



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

C.F.
FG 175
FG 155
TN
FG 155-19

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ December 22, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Joseph Califano
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

I have just seen today copies of the memoranda transmitted to you last Friday by Under Secretary Boyd concerning proposed programs and legislation in the transportation area.

As I have previously made known, I support the idea of a separate Department of Transportation as being in the public interest because of the great importance of getting unified management of the diversified activities of the Federal Government in the transportation field, and their growing complexity and scope. Specifically, I support the idea of transferring from the Commerce Department to the new Department the transportation activities now residing in Commerce, even though such a move might well be considered to diminish the stature of Commerce, and the power and influence of the Secretary of Commerce.

But I do want to make it clear to all concerned that I am not recommending to the President the transfer of particular functions or bureaus from other Departments to a new Department of Transportation. For example, I am not expressing any opinion as to the proposal of transferring the Coast Guard to the proposed new Department. I'm not familiar with the pros and the cons, and I don't know Fowler's views.

Further, I would like to make clear my definite and strong opposition to the transfer to the new Department of Transportation of the recently reorganized Environmental Science Services Administration within the Department of Commerce. I mention this specifically because others have proposed it, and they may do so again. In my opinion the functions of ESSA can be much better managed within Commerce than within Transportation. With respect to the proposed changes in transportation regulations and highway safety, I am in general agreement with the proposals submitted,

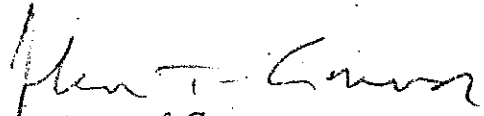
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and Mr. Boyd will take up with me any proposed amendments that emerge from the continuing studies and discussions.

For your information, following our regular procedure, I have assigned to our General Counsel, Mr. Robert Giles, the responsibility for drafting the necessary legislation on these matters, as well as its clearance within Commerce and through the Bureau of the Budget, with other interested departments and agencies.


Secretary of Commerce

cc: Bureau of the Budget Director Schultze
Under Secretary for Transportation Boyd
General Counsel Giles

JAC says to hold this paper - it is

IMPORTANT

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