

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1982

VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TIME: 10:25 a.m. departure

DATE: January 12, 1982

LOCATION: The Department of Transportation

FROM: CRAIG L. FULLER



I. PURPOSE

It was thought that as part of the preparation for the State of the Union, visits to one or two departments would provide you with a good opportunity to meet directly with federal employees and be briefed on matters that are of importance to senior administration officials. The first department selected was the Department of Transportation.

II. BACKGROUND

There will be two principal activities associated with the visit:

1. Senior Executive Service Forum

You will make a few remarks to about 150 members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) who work at the Department of Transportation. Draft remarks are attached.

2. Weekly Operating Meeting

Drew Lewis has a weekly operating meeting with the senior appointees in the department. They plan to brief you on several departmental activities. The last item to be covered in the meeting concerns a Transportation recommendation to form a Advisory Commission on Drunk Driving. This is in direct response to your recent suggestion to them on the subject.



ETIO  
Center for  
Transportation

III. PARTICIPANTS

To be included in the detailed schedule.

IV. PRESS PLAN

A press pool will accompany you on the visit. The principal photo opportunity will occur when you make your remarks to the Senior Executive Service employees.

V. SEQUENCE

Available in the trip schedule.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1982

EVENTS: Department of Transportation Senior Executive Service Forum  
Department of Transportation Senior Staff Weekly Operating Meeting

DRESS: Men's Business Suit

WEATHER: Low Teen's, Partly Cloudy

10:25 a.m. Depart White House en route Department of Transportation. Drive Time: 5 mins.

10:30 a.m. Arrive Department of Transportation.  
- Closed Press Coverage

Met by: Secretary Drew Lewis

Proceed to Auditorium for Senior Executive Service Forum.

Proceed to dais and take seat.  
Attendees: 180. -Travel Pool Coverage

Secretary Lewis makes remarks.

Introduction by Secretary Lewis.

10:42 a.m. Remarks.

10:55 a.m. Conclude remarks.

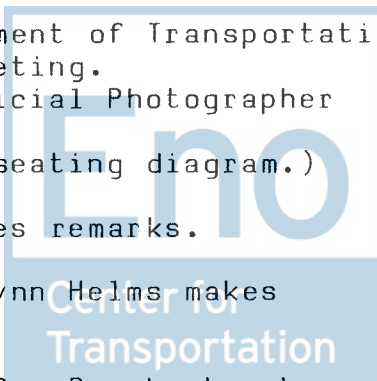
Proceed to Room 10214 for Department of Transportation Senior Staff Weekly Operating Meeting.  
- Official Photographer

(Refer to attached seating diagram.)

Secretary Lewis makes remarks.

FAA Administrator Lynn Helms makes remarks.

FHWA Administrator Ray Barnhart makes remarks.



UMTA Administrator Art Teele makes remarks.

Secretary Lewis makes remarks on Drunk Driving Commission.

NHTSA Administrator Ray Peck makes remarks.

Brief Remarks.

- 11:35 a.m. Depart Room 10214 en route motorcade.
- 11:45 a.m. Depart Department of Transportation en route White House. Drive Time: 5 mins.
- 11:50 a.m. Arrive White House.



PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VISIT TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
JANUARY 12, 1982

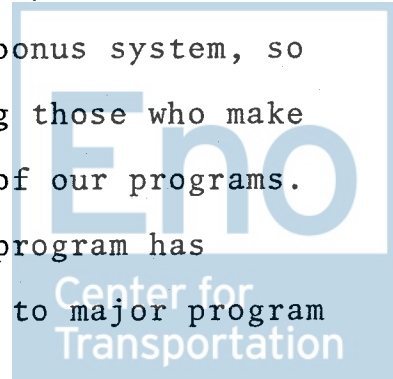
You and I share a deep commitment to the American people. You are committed to a better government or you wouldn't be a member of the Senior Executive Service. As this Nation's top managers, you have dedicated your careers to forging a better Federal Government. That is what I am trying to do.

Any government is only as good as the people who make it work one day at a time. Ours is a great government because of motivated, dedicated public servants like you.

No one appreciates more than I the importance of the career executive managers who actually execute the policies of this government on a day-to-day basis, enforce the laws of our land and keep the multitude of programs running within whatever budget they are allocated.

And I also appreciate that career Federal Executives should be compensated for the work they do. That is why we actively supported the increase in Executive salaries and the removal of the pay cap. That is also why we have maintained the integrity of the Executive bonus system, so that there is a meaningful way of rewarding those who make exemplary contributions in the management of our programs.

The Department of Transportation SES program has stimulated thought and creativity that led to major program advances this year.

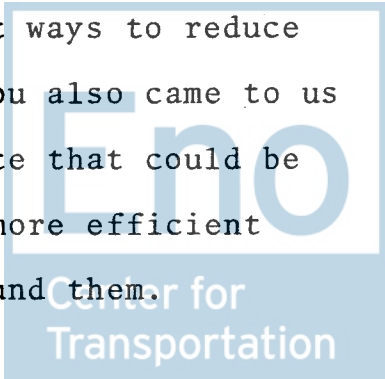


Through the DOT Executive Forum, which meets monthly, problems are thrashed out and new management concepts are born. I understand that Drew Lewis has exchanged ideas with you at one Forum session, and that you are scheduling talks by other top policy makers this year. The Executive Mobility Program which interchanges managers among all the various elements of this Department, gives you the diversity of experience and knowledge you need to manage an enterprise as broad in scope as this one.

These two vehicles are unique among SES programs. They are outgrowths of your own recommendations and a tribute to your initiative. With the transfer of the Maritime Administration to the Department of Transportation, you now have responsibility for managing all phases of the transportation sector. This requires broad-based skills and knowledge, but also gives you even more opportunity to exert the creativity you are developing in the SES program.

I also commend you for the way you have picked up on the national objectives of the Reagan Administration and found creative ways to execute them. I'm proud to count you on my team.

Not only did SES members help seek out ways to reduce the Department of Transportation budget; you also came to us with fresh approaches. You looked for waste that could be cut. You searched for less expensive and more efficient ways to execute the programs -- and you found them.



This kind of management ingenuity is critical to the success of this Administration and I commend you.

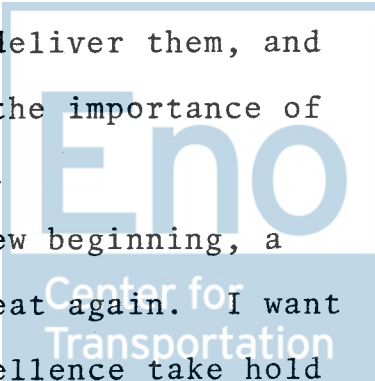
Some of you in the FAA along with the flight service specialists and technicians are in the forefront in designing a new system for the Nation's air traffic control. In so doing, you are helping this Administration keep its commitment to upgrade the system and employ the latest technology in keeping the airways safe.

Others among you have exerted your leadership in the auto industry studies which have paved the way for our ongoing regulatory reform program -- reform which will help a vital national industry to function and compete again in the free market system.

Your leadership is also evident in developing the transportation user fee concept that will more equitably distribute the cost of transportation among those who actually use the service.

But the qualities you have demonstrated in your work at Transportation are not unique to any one agency or department. They are the universal attributes -- the universal requirements -- for outstanding service in any public endeavor. You can't have good programs without good people to deliver them, and I am second to none in my appreciation of the importance of a dedicated, innovative Federal work force.

The theme of my Administration is a new beginning, a national renewal that will make America great again. I want to see this same spirit of renewal and excellence take hold



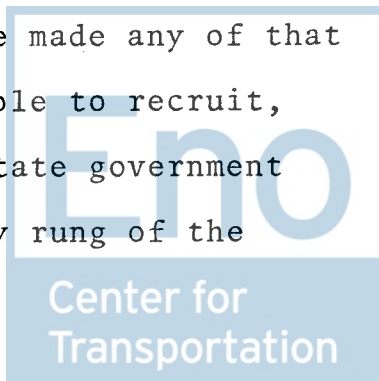
in the government itself. Thanks to you, and thousands of other dedicated public servants, we have, indeed, made an important beginning. We have cut waste, eliminated red tape and provided better services to the American taxpayers we are all here to serve.

This is an exciting time in our Nation's history, a time of both change and reaffirmation. And each of you and your colleagues throughout the Federal Government are on the front line, day in and day out, translating policy goals into accomplished realities. The times call out for excellence. Groups like yours are providing it.

I didn't have to come to Washington to find this out. I learned this vital lesson first-hand during my 8 years as Governor of California. During those 8 years we were able to create a more efficient, responsive and economic state government and still deliver -- and in many cases improve -- the full range of necessary services to the people of California.

Well, as usually happens, it was the politicians who took most of the credit for the reforms, the savings and the improvements.

But, let me tell you, we couldn't have made any of that progress in California if we hadn't been able to recruit, retain and motivate a dedicated cadre of state government employees -- skilled professionals at every rung of the ladder.





Many of them were a little nervous at first when I took office in Sacramento. I guess I understand why. They weren't quite sure what to expect, and the opposition had done its best to paint me as some sort of cross between a bogeyman and the Grinch that Stole Christmas. But as our reforms took shape, more and more dedicated state employees told me how much they appreciated what we were doing -- the greater efficiency and better management we were able to bring to a state government with a budget and population larger than most of the world's sovereign nations.

We're beginning to see the same thing happen in Washington. I believe that the vast majority of the Federal workers are every bit as committed to rooting out waste and fraud and inefficiency as the taxpayers they serve. I believe they want to do the best possible job they can. My Administration is dedicated to helping them -- helping you -- achieve this goal. Old abuses and errors must be redressed. The mistakes of the past have already cost us far too much in economic stagnation and crippling taxes and inflation. But, together, we can turn things around and make today's Federal Government a model for the generations that will come after us.

Together, we can make it happen. I'm counting on you, and so are the American people.

