders involved in planning and providing

transportation services for welfare recipients. These regional "welfare-to-work" meetings will bring together state and local human services officials to examine the issue of transportation in implementing the states' welfare reform implementation plans throughout the nation.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Discuss Pipeline Safety: RSPA is participating on a panel, Safety and Environmental Concerns in Natural Gas Expansion, at the Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Conference Business Program in Des Moines, IA on June 16-17. Other participants at the conference include Vice President Al Gore and FCC Chairman Reed Hundt. The Mid-America Conference provides senior policy makers with an opportunity to exchange views on a host of regulatory issues.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Press Conference: On June 12, Congressman Wolf held a press conference on management of the FAA. He expressed serious concern about what he called a lack of leadership at the FAA, deliberately misleading Congress on the Potomac project, air traffic staffing issues, lack of Doppler weather radars and wasting taxpayer dollars.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality: On June 18, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program. Kevin Heanue, Director of the Office of Environment and Planning, Federal Highway Administration, will testify on behalf of the Department, along with a representative from the EPA.

U.S. Japan Bilateral Negotiations: On June 19, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on U.S.-Japan bilateral negotiations. Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Charlie Hunnicutt will testify.

Garvey Nomination: On June 26, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Jane Garvey to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Air Traffic Control Technology: On June 24, the House Science Subcommittee on Technology will hold a hearing on air traffic control technology. A witness from the FAA will testify.

Market-Based Solutions to Air Service Problems for Medium-Sized Communities : On June 25, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on market-based solutions to air service problems for medium-sized communities. The Department will testify.

National Airways System Modernization: On July 7, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on national airway system modernization.

Budget Reconciliation: On June 11, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved, by voice vote, a \$736 million

reconciliation plan, which provides the transportation component of the additional revenues necessary to implement the budget resolution. Of the \$736 million, \$500 million is derived from the sale of Governors Island, \$196 million from an extension of the vessel tonnage fee on vessels visiting U.S. ports and \$50 million from the sale of air rights over Union Station.

On June 17, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will mark up its budget reconciliation plan.

ISTEA Developments: House and Senate staff continue to meet to discuss ISTEA reauthorization legislation. However, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee do not appear ready to introduce committee bills any time soon. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster has stated that he is still reviewing options following the recent budget vote. Environment and Public Works Committee Members remain divided over their support for STEP 21, ISTEA Works or STARS 2000 legislation.

Full Funding Grant Agreements: Five Republican Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation have written to the Secretary requesting that the Department refrain from executing any new Full Funding Grant Agreements prior to the reauthorization of ISTEA. The 5 Members were Senators Domenici, Bond, Bennett, Gorton and Faircloth.

Secretary's Schedule

June 20-21

Secretary Slater will attend a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, CA.

June 21-24

Secretary Slater travels to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council meeting.

The Deputy Secretary

June 23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Intelligent Transportation Society of NYS's Annual Conference in Cooperstown, NY.

June 25

The Deputy Secretary will deliver remarks at the St. Louis Regional Commerce & Growth Association's Annual Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

July 23-25

The Deputy Secretary will participate in AMTRAK meetings in Los Angeles, CA.

August 5

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 7

The Deputy Secretary will attend the joint ITS America/National Automated Highway Systems Consortium (NAHSC) "Technical Feasibility Demonstration" in San Diego, CA.

August 11-12

The Deputy Secretary will attend the ITS America Board Meetings in San Diego, CA.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

June 18-22

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Paris, France, to delivery a keynote address to the European Transport Commissioner and 200 European rail leaders on the occasion of the international Union of Railways 75th anniversary.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

June 20

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will meet with the Australian Minister of Transport to discuss rail issues affecting the United States and Australia.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Board of Directors Meeting at the White House.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 22-24

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the American Gas

Associations monthly meeting in Washington, D.C.

June 24

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in a Welfare to Work Workshop in Boston, MA.

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will attend the full meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee in Baltimore, MD.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be the keynote speaker at the Corporate Occupant Protection Symposium co-sponsored by the Air Bag Safety Campaign, National Safety Council, and the network of Employers for Traffic Safety in Chicago, IL.

June 24-25

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

June 25

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt is scheduled to testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

OSDBU Director Hopewell will participate in the DOT/OSDBU Transportation Marketplace Conference in Detroit, MI.

FHWA Executive Director Kane will attend the quarterly Central Artery senior management meeting in Boston, MA.

June 25-26

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Boeing in Seattle, WA.

June 26

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

Governmental Affairs Assistant Secretary Palmer will attend the Grand Opening Ribbon cutting at the Austin/Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, TX.

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Project Action Conference in Pittsburgh.

June 26-27

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will participate in the FRA strategic planning retreat at Solomons Island, MD.

June 27

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at an Urban Impact, Inc. luncheon in Birmingham, AL.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will speak at the Navy League National Convention Awards Luncheon in Boston, MA.

June 27-28

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

June 29-July 3

Inspector General Mead will make oversight visits to Seattle and San Francisco Regional Offices. He will visit Boeing Corporation on July 1.

July 1

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend a meeting with the Webb Institute in NYC.

July 6-14

USCG Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 10

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach, FL.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will address the National League of Cities Board Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

July 11

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will discuss the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program with representatives of the Oakland Port Authority in Oakland, CA.

July 12-19

USCG VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 15

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the American Gas Associations Legal Forum in Napa, CA.

July 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will address the Master Pilot Information Exchange Workshop in Crystal City.

July 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24

USCG Admiral Kramek will address flag and general officers from all services participating in the CAPSTONE program.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Senior Advisory Group/Quality Council meeting with senior Coast Guard flag officers.

July 27

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in San Francisco Giants Traffic Safety Day, San Francisco, CA.

July 29

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Congressional Coast Guard Birthday Celebration at the Rayburn Building.

July 30-August 3

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will attend events at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 13

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee luncheon/meeting.

August 28

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will be the guest speaker at the Grand Military Ball for the Chief Petty Officers Association National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

Media Inquiries

NHTSA Administrator Martinez was a guest June 17 on NPRs Diane Rehm listener call-in show. The topic was air bag safety.

CBS Evening News, weekend edition, June 20, will join NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a visit to the Baltimore Trauma Center, where he will describe injuries from automobile accidents. Air date not known.

Fortune Magazine, June 12, interviewed NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a story on officials in government whose decisions affect business. Publication date not known.

USA Today, June 13, requested interviews with FAA officials closely involved with the TWA 800 investigation, for a piece focusing on the human side of the investigation. Interviews will be arranged with the Director, Office of Accident Investigation and the Associate Administrator, Office of Civil Aviation Security. Publication expected in July, at anniversary of crash.

USA Today, June 9, requested background information on the number of female versus male air traffic controllers, now and in the past. Publication expected this week.

The Washington Post, July 7, and The Journal of Commerce, July 17, will interview Acting SLSDC Administrator Sanders about the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation becoming a performance-based organization. Publication dates not known.

U.S. News and World Report is preparing a story on the impact of weather

on aviation and air traffic. Reporter will tour Dulles International Airport June 19 for background information.

The Washington Post is preparing an article on the Maritime Security Program, focusing on Senator Lotts support for the MSP and for the maritime industry.

The New York Times plans to write a story on alleged predatory pricing in the airline industry. The Times is preparing a short piece for the June 22 travel section on DOT's new consumer airfare report, which is not the predatory pricing story.

Good Morning America: Consumer reporter Steve Filmer is asking about the possibility of doing a segment on the final New Car Assessment Program test results, probably later this month.

Newsweek: Reporters Andrea Weider and Julie Halpert asked for information on teen drivers for a possible story on alcohol, speeding and graduated licensing.

MSNBC interviewed Aida Berkovitz in the Region 9 office about a new device known as Talking Signs, which assist the blind and the visually impaired. San Francisco is the first city to use these devices at intersection crosswalk locations. No word on the date of the broadcast or if the Berkovitz interview will be included. (June 10)

The Bureau of National Affairs interviewed Jeff Lindley of the ITS office about a provision in the NEXTEA proposal on communications spectrum for dedicated short-range communications. A story ran the week of June 9.

West Publishing requested information on the Iroquois Pipeline Case.

States News Service requested a copy of OIG's recently issued Semiannual Report to Congress.

FOIA REQUESTS

Safety issues, from January 1994 to the present, related to electronic devices used by passengers while on-board commercial aircraft -- American Journal

Airworthiness directives on Lockheed 382 model aircraft -- Willamette Week, Portland, OR

Enforcement Investigative Reports regarding Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. -- Chicago Sun-Times

Point of Contact: For the weekend of June 21-22, Michael Huerta will be the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Franklin F. Urteaga (CN=Franklin F. Urteaga/OU=OSTP/O=EOP [OSTP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 13:58:51.00

SUBJECT: Re: Remarks of Dr. Gibbons

TO: Jennifer.Antonielli (Jennifer.Antonielli @ rspa.dot.gov [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Susanne Bachtel (CN=Susanne Bachtel/OU=OSTP/O=EOP @ EOP [OSTP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

I have forwarded your message to Susie Bachtel, Dr. Gibbons assistant, who may be able to help in this regard.

Thx.

Franklin.

Jennifer.Antonielli @ rspa.dot.gov

06/18/97 12:24:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: furteaga

cc:

Subject: Remarks of Dr. Gibbons

Would it be possible to get a copy of Dr. Gibbons's (latest) remarks from the June 3rd White House briefing on NEXTEA and technology for public release? Several folks who attended as well as some who did not attend the briefing have asked for copies of the speeches. Please let me know if this is a problem.

Many thanks,

Jennifer

Fax (202) 366-3671

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan (CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 17:22:45.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of June 23, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE June 18, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of June 23, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Pilot Program: On June 19, Secretary Slater announced that 29 additional states have been approved to establish innovative state infrastructure banks (SIBs), bringing to 39 the total number of states participating in the Departments SIB program. The Department is announcing that \$150 million is being allocated among the 39 states participating in the pilot program. Each state will receive a minimum share of the \$150 million, with the remainder divided according to each states commitment to capitalize their SIB. The Administration has increased investment in public use infrastructure from an average of \$21.1 billion between 1990 and 1993, to an average of \$25.5 billion between 1994 and 1997. Under the budget agreement recently reached between the President and Congress, this investment will increase to an average of \$27.6 billion between 1998 and 2001.

Secretary Slater, Commandant Honor Alex Haley: On June 17, Secretary Slater, Admiral Kramek, Mr George Haley, and actress Jasmine Guy officiated at a ceremony in the DOT Plaza in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the book ROOTS, and its author and former Coast Guardsman, Alex Haley. Secretary Slater announced that the Coast Guard will name a Coast Guard cutter after Alex Haley.

APEC Ministerial Meeting: On June 21-24, Secretary Slater will travel to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council meeting. Secretary Slater has invited approximately 125 transportation industry CEOs to join him as part of the U.S. delegation to the second meeting of APEC Transportation Ministers. U.S. industry representatives will be able to participate in a government-industry symposium to discuss critical transportation issues with the Ministers and to determine future opportunities for public-private cooperation in developing the region's transportation system. A second industry forum will focus on

infrastructure development and overcoming barriers to growth in the region.

Secretary signs Open-Skies with New Zealand: On June 18, Secretary Slater signed formally the United States-New Zealand "Open-Skies" Aviation Agreement. Transport Minister Jenny Shipley signed on behalf of New Zealand.

Secretary to sign Open-Skies with Malaysia: On June 12, representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and the Malaysian Ministry of Transport initialed the text of an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. Secretary Slater will sign formally the agreement on behalf of the United States on June 21 when he meets in San Francisco with his Malaysian counterpart.

Secretary Travels to CA: On June 21, Secretary Slater will attend a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, CA. The Secretary will also make a \$30.9 million grant announcement for 36 trolley buses and rehabilitation of a maintenance facility in San Francisco. Mayor Brown will accept on behalf of the city.

Secretary to Attend Grant Agreement Signing: On June 20, Secretary Slater will participate in a signing ceremony for a FFGA to extend the Sacramento, CA light rail transit system 6.3 miles. This is one of the six FFGAs which the Administration announced an intent to enter into in March, 1996. He will also present a \$7.9 million grant to begin land acquisition and construction of the extension.

NSTC Transportation Research and Development Committee Meeting: On June 18, Deputy Secretary Downey chaired a NSTC Transportation Research and Development Committee meeting. Participants reviewed the progress of NSTC interagency teams in developing investment plans for the proposed transportation partnership initiatives and research and education agenda.

Access Control Problems at Miami International Airport: FAA Security is investigating apparent falsification of background/employment checks by Million Air, a cargo carrier at Miami International Airport. The problems were discovered by an INS sweep of Million Air's facility. It found a number of employees who are illegal aliens but have been issued IDs authorizing unescorted access to the airport's secure areas.

Drugs Found on American Trans Air (AMTA): On June 10, a mechanic performing routine maintenance on an AMTA aircraft at St. Louis found four large suitcases containing 800 pounds of marijuana. The aircraft had arrived on June 9 from Montego Bay. ACS Security is working with Customs to determine where the bags were placed on the aircraft. Security concerns center on security of the aircraft and access controls at St. Louis, Montego Bay, and other airports at which the aircraft recently operated.

CSX Accidents and Audit Review: On June 16, a team from FRA met with CSX officials in Jacksonville, FL to discuss an action plan addressing the safety concerns of FRA following the recent accidents in Cypress, FL and Scary, WV. FRA will audit CSX's efficiency tests and procedures, begin a

review of the CSX Dispatch Center in Jacksonville, FL and inspect rail defect reports and track maintenance procedures.

Investigation into Vandalism of Pan American World Airways Aircraft at Kennedy International Airport: On June 11, during a preflight maintenance inspection at the TWA Terminal at JFK, several severed wires were found on a Pan American World Airways Airbus 300. FAA and the FBI are investigating. There has been considerable media reporting on the incident

U. S. Coast Guard and Haiti Seize Suspect Boat: On June 10, the Coast Guard Cutter THETIS, with an embarked Haitian ship riders, encountered a suspicious boat off Haiti. The boat headed to shore where 5 suspected smugglers escaped. Although no contraband was found, the Haitian government took possession of the boat. The Cutter THETIS was operating in support of Operation FRONTIER ADVANCE, a joint United States-Haitian counter narcotics operation centered around Haiti.

Update to Missing Coast Guard Helicopter in Humboldt Bay, CA: A massive search covering 27,000 square miles (roughly equivalent to the State of Maine) by 5 Coast Guard Cutters and 43 Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force search flights was suspended on June 12 after yielding only small pieces of the helicopter. The 4 Coast Guard aircrew, LT Jeffrey Crane, LTJG Charles Thigpen, AD3 Richard Hughes, and ASM3 James Caines are presumed lost. Acting on a Coast Guard request, the Navy is deploying deep submergence surveillance equipment to the crash area to assist in the ongoing investigation. Admiral Kramek officiated at a formal memorial ceremony at Coast Guard Air Station Humboldt Bay on June 16. A Coast Guard C-130 flew members of the immediate family over the crash site for a wreath-laying ceremony afterwards. Secretary Slater spoke with the relatives of the missing Coast Guardsmen by phone.

Drilling Rig Explosion: On June 16, 30 miles NW of Morgan City, LA, an uninspected drilling rig experienced a natural gas explosion and fire. Two persons are reported dead, two remain missing, and 18 were evacuated. Damage to the rig is estimated to be at \$10-12 million. No waterways have been reported closed. The Coast Guard is on scene and assisting the Federal On Scene Coordinator. The operator, Denby Management, Inc., has hired well control and spill response companies to extinguish the fire and reduce pollution.

Tanker Runs Aground in Texas, Refloated Safely: On June 15, the U. S. Tanker DENEBA ran aground outside the Sabine, TX channel. It was loaded with 521,110 barrels of crude oil. Tugs were able to safely refloat the tanker on June 16. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Port Arthur monitored the situation. An underwater hull survey is now being conducted on the tanker.

TWA 800 Search Leader Commander Retires: Rear Admiral John Linnon, Commander, First Coast Guard District (New York, New England) and commander of all Coast Guard search operations for TWA Flight 800 will retire after nearly 40 years of Coast Guard service in a formal ceremony in Boston, MA on June 28.

FAA Opens Door for More Controllers in New York, New Jersey: On June 11, in a report to Congress, the FAA announced that the three major New York area air traffic control towers will meet or exceed authorized staffing levels by the end of fiscal year 1997. By the end of fiscal year 1998, the larger facilities, the New York air route traffic control center and New York terminal radar approach control, will also have achieved their hiring goals.

Aviation - Brunei: In April, the United States and Brunei initialed the text of an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. It is anticipated that the agreement will be signed on June 20 at the State Department.

Aviation - Barbados: Aviation negotiations with Barbados will be held in Washington on June 19-20 to discuss the desire of Barbados for new route and code-sharing authority. The U.S. will seek an "Open-Skies" agreement.

Aviation - Egypt: Negotiations with Egypt are scheduled for the week of June 23 in Washington. Egypt requested the talks to discuss the expansion of civil aviation services between the United States and Egypt.

Aviation - France: The French have agreed to resume aviation negotiations in Paris on July 9-11 looking toward a liberal aviation agreement. While the U.S. is seeking an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement phased in over a 3-year period, the French have proposed a 9-year phase culminating in a liberal arrangement for U.S.-France services only.

Fly Quiet in Chicago: On June 17, FAA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Cecelia L. Hunziker joined the Chicago Department of Aviation for a press conference to announce a joint effort on noise control. This represents a partnership with OHare and Midway noise compatibility commissions, airlines, City of Chicago, other local communities surrounding OHare and the FAA. Efforts include soundproofing homes and schools surrounding OHare and Midway Airports.

NHTSA Pursues Automated Collection Notification(ACN) System: The NTSB, at their Board Meeting on June 10, talked about a black box for automobiles. As part of NHTSA's overall plan to improve highway safety and to facilitate the development and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), NHTSA is conducting an Operational Field Test of an ACN System (black box). This operational test commenced in October 1995 with the signing of a cooperative agreement between the Calspan Corporation and NHTSA. Between October, 1995 and June, 1997 the ACN system was designed and fabricated. From July to November, the systems will be installed in 1,000 volunteers vehicles. The start of data collection will coincide with the installation of the system and will continue for approximately 1 year. At the conclusion of data collection a final report, addressing the system performance in detail, will be issued.

Pennsylvania Avenue: On June 2, the Department of Treasury publicly released the Environmental Assessment on the Implementation of White House Security Review Vehicular Traffic Restriction Recommendations for the Pennsylvania Avenue. On June 16 and 18, the chief of staff and FHWA officials attended a White House meeting to discuss potential remedial traffic measures.

NTSB Finding in Amtrak Silver Spring Accident: On June 17, the NTSB issued the probable cause for the 1996 Amtrak/MARC accident that resulted in the deaths of 12 people at Silver Spring, MD. The NTSB cited the engineer, train crew, FRA, FTA, CSX Railroad and MARC as contributing to the cause of the accident. Specifically, the NTSB was critical of the FRA and FTA for failing to conduct a comprehensive human factors analysis before allowing the signal on the CSX line to be removed. The NTSB issued 13 recommendations to FRA, 3 to the FTA and 1 to the Department.

Piper PA-32 Landing Gear Collapse at National Airport: On June 16, a Piper PA-32 experienced the collapse of its left main landing gear after landing on Runway 15 at Washington National Airport. The airplane came to rest at the intersection of Runways 15 and 18, closing the airport for about one hour causing six aircraft to be delayed a maximum of 31 minutes. Prior to landing, the pilot reported landing gear problems and performed a fly-by. The tower controllers reported that the gear appeared to be extended. The three occupants were uninjured, but the aircraft sustained minor damage to the bottom of the left wing. An FAA inspector participated in the NTSB's on-scene investigation. The NTSB is continuing its investigation into the cause of the gear failure.

General Electric Engines Airworthiness Directive: On June 17, FAA issued a final rule airworthiness directive requiring replacement of existing fan guards with new, improved fan containment guards to be accomplished within two years on 200 aircraft which have General Electric CF700 series turbo fan engines. This is the result of an accident in Paris wherein uncontained fan blades separated from the engine during an overspeed, resulting in engine failure and a subsequent crash.

Submission of Aviation Accident Plans: After substantial compliance efforts by the Department and NTSB, all operating air carriers have now filed aviation accident plans as required under the Family Assistance Act. No new air carrier or air carrier whose authority has been suspended will be allowed to operate without first filing the required plan.

NTSB/TWA 800 Update: FAA and NTSB staff met on June 18 to discuss the status of FAA action on the NTSB recommendations, the data supporting those recommendations, and what other activities the FAA has accomplished since the recommendations were issued. FAA has placed a notice in the Federal Register asking for public comment on the NTSB recommendations by August 1. FAA is completing a formal report that summarizes our assessment of a possible TWA 800 accident scenario that may lead to an FAA airworthiness directive to inspect B-747 airplane wires in the inboard wing tanks. That report is due to be transmitted to NTSB by the end of June. FAA is working with Boeing to conduct detailed inspections of ten B-747 aircraft that have recently been taken out of service to assess the condition of the center fuel tank components. FAA is also publicly supporting Boeing's program to work with the airlines to inspect older B-747 aircraft to evaluate the condition of the wiring and other fuel tank components. FAA is also encouraging international aviation authorities to ask their airlines to support this action.

Acquisition Management System Report: On June 18, FAA issued a report on

its internal review of our one-year old acquisition management system for acquiring goods and services. The review shows that the new system is saving time and money for both the agency and the companies that bid for its contracts, cutting the time to award contracts greater than \$100,000 by more than a third. Based on interviews with industry executives, the reforms have saved industry an estimated 30-40 percent over previous bid and proposal costs. The report also outlines several areas where the FAA could improve our system. This internal evaluation complements a congressionally-mandated independent review of the FAA's acquisition system, which will be done by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., and should be completed this fall.

NTSB Hearing: On June 17, NTSB met to review the Delta MD-88 accident in which the aircraft struck approach lights and a runway support pier while landing at LaGuardia Airport in NY. The Board will issue a probable cause and recommendations.

Great Lakes Airlines Update: After voluntarily suspending service to 80 cities on May 16, at the request of the FAA, the carrier has now been permitted to resume service to 19 cities. Thirteen of their 58 aircraft have been returned to service.

Maritime Security Program - Lykes Transfer of Contracts/Foreign Interest: MARAD is continuing its review of Lykes latest submissions in its application for MARAD approval of a reorganization in bankruptcy and a proposed asset sale and vessel charter to a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Ltd. Final determination in this matter is expected by the end of June.

Japan/China Maritime Talks: Talks will be held with Japan beginning June 23, and with China beginning June 25. Japan has not made progress in resolving U.S. carrier doing business problems in Japanese ports as anticipated under a recent Memorandum of Consultations (MOC). With China, a negotiated solution was reached a year ago that would allow U.S. carriers to engage in freight forwarding. The Chinese have created a new roadblock to prevent that solution from taking effect. The Department hopes to make progress in eliminating these problems.

\$1.2 for Lansing Intermodal Transit Center: On June 13, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$1.2 million in FTA funds for the Capital Area Transportation Authority for the construction of the intermodal Ground Transportation Center in downtown Lansing.

FTA Grants Awarded: On June 16, FTA awarded \$10.8 million to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration for articulated buses for Baltimore, MD, and replacement buses for Montgomery County, MD. Also on June 16, FTA awarded \$1.1 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the expansion of a park-n-ride facility. On June 13, FTA awarded \$14.8 to the City of Richmond, VA for the rehabilitation of a downtown multimodal transportation center.

Federal Harbor Maintenance Tax Found Unconstitutional: On June 3, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed an earlier decision of the United States Court of International Trade, that had held that the federal ad valorem Harbor Maintenance Tax imposed on cargo moving

through U.S. ports is unconstitutional under the Export Clause of the Constitution insofar as it is levied on export cargo. In addition to providing the sole source for all federally-funded harbor maintenance and dredging projects, the Harbor Maintenance Tax also provides virtually all of the funding for the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Since the Federal Circuit's decision involves only the collection of fees on export shipments, it does not at this juncture end the Harbor Maintenance Tax in its entirety. The Commercial Litigation section of the Justice Department intends to ask the Solicitor General's Office to seek certiorari review of the decision before the Supreme Court. The Office of General Counsel is working on a letter to the Justice Department supporting Supreme Court review.

Revision of Gate Requirements for High-Lift Device Controls: On June 9, a NPRM to amend Part 25 of the Federal Aviation Regulations to revise the requirements concerning gated positions on the control used by the pilot to select the position of an airplane's high-lift devices was published in the Federal Register. The proposed amendment would update the current standards to take into account the multiple configurations of the high-lift devices provided on current airplanes to perform landings and go-around maneuvers. The proposed amendment would also harmonize these standards with those being proposed for the European Joint Aviation Requirements. The comment period will close September 8.

Emergency Relief for South Dakota, Ohio: On June 16, Secretary Slater announced an award of \$14.2 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to continue repairs on federal-aid roads and bridges in South Dakota damaged during spring flooding. In addition, to help Ohio in its flood-recovery efforts, Secretary Slater announced that the state would receive \$18.9 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to repair damage from storms and flooding in February and March.

Emergency Relief Funds - Idaho: Bingham and Jefferson counties in eastern Idaho declared a state of emergency on June 11 under the Governor's May 18 statewide Emergency Proclamation because of flooding of the Snake River. The Idaho Transportation Department is taking measures in the Blackfoot area to keep the Snake River from flooding I-15. The situation may get worse because many of the reservoirs are at capacity. The only road closure is on Route 33 in the Driggs area.

Emergency Relief - Federal Lands: The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) reports the rapid melting of above average snowpack in northern parts of Washington and Idaho and in western Montana is causing severe flood damage. The Colville Indian Reservation recently suffered up to \$2 million in road and bridge damage. Eight National Forests in Idaho and Montana have road and bridge damage estimated at \$4 million. The Bureau of Land Management in Idaho is also reporting damage.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

WELFARE TO WORK

Transportation Workshops: On June 24, the FTA and HHS in Boston, MA will convene a meeting of stakeholders involved in planning and providing

transportation services for welfare recipients. These regional "welfare-to-work" meetings will bring together state and local human services officials to examine the issue of transportation in implementing the states' welfare reform implementation plans throughout the nation.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Discuss Pipeline Safety: RSPA is participating on a panel, Safety and Environmental Concerns in Natural Gas Expansion, at the Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Conference Business Program in Des Moines, IA on June 16-17. Other participants at the conference include Vice President Al Gore and FCC Chairman Reed Hundt. The Mid-America Conference provides senior policy makers with an opportunity to exchange views on a host of regulatory issues.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Press Conference: On June 12, Congressman Wolf held a press conference on management of the FAA. He expressed serious concern about what he called a lack of leadership at the FAA, deliberately misleading Congress on the Potomac project, air traffic staffing issues, lack of Doppler weather radars and wasting taxpayer dollars.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality: On June 18, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program. Kevin Heanue, Director of the Office of Environment and Planning, Federal Highway Administration, will testify on behalf of the Department, along with a representative from the EPA.

U.S. Japan Bilateral Negotiations: On June 19, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on U.S.-Japan bilateral negotiations. Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Charlie Hunnicutt will testify.

Garvey Nomination: On June 26, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Jane Garvey to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Air Traffic Control Technology: On June 24, the House Science Subcommittee on Technology will hold a hearing on air traffic control technology. A witness from the FAA will testify.

Market-Based Solutions to Air Service Problems for Medium-Sized Communities : On June 25, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on market-based solutions to air service problems for medium-sized communities. The Department will testify.

National Airways System Modernization: On July 7, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on national airway system modernization.

Budget Reconciliation: On June 11, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved, by voice vote, a \$736 million

reconciliation plan, which provides the transportation component of the additional revenues necessary to implement the budget resolution. Of the \$736 million, \$500 million is derived from the sale of Governors Island, \$196 million from an extension of the vessel tonnage fee on vessels visiting U.S. ports and \$50 million from the sale of air rights over Union Station.

On June 17, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will mark up its budget reconciliation plan.

ISTEA Developments: House and Senate staff continue to meet to discuss ISTEA reauthorization legislation. However, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee do not appear ready to introduce committee bills any time soon. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster has stated that he is still reviewing options following the recent budget vote. Environment and Public Works Committee Members remain divided over their support for STEP 21, ISTEA Works or STARS 2000 legislation.

Full Funding Grant Agreements: Five Republican Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation have written to the Secretary requesting that the Department refrain from executing any new Full Funding Grant Agreements prior to the reauthorization of ISTEA. The 5 Members were Senators Domenici, Bond, Bennett, Gorton and Faircloth.

Secretary's Schedule

June 20-21

Secretary Slater will attend a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, CA.

June 21-24

Secretary Slater travels to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council meeting.

The Deputy Secretary

June 23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Intelligent Transportation Society of NYS's Annual Conference in Cooperstown, NY.

June 25

The Deputy Secretary will deliver remarks at the St. Louis Regional Commerce & Growth Association's Annual Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

July 23-25

The Deputy Secretary will participate in AMTRAK meetings in Los Angeles, CA.

August 5

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 7

The Deputy Secretary will attend the joint ITS America/National Automated Highway Systems Consortium (NAHSC) "Technical Feasibility Demonstration" in San Diego, CA.

August 11-12

The Deputy Secretary will attend the ITS America Board Meetings in San Diego, CA.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

June 18-22

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Paris, France, to delivery a keynote address to the European Transport Commissioner and 200 European rail leaders on the occasion of the international Union of Railways 75th anniversary.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

June 20

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will meet with the Australian Minister of Transport to discuss rail issues affecting the United States and Australia.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Board of Directors Meeting at the White House.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 22-24

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the American Gas

Associations monthly meeting in Washington, D.C.

June 24

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in a Welfare to Work Workshop in Boston, MA.

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will attend the full meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee in Baltimore, MD.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be the keynote speaker at the Corporate Occupant Protection Symposium co-sponsored by the Air Bag Safety Campaign, National Safety Council, and the network of Employers for Traffic Safety in Chicago, IL.

June 24-25

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

June 25

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt is scheduled to testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

OSDBU Director Hopewell will participate in the DOT/OSDBU Transportation Marketplace Conference in Detroit, MI.

FHWA Executive Director Kane will attend the quarterly Central Artery senior management meeting in Boston, MA.

June 25-26

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Boeing in Seattle, WA.

June 26

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

Governmental Affairs Assistant Secretary Palmer will attend the Grand Opening Ribbon cutting at the Austin/Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, TX.

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Project Action Conference in Pittsburgh.

June 26-27

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will participate in the FRA strategic planning retreat at Solomons Island, MD.

June 27

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at an Urban Impact, Inc. luncheon in Birmingham, AL.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will speak at the Navy League National Convention Awards Luncheon in Boston, MA.

June 27-28

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

June 29-July 3

Inspector General Mead will make oversight visits to Seattle and San Francisco Regional Offices. He will visit Boeing Corporation on July 1.

July 1

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend a meeting with the Webb Institute in NYC.

July 6-14

USCG Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 10

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach, FL.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will address the National League of Cities Board Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

July 11

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will discuss the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program with representatives of the Oakland Port Authority in Oakland, CA.

July 12-19

USCG VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 15

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the American Gas Associations Legal Forum in Napa, CA.

July 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will address the Master Pilot Information Exchange Workshop in Crystal City.

July 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24

USCG Admiral Kramek will address flag and general officers from all services participating in the CAPSTONE program.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Senior Advisory Group/Quality Council meeting with senior Coast Guard flag officers.

July 27

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in San Francisco Giants Traffic Safety Day, San Francisco, CA.

July 29

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Congressional Coast Guard Birthday Celebration at the Rayburn Building.

July 30-August 3

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will attend events at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 13

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee luncheon/meeting.

August 28

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will be the guest speaker at the Grand Military Ball for the Chief Petty Officers Association National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

Media Inquiries

NHTSA Administrator Martinez was a guest June 17 on NPRs Diane Rehm listener call-in show. The topic was air bag safety.

CBS Evening News, weekend edition, June 20, will join NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a visit to the Baltimore Trauma Center, where he will describe injuries from automobile accidents. Air date not known.

Fortune Magazine, June 12, interviewed NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a story on officials in government whose decisions affect business. Publication date not known.

USA Today, June 13, requested interviews with FAA officials closely involved with the TWA 800 investigation, for a piece focusing on the human side of the investigation. Interviews will be arranged with the Director, Office of Accident Investigation and the Associate Administrator, Office of Civil Aviation Security. Publication expected in July, at anniversary of crash.

USA Today, June 9, requested background information on the number of female versus male air traffic controllers, now and in the past. Publication expected this week.

The Washington Post, July 7, and The Journal of Commerce, July 17, will interview Acting SLSDC Administrator Sanders about the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation becoming a performance-based organization. Publication dates not known.

U.S. News and World Report is preparing a story on the impact of weather

on aviation and air traffic. Reporter will tour Dulles International Airport June 19 for background information.

The Washington Post is preparing an article on the Maritime Security Program, focusing on Senator Lotts support for the MSP and for the maritime industry.

The New York Times plans to write a story on alleged predatory pricing in the airline industry. The Times is preparing a short piece for the June 22 travel section on DOTs new consumer airfare report, which is not the predatory pricing story.

Good Morning America: Consumer reporter Steve Filmer is asking about the possibility of doing a segment on the final New Car Assessment Program test results, probably later this month.

Newsweek: Reporters Andrea Weider and Julie Halpert asked for information on teen drivers for a possible story on alcohol, speeding and graduated licensing.

MSNBC interviewed Aida Berkovitz in the Region 9 office about a new device known as Talking Signs, which assist the blind and the visually impaired. San Francisco is the first city to use these devices at intersection crosswalk locations. No word on the date of the broadcast or if the Berkovitz interview will be included. (June 10)

The Bureau of National Affairs interviewed Jeff Lindley of the ITS office about a provision in the NEXTEA proposal on communications spectrum for dedicated short-range communications. A story ran the week of June 9.

West Publishing requested information on the Iroquois Pipeline Case.

States News Service requested a copy of OIGs recently issued Semiannual Report to Congress.

FOIA REQUESTS

Safety issues, from January 1994 to the present, related to electronic devices used by passengers while on-board commercial aircraft -- American Journal

Airworthiness directives on Lockheed 382 model aircraft -- Willamette Week, Portland, OR

Enforcement Investigative Reports regarding Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. -- Chicago Sun-Times

Point of Contact: For the weekend of June 21-22, Michael Huerta will be the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jennifer.Antonielli@rspa.dot.gov (Jennifer.Antonielli@rspa.dot.gov [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 12:27:21.00

SUBJECT: Remarks of Dr. Gibbons

TO: Franklin F. Urteaga (CN=Franklin F. Urteaga/OU=OSTP/O=EOP [OSTP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Would it be possible to get a copy of Dr. Gibbons's (latest) remarks from the June 3rd White House briefing on NEXTEA and technology for public release? Several folks who attended as well as some who did not attend the briefing have asked for copies of the speeches. Please let me know if this is a problem.

Many thanks,

Jennifer

Fax (202) 366-3671

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Steven W. Adamske (CN=Steven W. Adamske/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 22:52:51.00

SUBJECT: Explanations for tomorrow's schedule

TO: Wendy C. New (CN=Wendy C. New/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Paul J. Cusack (CN=Paul J. Cusack/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO: Heather M. Marabeti (CN=Heather M. Marabeti/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

As you can see, there are basically three message events tomorrow. The NEXTEA/State infrastructure event was originally scheduled for the 12, then the 19th. We pulled out of nextea in place of immigration event; however, this caused more controversy than expected, so we scheduled a drop by. Ron really wanted the TV ratings event to happen Thursday.

Katie pulled the time set aside for the environmental briefing.

DT was going to schedule the Roosevelt room, however, he didn't get anyone tonight. He'll try first thing and let us know. Also, we'll bring you the VPs briefing for the Fazio/Defense Bill meeting. It wasn't done for the book.

Good luck.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Lawrence J. Haas (CN=Lawrence J. Haas/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 18-JUN-1997 19:48:00.00

SUBJECT: nextea from dot

TO: Toby Donenfeld (CN=Toby Donenfeld/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

----- Forwarded by Lawrence J. Haas/OVP on 06/18/97 08:07
PM -----

Dan Pink
06/18/97 07:21:46 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Lawrence J. Haas/OVP
cc:
Subject: nextea from dot

===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

Unable to convert ARMS_EXT:[ATTACH.D54]MAIL455127868.116 to ASCII,
The following is a HEX DUMP:

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

**Talking Points from the Department of Transportation
for
Vice President Albert Gore, Jr.
NEXTEA EVENT
June 19, 1997**

- Today, I am pleased to announce that we are awarding \$150 million to help 38 states finance the roads and highways that are America's backbone. The funds will support state infrastructure banks -- a innovative financing mechanism for attracting new investment to America's infrastructure.
- Secretary Slater will unveil the states in a moment. And most of them are going about this on their own, building their own banks. But a few states are teaming up. For instance, Arkansas and Tennessee have joined forces. I won't speculate on the significance of that.
- Today's \$150 million is seed money. Over the proposed life of NEXTEA, we plan to provide \$900 million -- \$150 million a year, for the next six years. But this is only the beginning. Each state can add more funds to these infrastructure banks -- as much as 10 percent of its regular highway grant money.

- The states will use the seed money to encourage city governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and the private sector -- groups rarely in the business of financing transportation projects -- also to invest.
- This \$900 million investment will leverage some \$4.5 billion, which would support more than 150,000 jobs.
- This is a new approach to building America's infrastructure. In 1994, President Clinton issued an Executive Order that asked all the agencies in the cabinet to find better ways to invest in our infrastructure. Reinvent how it's done. Be more flexible. Throw out the old rules.
- The Department of Transportation came up with an innovative financing program -- State Infrastructure Banks. These new entities support projects that have access to revenue but need flexible financial assistance to clear hurdles that would otherwise prevent or delay their implementation.

- And today innovative financing has become routine financing. For example, in Dallas, a turnpike that had been on the drawing boards since Lyndon Johnson was President is now underway. Why? Because we allowed Texas to be creative in how it financed transportation projects.
- The state infrastructure banks carry this innovative way to finance projects to the next level.
- Secretary Slater will announce the states and explain how the banks will work -- and the types of loans they will make.
Mr. Secretary . . .

(Secretary Slater speaks)

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: actionteam@asme.org (actionteam@asme.org [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 15:44:28.00

SUBJECT: June 18, 1997 ASME International Capitol Update

TO: actionteam@asme.org (actionteam@asme.org [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Dear Action Network Team member:

ASME International Capitol Update

Updated: June 18, 1997

In this Update:

1. Florida legislature passes privatization bill for Professional Engineers Licensing Board.
2. House Ways and Means Committee markup of budget deal includes key tax provisions.
3. Electricity industry deregulation lobbying reaches feverish pitch on Capitol Hill.
4. House and Senate pursue different paths on ISTEA reauthorization.
5. GAO says Nuclear Regulatory Commission needs to do more to ensure nuclear plants are run safely.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE PASSES PRIVATIZATION BILL FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS LICENSING BOARD

Tallahassee, Florida---On June 14 , Florida House Bill 433, seeking to privatize the administrative processes of the Professional Engineers Licensing Board, became law. Under the new law, a corporation will be set up with a Board of Directors who will be appointed by the Board of Professional Engineers. The mission of the Board will be to oversee the administrative operations associated with the licensing of professional engineers in the state. ASME issued a position of support for HB 433 to Florida legislators and will work closely with the Florida Engineering Society and the Board of Professional Engineers to implement the new measure. If you would like additional information on this issue, please contact Katie Henderson in the ASME Washington Center at (202) 785-3756, hendersonk@asme.org. Full-text of ASME's position statement is also available on the web at <http://www.asme.org/gric/ps97.html>

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MARKUP OF BUDGET DEAL INCLUDES KEY TAX PROVISIONS

The House Ways and Means Committee markup (the process by which the committee offers, debates, and votes on amendments to the measure) of the House deficit reduction budget deal includes a number of key tax provisions and incentives. As reported by the committee on June 13th, the markup includes "Educational Expense Provisions" that would extend the expiring IRC Section 127 income tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance for undergraduates. "Retirement Savings Incentives" would create new American Dream Savings Accounts to which all individuals could make non-deductible contributions in amounts up to \$2,000 annually. The "Research Tax Credit" would extend the expiring IRC Section 41 research tax credit. Finally, the "Safe Harbor for Independent Contractors" would provide a statutory safe harbor for differentiating between employees and independent contractors for federal tax purposes.

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY DEREGULATION LOBBYING REACHES FEVERISH PITCH ON CAPITOL HILL

Despite waning prospects for legislative action by Congress this year, big- budgeted and sophisticated lobbying over the issue of electricity deregulation continues on Capitol Hill. Interests on both sides of efforts to deregulate the \$208 billion a year industry are spending millions of dollars on political contributions and high-powered lobbyists to try to lay the political groundwork for a bill that might pass next year, or even in the next Congress. On one side are the investor-owned utilities that would like to kill any initiatives to federally mandate retail competition in the electricity market. They have the most to lose if their monopoly is broken. On the other side are advocates for federal deregulation that include publicly owned utilities and consumer groups. They argue that federal deregulation will bring better choices and prices to consumers. While federal action seems unlikely in the short-term, numerous states are moving forward with their own deregulation initiatives, and the nation's power companies have engaged in a flurry of mergers to position themselves for the possibility of retail electric power competition nationwide.

HOUSE AND SENATE PURSUE DIFFERENT PATHS ON ISTEА REAUTHORIZATION

The House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the federal highway program are pursuing different paths over the pending rewrite of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). With only four months remaining before ISTEA expires, the Senate side is continuing to advocate a multi-year ISTEA bill while the House side is considering only a one-year extension of the federal highway and transit programs. Both committees' strategies are in reaction to recent votes on the FY 1998 budget resolution, where proposals to allow increased spending on ISTEA programs were defeated in both chambers. With both panels considering very different approaches to the ISTEA rewrite, it appears less likely that the programs will be reauthorized by the Sept. 30 deadline. If that deadline is missed, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration will not be able to issue FY 1998 funds to the states.

GAO SAYS NRC NEEDS TO DO MORE TO ENSURE NUCLEAR

PLANTS ARE RUN SAFELY

The General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report on June 17th citing the need for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to do a better job of ensuring that the 110 nuclear power plants in the U.S. are run safely. Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) released the report during a press conference on Capitol Hill yesterday. "The GAO report we are releasing today confirms what many of us have long believed - the NRC is not doing its job," Biden said. The report concluded that for some plants, the NRC has not taken aggressive enforcement action to force licensees to fix long-standing safety problems on a timely bases; the extensive time allowed to fix these problems allows nuclear plants to continue to operate while the problems grow worse; and the commission was slow in placing plants on its "Watch List," which is used to trigger more extensive regulatory oversight. For more information on the report, "Nuclear Regulation: Preventing Problem Plants Requires More Effective NRC Action (RCED-95-144)" visit the GAO's web site at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/newtitle.htm>

Prepared by Ross Dunbar
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World Wide Web: <http://www.asme.org>

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Cynthia Coogan (CN=Cynthia Coogan/OU=DOT/O=GOV [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 17:22:50.00

SUBJECT: White House Weekly Report for the Week of June 23, 1997

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

MEMORANDUM FOR ERSKINE BOWLES, THE WHITE HOUSE June 18, 1997

FROM: Secretary Slater

SUBJECT: DOT Weekly Report -- Week of June 23, 1997

The following is the Department of Transportation Weekly Report:

KEY DEPARTMENT NEWS

State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Pilot Program: On June 19, Secretary Slater announced that 29 additional states have been approved to establish innovative state infrastructure banks (SIBs), bringing to 39 the total number of states participating in the Departments SIB program. The Department is announcing that \$150 million is being allocated among the 39 states participating in the pilot program. Each state will receive a minimum share of the \$150 million, with the remainder divided according to each states commitment to capitalize their SIB. The Administration has increased investment in public use infrastructure from an average of \$21.1 billion between 1990 and 1993, to an average of \$25.5 billion between 1994 and 1997. Under the budget agreement recently reached between the President and Congress, this investment will increase to an average of \$27.6 billion between 1998 and 2001.

Secretary Slater, Commandant Honor Alex Haley: On June 17, Secretary Slater, Admiral Kramek, Mr George Haley, and actress Jasmine Guy officiated at a ceremony in the DOT Plaza in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the book ROOTS, and its author and former Coast Guardsman, Alex Haley. Secretary Slater announced that the Coast Guard will name a Coast Guard cutter after Alex Haley.

APEC Ministerial Meeting: On June 21-24, Secretary Slater will travel to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council meeting. Secretary Slater has invited approximately 125 transportation industry CEOs to join him as part of the U.S. delegation to the second meeting of APEC Transportation Ministers. U.S. industry representatives will be able to participate in a government-industry symposium to discuss critical transportation issues with the Ministers and to determine future opportunities for public-private cooperation in developing the region's transportation system. A second industry forum will focus on

infrastructure development and overcoming barriers to growth in the region.

Secretary signs Open-Skies with New Zealand: On June 18, Secretary Slater signed formally the United States-New Zealand "Open-Skies" Aviation Agreement. Transport Minister Jenny Shipley signed on behalf of New Zealand.

Secretary to sign Open-Skies with Malaysia: On June 12, representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and the Malaysian Ministry of Transport initialed the text of an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. Secretary Slater will sign formally the agreement on behalf of the United States on June 21 when he meets in San Francisco with his Malaysian counterpart.

Secretary Travels to CA: On June 21, Secretary Slater will attend a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, CA. The Secretary will also make a \$30.9 million grant announcement for 36 trolley buses and rehabilitation of a maintenance facility in San Francisco. Mayor Brown will accept on behalf of the city.

Secretary to Attend Grant Agreement Signing: On June 20, Secretary Slater will participate in a signing ceremony for a FFGA to extend the Sacramento, CA light rail transit system 6.3 miles. This is one of the six FFGAs which the Administration announced an intent to enter into in March, 1996. He will also present a \$7.9 million grant to begin land acquisition and construction of the extension.

NSTC Transportation Research and Development Committee Meeting: On June 18, Deputy Secretary Downey chaired a NSTC Transportation Research and Development Committee meeting. Participants reviewed the progress of NSTC interagency teams in developing investment plans for the proposed transportation partnership initiatives and research and education agenda.

Access Control Problems at Miami International Airport: FAA Security is investigating apparent falsification of background/employment checks by Million Air, a cargo carrier at Miami International Airport. The problems were discovered by an INS sweep of Million Air's facility. It found a number of employees who are illegal aliens but have been issued IDs authorizing unescorted access to the airports secure areas.

Drugs Found on American Trans Air (AMTA): On June 10, a mechanic performing routine maintenance on an AMTA aircraft at St. Louis found four large suitcases containing 800 pounds of marijuana. The aircraft had arrived on June 9 from Montego Bay. ACS Security is working with Customs to determine where the bags were placed on the aircraft. Security concerns center on security of the aircraft and access controls at St. Louis, Montego Bay, and other airports at which the aircraft recently operated.

CSX Accidents and Audit Review: On June 16, a team from FRA met with CSX officials in Jacksonville, FL to discuss an action plan addressing the safety concerns of FRA following the recent accidents in Cyprus, FL and Scary, WV. FRA will audit CSX's efficiency tests and procedures, begin a

review of the CSX Dispatch Center in Jacksonville, FL and inspect rail defect reports and track maintenance procedures.

Investigation into Vandalism of Pan American World Airways Aircraft at Kennedy International Airport: On June 11, during a preflight maintenance inspection at the TWA Terminal at JFK, several severed wires were found on a Pan American World Airways Airbus 300. FAA and the FBI are investigating. There has been considerable media reporting on the incident.

U. S. Coast Guard and Haiti Seize Suspect Boat: On June 10, the Coast Guard Cutter THETIS, with an embarked Haitian ship riders, encountered a suspicious boat off Haiti. The boat headed to shore where 5 suspected smugglers escaped. Although no contraband was found, the Haitian government took possession of the boat. The Cutter THETIS was operating in support of Operation FRONTIER ADVANCE, a joint United States-Haitian counter narcotics operation centered around Haiti.

Update to Missing Coast Guard Helicopter in Humboldt Bay, CA: A massive search covering 27,000 square miles (roughly equivalent to the State of Maine) by 5 Coast Guard Cutters and 43 Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force search flights was suspended on June 12 after yielding only small pieces of the helicopter. The 4 Coast Guard aircrew, LT Jeffrey Crane, LTJG Charles Thigpen, AD3 Richard Hughes, and ASM3 James Caines are presumed lost. Acting on a Coast Guard request, the Navy is deploying deep submergence surveillance equipment to the crash area to assist in the ongoing investigation. Admiral Kramek officiated at a formal memorial ceremony at Coast Guard Air Station Humboldt Bay on June 16. A Coast Guard C-130 flew members of the immediate family over the crash site for a wreath-laying ceremony afterwards. Secretary Slater spoke with the relatives of the missing Coast Guardsmen by phone.

Drilling Rig Explosion: On June 16, 30 miles NW of Morgan City, LA, an uninspected drilling rig experienced a natural gas explosion and fire. Two persons are reported dead, two remain missing, and 18 were evacuated. Damage to the rig is estimated to be at \$10-12 million. No waterways have been reported closed. The Coast Guard is on scene and assisting the Federal On Scene Coordinator. The operator, Denby Management, Inc., has hired well control and spill response companies to extinguish the fire and reduce pollution.

Tanker Runs Aground in Texas, Refloated Safely: On June 15, the U. S. Tanker DENEBA ran aground outside the Sabine, TX channel. It was loaded with 521,110 barrels of crude oil. Tugs were able to safely refloat the tanker on June 16. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Port Arthur monitored the situation. An underwater hull survey is now being conducted on the tanker.

TWA 800 Search Leader Commander Retires: Rear Admiral John Linnon, Commander, First Coast Guard District (New York, New England) and commander of all Coast Guard search operations for TWA Flight 800 will retire after nearly 40 years of Coast Guard service in a formal ceremony in Boston, MA on June 28.

FAA Opens Door for More Controllers in New York, New Jersey: On June 11, in a report to Congress, the FAA announced that the three major New York area air traffic control towers will meet or exceed authorized staffing levels by the end of fiscal year 1997. By the end of fiscal year 1998, the larger facilities, the New York air route traffic control center and New York terminal radar approach control, will also have achieved their hiring goals.

Aviation - Brunei: In April, the United States and Brunei initialed the text of an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement. It is anticipated that the agreement will be signed on June 20 at the State Department.

Aviation - Barbados: Aviation negotiations with Barbados will be held in Washington on June 19-20 to discuss the desire of Barbados for new route and code-sharing authority. The U.S. will seek an "Open-Skies" agreement.

Aviation - Egypt: Negotiations with Egypt are scheduled for the week of June 23 in Washington. Egypt requested the talks to discuss the expansion of civil aviation services between the United States and Egypt.

Aviation - France: The French have agreed to resume aviation negotiations in Paris on July 9-11 looking toward a liberal aviation agreement. While the U.S. is seeking an "Open-Skies" aviation agreement phased in over a 3-year period, the French have proposed a 9-year phase culminating in a liberal arrangement for U.S.-France services only.

Fly Quiet in Chicago: On June 17, FAA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Cecelia L. Hunziker joined the Chicago Department of Aviation for a press conference to announce a joint effort on noise control. This represents a partnership with OHare and Midway noise compatibility commissions, airlines, City of Chicago, other local communities surrounding OHare and the FAA. Efforts include soundproofing homes and schools surrounding OHare and Midway Airports.

NHTSA Pursues Automated Collection Notification(ACN) System: The NTSB, at their Board Meeting on June 10, talked about a black box for automobiles. As part of NHTSA's overall plan to improve highway safety and to facilitate the development and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), NHTSA is conducting an Operational Field Test of an ACN System (black box). This operational test commenced in October 1995 with the signing of a cooperative agreement between the Calspan Corporation and NHTSA. Between October, 1995 and June, 1997 the ACN system was designed and fabricated. From July to November, the systems will be installed in 1,000 volunteers vehicles. The start of data collection will coincide with the installation of the system and will continue for approximately 1 year. At the conclusion of data collection a final report, addressing the system performance in detail, will be issued.

Pennsylvania Avenue: On June 2, the Department of Treasury publicly released the Environmental Assessment on the Implementation of White House Security Review Vehicular Traffic Restriction Recommendations for the Pennsylvania Avenue. On June 16 and 18, the chief of staff and FHWA officials attended a White House meeting to discuss potential remedial traffic measures.

NTSB Finding in Amtrak Silver Spring Accident: On June 17, the NTSB issued the probable cause for the 1996 Amtrak/MARC accident that resulted in the deaths of 12 people at Silver Spring, MD. The NTSB cited the engineer, train crew, FRA, FTA, CSX Railroad and MARC as contributing to the cause of the accident. Specifically, the NTSB was critical of the FRA and FTA for failing to conduct a comprehensive human factors analysis before allowing the signal on the CSX line to be removed. The NTSB issued 13 recommendations to FRA, 3 to the FTA and 1 to the Department.

Piper PA-32 Landing Gear Collapse at National Airport: On June 16, a Piper PA-32 experienced the collapse of its left main landing gear after landing on Runway 15 at Washington National Airport. The airplane came to rest at the intersection of Runways 15 and 18, closing the airport for about one hour causing six aircraft to be delayed a maximum of 31 minutes. Prior to landing, the pilot reported landing gear problems and performed a fly-by. The tower controllers reported that the gear appeared to be extended. The three occupants were uninjured, but the aircraft sustained minor damage to the bottom of the left wing. An FAA inspector participated in the NTSB's on-scene investigation. The NTSB is continuing its investigation into the cause of the gear failure.

General Electric Engines Airworthiness Directive: On June 17, FAA issued a final rule airworthiness directive requiring replacement of existing fan guards with new, improved fan containment guards to be accomplished within two years on 200 aircraft which have General Electric CF700 series turbo fan engines. This is the result of an accident in Paris wherein uncontained fan blades separated from the engine during an overspeed, resulting in engine failure and a subsequent crash.

Submission of Aviation Accident Plans: After substantial compliance efforts by the Department and NTSB, all operating air carriers have now filed aviation accident plans as required under the Family Assistance Act. No new air carrier or air carrier whose authority has been suspended will be allowed to operate without first filing the required plan.

NTSB/TWA 800 Update: FAA and NTSB staff met on June 18 to discuss the status of FAA action on the NTSB recommendations, the data supporting those recommendations, and what other activities the FAA has accomplished since the recommendations were issued. FAA has placed a notice in the Federal Register asking for public comment on the NTSB recommendations by August 1. FAA is completing a formal report that summarizes our assessment of a possible TWA 800 accident scenario that may lead to an FAA airworthiness directive to inspect B-747 airplane wires in the inboard wing tanks. That report is due to be transmitted to NTSB by the end of June. FAA is working with Boeing to conduct detailed inspections of ten B-747 aircraft that have recently been taken out of service to assess the condition of the center fuel tank components. FAA is also publicly supporting Boeing's program to work with the airlines to inspect older B-747 aircraft to evaluate the condition of the wiring and other fuel tank components. FAA is also encouraging international aviation authorities to ask their airlines to support this action.

Acquisition Management System Report: On June 18, FAA issued a report on

its internal review of our one-year old acquisition management system for acquiring goods and services. The review shows that the new system is saving time and money for both the agency and the companies that bid for its contracts, cutting the time to award contracts greater than \$100,000 by more than a third. Based on interviews with industry executives, the reforms have saved industry an estimated 30-40 percent over previous bid and proposal costs. The report also outlines several areas where the FAA could improve our system. This internal evaluation complements a congressionally-mandated independent review of the FAA's acquisition system, which will be done by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., and should be completed this fall.

NTSB Hearing: On June 17, NTSB met to review the Delta MD-88 accident in which the aircraft struck approach lights and a runway support pier while landing at LaGuardia Airport in NY. The Board will issue a probable cause and recommendations.

Great Lakes Airlines Update: After voluntarily suspending service to 80 cities on May 16, at the request of the FAA, the carrier has now been permitted to resume service to 19 cities. Thirteen of their 58 aircraft have been returned to service.

Maritime Security Program - Lykes Transfer of Contracts/Foreign Interest: MARAD is continuing its review of Lykes latest submissions in its application for MARAD approval of a reorganization in bankruptcy and a proposed asset sale and vessel charter to a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Ltd. Final determination in this matter is expected by the end of June.

Japan/China Maritime Talks: Talks will be held with Japan beginning June 23, and with China beginning June 25. Japan has not made progress in resolving U.S. carrier doing business problems in Japanese ports as anticipated under a recent Memorandum of Consultations (MOC). With China, a negotiated solution was reached a year ago that would allow U.S. carriers to engage in freight forwarding. The Chinese have created a new roadblock to prevent that solution from taking effect. The Department hopes to make progress in eliminating these problems.

\$1.2 for Lansing Intermodal Transit Center: On June 13, Secretary Slater announced the award of \$1.2 million in FTA funds for the Capital Area Transportation Authority for the construction of the intermodal Ground Transportation Center in downtown Lansing.

FTA Grants Awarded: On June 16, FTA awarded \$10.8 million to the Maryland Mass Transit Administration for articulated buses for Baltimore, MD, and replacement buses for Montgomery County, MD. Also on June 16, FTA awarded \$1.1 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the expansion of a park-n-ride facility. On June 13, FTA awarded \$14.8 to the City of Richmond, VA for the rehabilitation of a downtown multimodal transportation center.

Federal Harbor Maintenance Tax Found Unconstitutional: On June 3, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed an earlier decision of the United States Court of International Trade, that had held that the federal ad valorem Harbor Maintenance Tax imposed on cargo moving

through U.S. ports is unconstitutional under the Export Clause of the Constitution insofar as it is levied on export cargo. In addition to providing the sole source for all federally-funded harbor maintenance and dredging projects, the Harbor Maintenance Tax also provides virtually all of the funding for the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. Since the Federal Circuit's decision involves only the collection of fees on export shipments, it does not at this juncture end the Harbor Maintenance Tax in its entirety. The Commercial Litigation section of the Justice Department intends to ask the Solicitor General's Office to seek certiorari review of the decision before the Supreme Court. The Office of General Counsel is working on a letter to the Justice Department supporting Supreme Court review.

Revision of Gate Requirements for High-Lift Device Controls: On June 9, a NPRM to amend Part 25 of the Federal Aviation Regulations to revise the requirements concerning gated positions on the control used by the pilot to select the position of an airplanes high-lift devices was published in the Federal Register. The proposed amendment would update the current standards to take into account the multiple configurations of the high-lift devices provided on current airplanes to perform landings and go-around maneuvers. The proposed amendment would also harmonize these standards with those being proposed for the European Joint Aviation Requirements. The comment period will close September 8.

Emergency Relief for South Dakota, Ohio: On June 16, Secretary Slater announced an award of \$14.2 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to continue repairs on federal-aid roads and bridges in South Dakota damaged during spring flooding. In addition, to help Ohio in its flood-recovery efforts, Secretary Slater announced that the state would receive \$18.9 million in FHWA emergency relief funds to repair damage from storms and flooding in February and March.

Emergency Relief Funds - Idaho: Bingham and Jefferson counties in eastern Idaho declared a state of emergency on June 11 under the Governors May 18 statewide Emergency Proclamation because of flooding of the Snake River. The Idaho Transportation Department is taking measures in the Blackfoot area to keep the Snake River from flooding I-15. The situation may get worse because many of the reservoirs are at capacity. The only road closure is on Route 33 in the Driggs area.

Emergency Relief - Federal Lands: The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) reports the rapid melting of above average snowpack in northern parts of Washington and Idaho and in western Montana is causing severe flood damage. The Colville Indian Reservation recently suffered up to \$2 million in road and bridge damage. Eight National Forests in Idaho and Montana have road and bridge damage estimated at \$4 million. The Bureau of Land Management in Idaho is also reporting damage.

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL POLICY PRIORITIES

WELFARE TO WORK

Transportation Workshops: On June 24, the FTA and HHS in Boston, MA will convene a meeting of stakeholders involved in planning and providing

transportation services for welfare recipients. These regional "welfare-to-work" meetings will bring together state and local human services officials to examine the issue of transportation in implementing the states' welfare reform implementation plans throughout the nation.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Discuss Pipeline Safety: RSPA is participating on a panel, Safety and Environmental Concerns in Natural Gas Expansion, at the Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners Conference Business Program in Des Moines, IA on June 16-17. Other participants at the conference include Vice President Al Gore and FCC Chairman Reed Hundt. The Mid-America Conference provides senior policy makers with an opportunity to exchange views on a host of regulatory issues.

NOTABLE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Press Conference: On June 12, Congressman Wolf held a press conference on management of the FAA. He expressed serious concern about what he called a lack of leadership at the FAA, deliberately misleading Congress on the Potomac project, air traffic staffing issues, lack of Doppler weather radars and wasting taxpayer dollars.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality: On June 18, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program. Kevin Heanue, Director of the Office of Environment and Planning, Federal Highway Administration, will testify on behalf of the Department, along with a representative from the EPA.

U.S. Japan Bilateral Negotiations: On June 19, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on U.S.-Japan bilateral negotiations. Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Charlie Hunnicutt will testify.

Garvey Nomination: On June 26, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Jane Garvey to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Air Traffic Control Technology: On June 24, the House Science Subcommittee on Technology will hold a hearing on air traffic control technology. A witness from the FAA will testify.

Market-Based Solutions to Air Service Problems for Medium-Sized Communities : On June 25, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation will hold a hearing on market-based solutions to air service problems for medium-sized communities. The Department will testify.

National Airways System Modernization: On July 7, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on national airway system modernization.

Budget Reconciliation: On June 11, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved, by voice vote, a \$736 million

reconciliation plan, which provides the transportation component of the additional revenues necessary to implement the budget resolution. Of the \$736 million, \$500 million is derived from the sale of Governors Island, \$196 million from an extension of the vessel tonnage fee on vessels visiting U.S. ports and \$50 million from the sale of air rights over Union Station.

On June 17, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will mark up its budget reconciliation plan.

ISTEA Developments: House and Senate staff continue to meet to discuss ISTEA reauthorization legislation. However, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee do not appear ready to introduce committee bills any time soon. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster has stated that he is still reviewing options following the recent budget vote. Environment and Public Works Committee Members remain divided over their support for STEP 21, ISTEA Works or STARS 2000 legislation.

Full Funding Grant Agreements: Five Republican Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation have written to the Secretary requesting that the Department refrain from executing any new Full Funding Grant Agreements prior to the reauthorization of ISTEA. The 5 Members were Senators Domenici, Bond, Bennett, Gorton and Faircloth.

Secretary's Schedule

June 20-21

Secretary Slater will attend a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, CA.

June 21-24

Secretary Slater travels to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Council meeting.

The Deputy Secretary

June 23

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Intelligent Transportation Society of NYS's Annual Conference in Cooperstown, NY.

June 25

The Deputy Secretary will deliver remarks at the St. Louis Regional Commerce & Growth Association's Annual Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

July 23-25

The Deputy Secretary will participate in AMTRAK meetings in Los Angeles, CA.

August 5

The Deputy Secretary will participate in the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 7

The Deputy Secretary will attend the joint ITS America/National Automated Highway Systems Consortium (NAHSC) "Technical Feasibility Demonstration" in San Diego, CA.

August 11-12

The Deputy Secretary will attend the ITS America Board Meetings in San Diego, CA.

Modal Administrators/Assistant Secretaries

June 18-22

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Paris, France, to delivery a keynote address to the European Transport Commissioner and 200 European rail leaders on the occasion of the international Union of Railways 75th anniversary.

June 19

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Recht will speak at the Annual Automotive Litigation Conference in Arlington, VA.

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

June 20

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the Coast Guard Academy change of command.

FRA Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will meet with the Australian Minister of Transport to discuss rail issues affecting the United States and Australia.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will address the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Board of Directors Meeting at the White House.

June 21

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt will represent the Department at a pre-ministerial APEC Senior Officials meeting in Victoria, Canada.

June 22-24

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will participate in the APEC meeting in Victoria, British Columbia.

June 23

Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy Kruesi will be the keynote speaker at the 68th annual meeting of the Association for Transportation Law, Logistics and Policy in Santa Fe.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the American Gas

Associations monthly meeting in Washington, D.C.

June 24

FTA Administrator Linton will participate in a Welfare to Work Workshop in Boston, MA.

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will attend the full meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee in Baltimore, MD.

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will be the keynote speaker at the Corporate Occupant Protection Symposium co-sponsored by the Air Bag Safety Campaign, National Safety Council, and the network of Employers for Traffic Safety in Chicago, IL.

June 24-25

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the CINCs Conference at the Pentagon.

June 25

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs Hunnicutt is scheduled to testify before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation.

OSDBU Director Hopewell will participate in the DOT/OSDBU Transportation Marketplace Conference in Detroit, MI.

FHWA Executive Director Kane will attend the quarterly Central Artery senior management meeting in Boston, MA.

June 25-26

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Boeing in Seattle, WA.

June 26

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the retirement ceremony for Rear Admiral Donnell in Yorktown, VA.

Governmental Affairs Assistant Secretary Palmer will attend the Grand Opening Ribbon cutting at the Austin/Bergstrom International Airport in Austin, TX.

FTA Administrator Linton will deliver the keynote address at the Project Action Conference in Pittsburgh.

June 26-27

FRA Administrator Molitoris and Deputy Administrator Itzkoff will participate in the FRA strategic planning retreat at Solomons Island, MD.

June 27

FTA Administrator Linton will speak at an Urban Impact, Inc. luncheon in Birmingham, AL.

MARAD Administrator Herberger will speak at the Navy League National Convention Awards Luncheon in Boston, MA.

June 27-28

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend the change of command for the Commander, First Coast Guard District, and the Navy League National Convention in Boston, MA.

June 29-July 3

Inspector General Mead will make oversight visits to Seattle and San Francisco Regional Offices. He will visit Boeing Corporation on July 1.

July 1

USCG Admiral Kramek will attend a meeting with the Webb Institute in NYC.

July 6-14

USCG Admiral Kramek will meet with Federal Border Service leaders in Russia.

July 10

FAA Acting Administrator Valentine will visit Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach, FL.

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will address the National League of Cities Board Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

July 11

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will discuss the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program with representatives of the Oakland Port Authority in Oakland, CA.

July 12-19

USCG VADM Herr will attend meetings with the International Maritime Organization in London.

July 15

RSPA Deputy Administrator Coyner will deliver remarks at the American Gas Associations Legal Forum in Napa, CA.

July 22

USCG Admiral Kramek will address the Master Pilot Information Exchange Workshop in Crystal City.

July 23

USCG Admiral Kramek will speak at the National Naval Officers Association meeting in Annapolis, MD.

July 24

USCG Admiral Kramek will address flag and general officers from all services participating in the CAPSTONE program.

July 24-25

FRA Administrator Molitoris will travel to Oakland, CA, to participate in Amtraks Board and Committee Meetings.

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Senior Advisory Group/Quality Council meeting with senior Coast Guard flag officers.

July 27

NHTSA Administrator Martinez will participate in San Francisco Giants Traffic Safety Day, San Francisco, CA.

July 29

USCG Admiral Kramek will host the Congressional Coast Guard Birthday Celebration at the Rayburn Building.

July 30-August 3

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will attend events at the annual Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI.

August 3-6

BTS Director Lakshmanan will participate in the 67th Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting in Boston, MA.

August 13

Admiral Kramek will attend The Interdiction Committee luncheon/meeting.

August 28

USCG Vice Admiral Herr will be the guest speaker at the Grand Military Ball for the Chief Petty Officers Association National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

Media Inquiries

NHTSA Administrator Martinez was a guest June 17 on NPRs Diane Rehm listener call-in show. The topic was air bag safety.

CBS Evening News, weekend edition, June 20, will join NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a visit to the Baltimore Trauma Center, where he will describe injuries from automobile accidents. Air date not known.

Fortune Magazine, June 12, interviewed NHTSA Administrator Martinez for a story on officials in government whose decisions affect business. Publication date not known.

USA Today, June 13, requested interviews with FAA officials closely involved with the TWA 800 investigation, for a piece focusing on the human side of the investigation. Interviews will be arranged with the Director, Office of Accident Investigation and the Associate Administrator, Office of Civil Aviation Security. Publication expected in July, at anniversary of crash.

USA Today, June 9, requested background information on the number of female versus male air traffic controllers, now and in the past. Publication expected this week.

The Washington Post, July 7, and The Journal of Commerce, July 17, will interview Acting SLSDC Administrator Sanders about the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation becoming a performance-based organization. Publication dates not known.

U.S. News and World Report is preparing a story on the impact of weather

on aviation and air traffic. Reporter will tour Dulles International Airport June 19 for background information.

The Washington Post is preparing an article on the Maritime Security Program, focusing on Senator Lotts support for the MSP and for the maritime industry.

The New York Times plans to write a story on alleged predatory pricing in the airline industry. The Times is preparing a short piece for the June 22 travel section on DOTs new consumer airfare report, which is not the predatory pricing story.

Good Morning America: Consumer reporter Steve Filmer is asking about the possibility of doing a segment on the final New Car Assessment Program test results, probably later this month.

Newsweek: Reporters Andrea Weider and Julie Halpert asked for information on teen drivers for a possible story on alcohol, speeding and graduated licensing.

MSNBC interviewed Aida Berkovitz in the Region 9 office about a new device known as Talking Signs, which assist the blind and the visually impaired. San Francisco is the first city to use these devices at intersection crosswalk locations. No word on the date of the broadcast or if the Berkovitz interview will be included. (June 10)

The Bureau of National Affairs interviewed Jeff Lindley of the ITS office about a provision in the NEXTEA proposal on communications spectrum for dedicated short-range communications. A story ran the week of June 9.

West Publishing requested information on the Iroquois Pipeline Case.

States News Service requested a copy of OIGs recently issued Semiannual Report to Congress.

FOIA REQUESTS

Safety issues, from January 1994 to the present, related to electronic devices used by passengers while on-board commercial aircraft -- American Journal

Airworthiness directives on Lockheed 382 model aircraft -- Willamette Week, Portland, OR

Enforcement Investigative Reports regarding Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. -- Chicago Sun-Times

Point of Contact: For the weekend of June 21-22, Michael Huerta will be the contact. He can be reached through the FAA Operations Center at (202) 267-3333.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Maurice Daniel (CN=Maurice Daniel/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 15:36:51.00

SUBJECT: State Treasurers

TO: LYNN (Pager) #CUTLER (LYNN (Pager) #CUTLER [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Do you know if any of the three State treasurers are still coming to DC for the NEXTEA event?.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Courtney Manning (Courtney Manning [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:18-JUN-1997 18:08:51.00

SUBJECT: EPA Weekly Report

TO: Cabinet Affairs (Cabinet Affairs [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CAROL M. BROWNER

SUBJECT: Weekly Report for June 18, 1997

WORK ON PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

Lake Tahoe: Administrator Browner and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Martin Lancaster are hosting a workshop on Lake Tahoe water quality on 6/18 in preparation for the Presidential Forum on Lake Tahoe. One of the primary objectives of the workshop is to identify water quality issues, problems and solutions for the Vice President and President to address during their 7/25-26 visits to Lake Tahoe. Members of the Lake Tahoe community, including representatives of the business, tourism and recreation industries, are concerned about the declining water quality of Lake Tahoe and its affect on the economic viability of the region.

In addition to hosting the public workshop, Administrator Browner will meet with local officials and community members to discuss their views on issues affecting Lake Tahoe. She will also hold a press conference at the edge of Lake Tahoe to discuss the Administration-wide process underway to address the concerns of the Lake Tahoe community.

Racial Reconciliation: EPA is working with White House staff to address racial reconciliation issues, specifically as they pertain to environmental justice issues.

In accordance with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, Administrator Browner has established an environmental justice program to address disproportionately high and adverse public health and environmental impacts in minority communities and low-income communities.

KEY AGENCY NEWS

Champion Paper Mill: This week we are circulating a settlement framework that addresses the effects of the Champion pulp and paper mill on water quality in the Pigeon River. This framework will satisfy the public health concerns of the citizens of Tennessee and fulfill North Carolina's

economic needs.

EPA is in the process of reevaluating the permit and water quality variance issued by North Carolina for the Champion Paper mill. The mill discharges into the Pigeon River which then flows into Tennessee. Residents downstream, particularly those living in Tennessee, have voiced strong concerns for many years over the color of the Champion Paper Mill discharge, as well as dioxin discharges that have resulted in the contamination of fish and sediment.

EPA, has hosted numerous meetings among top officials from North Carolina and Tennessee since January of this year to broker resolution of these concerns. An EPA-State team conducted several mill visits and has assessed the mill's current and projected color removal capabilities and associated costs.

Also, EPA assessed the economic costs of mill closure and downstream economic benefits. Based on this work, an overall settlement concept was endorsed by EPA, NC and TN in May. The framework provides for significant reductions in color discharge, limitations to the NC water quality variance, and continuous improvement in the mill's performance, each expected to have a positive economic and environmental impact on the downstream communities.

The three parties are scheduled to meet with Champion on 7/9 in Washington, D.C. to discuss the proposed settlement; subsequent meetings with community and environmental groups are planned.

Pesticide Residues in Spinach: USDA will soon release the Pesticide Data Program's 1995 Report which will show that out of 32 different pesticides found on spinach, 17 of those pesticides are not registered for use on spinach. DDT was found in approximately 50% of the samples. Residues were found at low levels and health risks are most likely minimal. The violations are probably not the result of misuse but of crop rotation and spray drift. The Pesticide Data Program was designed as a voluntary program to provide data on pesticide residues of fruits and vegetables annually.

CONGRESS

Legislative Action This Week

On 6/18, the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment (Bilirakis-FL) held a hearing on reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA). EPA Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Evaluation David Gardiner testified on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program.

Administrator's Meetings & Travel

On 6/12, Administrator Browner met with Sens. Chafee (RI), Baucus (MT), Smith (NH) and Lautenberg (NJ) to discuss Superfund Reauthorization.

Current Legislative Issues

Superfund. This week, bipartisan Senate Committee staff and EPA continued

legislative negotiations on the issue of cleanup remedy selection. Minority staff have offered legislative language to the majority staff on this issue. EPA has been providing technical assistance. Last week, Administrator Browner met with Committee Chairman Chafee, Ranking Member Baucus and Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Management Subcommittee Chairman Smith (NH) and Ranking Member Lautenberg (NJ). The members believe they need a schedule to guide the negotiations.

In the House, Commerce Committee and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees staff have completed their stakeholder meetings. Also last week, Committee staff and EPA completed several meetings to determine if consensus exists on various Superfund provisions. Committee Majority staff have indicated that, later this week they intend to offer legislative language, but it is unclear which issue this language will address. EPA continues to provide technical assistance.

Defense Reform Act / Defense Authorization Act. Last week, the House National Security Committee (Spence SC) approved the Defense Reform Act. Several environmental provisions not supported by the Administration are contained in this bill, and EPA is concerned that DOD failed to communicate sufficiently the Administration's opposition to these provisions.

Title III in this bill would amend the Superfund program, the Solid Waste Disposal Act and the Clean Air Act. EPA has sent a letter to Committee Chairman Spence and bill sponsor, Rep. Dellums (CA), outlining our strong opposition to these provisions. It now appears that Rep. Spence may attempt to offer Title III of the bill as an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act. Both the House and Senate versions of the Defense Authorization Act are expected to be considered as early as 6/18. EPA also has significant concerns with certain provisions in the Defense Authorization Act.

The Administration will soon be finalizing a Statement of Administration Policy that will detail our opposition to language within the Defense Authorization Act that would amend the Toxics Substances Control Act and Superfund, as well as Title III of the Defense Reform Act.

Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Act. The House Commerce Committee is expected to mark-up the Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Act this week. This bill, introduced by Rep. Calvert (CA), was approved by the Science Committee on 4/16. However, because of a jurisdictional dispute, Calvert's bill was sequentially referred to House Commerce Committee, where it must be acted upon by 6/20. EPA opposes this bill because the authorization level it sets for EPA's research and development is \$15 million less than the President's request for FY +98.

UPCOMING HEARINGS & MARK-UPS

Date	Committee	Subject	Testifying
6/26	Senate Environment and Public		

Works Wetlands Office of Wetlands Oceans
Subc. on Clean Air, Wetlands,
Private and Watersheds
Property and Nucl. Safety (Inhofe
OK) Director Bob Wayland

7/15 House Resources Committee Initiative American
Heritage To be determined
(Young AK) Rivers

PRESS

Clean Water: On Wednesday (6/18), Administrator Carol M. Browner co-chaired a water quality workshop at the Lake Tahoe Water Quality Conference with Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) H. Martin Lancaster. The water quality workshop is one of three workshops being held by Clinton Administration officials in preparation for the Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum to be hosted by the President and Vice President on July 25 and 26. The event was covered by the San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, Sacramento Bee, Los Angeles Times, Tahoe Daily Tribune, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Reno Gazette Journal, and Nevada ABC, CBS, and NBC TV affiliates.

ADMINISTRATOR ,S SCHEDULE

6/25-26 Attend UN General Assembly Special Session
7/7 Address Howard University Environmental Studies convocation
7/9 Meeting with David Buzzelli and Larry Washington, Dow Chemical
7/11 Address to Friday Forum

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SCHEDULE

6/20 Participate in the 1997 Annual Conference of Mayors and meet with Democratic Mayors re: Ozone/PM Air Standards, San Francisco, CA
6/23 Meeting with representatives from the Coalition for Effective Environmental Information regarding Community Right-to-Know issues
6/23 Address the American Chemical Society & Green Chemistry Awards Program 8

REGULATORY ACTION

No major regulatory action occurred this week.

FOIA REQUESTS

This week, EPA received 360 requests for information. The Agency has received a total of 10,659 inquiries this year. We received no requests of interest this week.

Weekend Contact: Peter Robertson

Chief of Staff

H: (703) 920-8428

Pager: 1-800-759-7243 PIN 471-0595

cc: Kitty Higgins

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Franklin F. Urteaga (CN=Franklin F. Urteaga/OU=OSTP/O=EOP [OSTP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-JUN-1997 17:53:48.00

SUBJECT: Final Version of Tech Div. Description

TO: Jason Y. Kim (CN=Jason Y. Kim/OU=OSTP/O=EOP @ EOP [OSTP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

OSTP TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Technology Division leads the White House effort to develop and implement federal policies for harnessing technology to advance the competitiveness of the U.S. economy and advance national goals such as education, environmental quality, public safety, and national security. The division's priorities fall into three main categories: Aeronautics and Space; Information Technology; and Manufacturing and Transportation.

Acting Associate Director Henry Kelly oversees all division activities and participates directly in several initiatives.

Confidential Assistant to the Associate Director (AD), Franklin Urteaga is responsible for management of the immediate office. In this capacity, he establishes and supervises administrative procedures to maintain and expedite the daily operation of the office. In addition, he oversees the AD's calendar and continually informs the AD on the status and progress of assignments that the policy advisors are handling.

Ruth Fisher serves as an Administrative Assistant for the division, and performs the front office's administrative duties including travel arrangements, phone calls, office supplies, records maintenance and record archiving, and other supportive duties. She also maintains Jeff Hofgard's calendar.

Aeronautics and Space

Assistant Director Jeff Hofgard leads efforts related to aeronautics and space, including the NASA budget, the International Space Station, Inmarsat restructuring, commercial space issues, GPS policy, and aviation safety. He works in close coordination with the other OSTP divisions as well as OMB, OVP, NSC, and other agencies. Jeff's staff includes Steve Moran, whose assigned policy areas include aeronautics and aviation, and Jason Kim, who handles civil and commercial space issues.

Information Technology

Brian Kahin leads efforts related to information infrastructure, including intellectual property, privacy, Internet administration, domain names, and infrastructure development and implementation. Lori Perine is responsible for activities supporting R&D for information technology and its applications, including high performance computing and communications, Next Generation Internet, and Global Information Infrastructure. She also

handles general technology policy issues related to manufacturing, economic growth, and trade and competitiveness. Marjorie Dial coordinates OSTP efforts related to technology for education and training.

Manufacturing and Transportation

Mark Bernstein leads efforts in manufacturing technology including energy policy, focusing on the Administration's biomass initiative, climate change and energy use, electricity restructuring and the development of a partnership to advance innovative, environmentally friendly, resource efficient and more durable construction technologies in housing. Don Hillebrand leads the coordination of transportation and industrial R&D including the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, ISTEA reauthorization (NEXTEA), transportation specific environmental issues, and technology innovation.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Franklin F. Urteaga (CN=Franklin F. Urteaga/OU=OSTP/O=EOP [OSTP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-JUN-1997 10:42:38.00

SUBJECT: Samples of LRM Memos to Staff

TO: Christina M. Chase (CN=Christina M. Chase/OU=OSTP/O=EOP @ EOP [OSTP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

14 May 1997

MEMORANDUM TO LORI PERINE

From: Franklin Urteaga

Re: Draft response for U.S. Senators letter on federal networking
and telecommunications policy

Dr. Kelly would appreciate your reviewing the attached document and
preparing a response for his review by Monday, May 19, 1997.

Thanks.

11 June 1997

MEMORANDUM TO MARK BERNSTEIN

From: Franklin Urteaga

Re: Office of Consumer Affairs Oversight Testimony on Electricity
Reform/Consumer Issues

Dr. Kelly would appreciate your reviewing the attached document and
responding to it as soon as possible, considering that a response is due
by 1:00 pm today.

-

Thanks.

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16 June 1997

MEMORANDUM TO DON HILLEBRAND

From: Franklin Urteaga

Re: Legislative Referral Memorandum) TRANSPORTATION Testimony on
HR1268 ISTEA Reauthorization

Dr. Kelly would appreciate your reviewing the attached document and
responding prior to the deadline of 4 pm, Monday, June 16, 1997.

-

Thanks.

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan T. Makler (CN=Jonathan T. Makler/OU=OSTP/O=EOP [OSTP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:25-JUN-1997 12:38:49.00

SUBJECT: transportation interest

TO: Donald Hillebrand (CN=Donald Hillebrand/OU=OSTP/O=EOP @ EOP [OSTP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Howdy! I am the intern who spoke with you yesterday morning at the OSTP meeting. As promised, I am emailing you so you have my email address and extension (66082) for future use. I would be extremely grateful if you could notify me of opportunities to sit on anything having to do with NEXTEA or even PNGV stuff. I am also interested in your experience of working on these issues within this part of the government along te same lines we were discussing yesteday. I don't know what you usually do for lunch butmaybe we could coordinate that sometime.

look forward to hearing from you.

greenly,

jon makler

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Jeffrey P. Morales (CN=Jeffrey P. Morales/O=OVP [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-JUN-1997 14:27:56.00

SUBJECT: WSJ inquiry on Tipper

TO: Mary A. Dixon (CN=Mary A. Dixon/O=OVP @ OVP [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Asra Nomani, who's the trnasportation writer at the Wall Street Journal, is doing a story on various lobbying efforts regarding the NEXTEA bill, and one of the groups is bicyclists. I'm not sure how this all fits together, but she's trying to nail down a story about a time, a few years ago, when Tipper was bike riding and got a flat tire.

Can you get back to her on this, or have the right person in the press office do it? She's at 862-6638. Thanks.