

PROJECT: CREATION OF A 12TH CABINET POST

ORIGINATED BY EA-9
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SUBJECT: The proposal for a Cabinet-level Department of Transportation consolidating various existing transportation agencies.

PURPOSE: The U.S. today lacks a coordinated transportation system that permits travelers and goods to move conveniently and efficiently from one means of transportation to another, using the best characteristics of each.¹

The Department of Transportation will:

1. Coordinate the principal existing programs that promote transportation in America;
2. Bring new technology to a total transportation system, by promoting research and development in cooperation with private industry;
3. Improve safety in every means of transportation;
4. Encourage private enterprise to take full and prompt advantage of new technological opportunities;
5. Encourage high-quality, low-cost service to the public;
6. Conduct systems analyses and planning, to strengthen the weakest parts of today's system; and
7. Develop investment criteria and standards, and analytical techniques to assist all levels of government and industry in their transportation investments.²

By coordinating the executive functions of the transportation agencies in a single coherent instrument of government, policy guidance and support for each means of transportation will strengthen the national economy as a whole.³

¹ New York Journal American, March 2, 1966

² President Johnson's Message, 2nd Session, 89th Congress

³ President Johnson's Message, 2nd Session, 89th Congress

DOLLAR COST: The Department would bring together almost \$6 billion of Federal funds now devoted to transportation. The transportation system now accounts for \$1 in every \$6 in the American economy. In 1965 that amounted to \$120 billion. Last year, more than \$5 billion in Federal funds were invested in transportation. ⁴

IMPACT ON AVIATION: The Federal Aviation Agency will continue to carry out its functions in aviation safety, promotion and safety. ⁵

Through Government sponsored research and development significant advances in every phase of transportation - aircraft, oceangoing ships, swifter rail service, safer vehicles - can be made. An accelerated program is being undertaken on the construction of a supersonic transport to maintain for the U.S. the leadership in the field of aircraft design and manufacture. Problems of aircraft noise and the traveler getting to and from the airport might be more quickly solved through the expansion of existing programs.

REMARKS: The Federal Government today spends less than 1% of its total research and development budget for transportation. Under the present system of government, private enterprise bears the primary responsibility for research and development in the transportation field. The Government can plan and fashion research and development for a total transportation system. ⁶

Transportation is today one of America's largest employers. There are: 737,000 railroad workers, 270,000 local and interurban employees, 230,000 in air transport; and almost a million men and women in motor transport and storage. Together with pipeline and water transportation employees, the total number is well over 2½ million. ⁷

REMARKS: Proposed agencies and functions to be consolidated in the Department of Transportation.

1. The Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Transportation, and its policy, program, emergency transportation and research staffs.
2. The Bureau of Public Roads and the Federal-aid highway program it administers.
3. The Federal Aviation Agency, with its functions in aviation safety, promotion and investment, will be transferred in its entirety.
4. The Coast Guard, whose principal peacetime activities relate to transportation and marine safety.
5. The Maritime Administration, with its construction and operating subsidy programs.
6. The safety functions of the Civil Aeronautics Board, the responsibility for investigating and determining the probable cause of aircraft accidents and its appellate functions related to safety.
7. The safety functions and car service functions of the ICC, principally the inspection and enforcement of safety regulations for railroads, motor carriers, and pipelines, and the distribution of rail car supply in times of shortage.
8. The Great Lakes Pilotage Administration, the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the Alaska Railroad, and certain minor transportation-related activities of other agencies.

Because of their critical importance to transportation, a Department of Transportation might assume control of the functions of Environmental Science Services Administration (Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Weather Bureau) ⁸

Alan S. Boyd, Under Secretary of Commerce for Transportation, is presently considered by many to be the main candidate to head the Department. ⁹

CURRENT STATUS: Lyndon B. Johnson on March 2, 1966 issued his proposal for a U.S. Department of Transportation before the 2nd Session of the 89th Congress. Quick Congressional approval is not expected.¹⁰ The primary concern of the Congress is the future role of the vital regulatory agencies for land and air - the Civil Aeronautics Board and the ICC. These agencies are extensions of Congress and Congress is reluctant to relinquish control to expand the Executive Branch.

⁴ New York Journal American, March 2, 1966 - MIT Technology Review, March 1966.

⁵ President Johnson's Message, 2nd Session, 89th Congress - U.S. Transport, Feb. 1, 1966
MIT Technology Review, March 1966.

⁶ President Johnson's Message, 2nd Session, 89th Congress.

⁷ President Johnson's Message, 2nd Session, 89th Congress.

⁸ MIT Technology Review, March 1966.

⁹ U.S. Transport, February 1, 1966.

¹⁰ U.S. Transport, February 1, 1966.