

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE  
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF  
GEORGE M. STAFFORD, CHAIRMAN, INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
MARCH 15, 1974

WE HAVE MET HERE TODAY TO WITNESS A CEREMONY THAT IS HIGHLY PLEASING TO ALL OF US. A MAN FOR WHOM WE HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT AND AFFECTION IS TO RENEW HIS COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST WHICH HE HAS EXEMPLIFIED SO FAITHFULLY AND WELL DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION AND THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY ARE FORTUNATE THAT THEY WILL HAVE HIS INTEGRITY, INTELLIGENCE, AND GOOD COMMON SENSE IN THEIR SERVICE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION IS A FEDERAL AGENCY CREATED BY CONGRESS TO REGULATE INTERSTATE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. MORE THAN 20,000 COMPANIES PROVIDE DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE COMMISSION'S ECONOMIC REGULATION. THESE INCLUDE RAILROADS, TRUCKING COMPANIES, BUS LINES, WATER CARRIERS, OIL PIPELINES, FREIGHT FORWARDERS, TRANSPORTATION BROKERS AND EXPRESS AGENCIES.

IN ITS REGULATORY ROLE THE ICC BEARS A BROAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSURING THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAS AN ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM UNDER PRIVATE OWNERSHIP -- ONE THAT GIVES EQUAL TREATMENT TO ALL. GOOD TRANSPORTATION MUST BE FREE FROM UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES WHICH FAVOR SOME SHIPPERS OR LOCALITIES AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS.

AMONG ITS ACTIVITIES, THE COMMISSION DECIDES UPON REPARATIONS OR REFUNDS TO SHIPPERS WHO HAVE BEEN OVERCHARGED, APPROVES RATES FOR THE FUTURE, AND ISSUES ORDERS FOR THE EFFICIENT USE OF FREIGHT CARS DURING A SHORTAGE OF CARRIERS.

GEORGE STAFFORD WAS APPOINTED TO SERVE AS THE FIRST PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OVERSEEING THE REGULATED SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY. THE CHAIRMANSHIP REQUIRES WORKING WITH AND PRESENTING TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON A VARIETY OF TRANSPORTATION RELATED SUBJECTS; MEETING AND RESOLVING PROBLEMS WITH INDUSTRY, SHIPPER, AND CONSUMER GROUPS; LIAISON WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY HEADS; A HEAVY NATIONAL SPEAKING SCHEDULE; AND SERVING AS SPOKESMAN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION TO THE MEDIA.

UNDER GEORGE STAFFORD'S LEADERSHIP, THE COMMISSION HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY TO INNOVATE, TO RESPOND WITH GREAT RAPIDITY TO THE DEMANDS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION, AND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY IT REGULATES AND THE USERS OF PUBLIC SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

DURING THE PRESENT ENERGY PROBLEM, THE "STAFFORD" COMMISSION HAS TAKEN DECISIVE ACTION TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PROMPT MOVEMENT OF CRITICAL FUEL SUPPLIES AS WELL AS OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMERCE TO THOSE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED WITH THE MINIMUM EXPENDITURE OF ENERGY AND WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DISLOCATION OF OTHER AREAS OF OUR ECONOMY. THE ELIMINATION OR CURTAILMENT OF SO-CALLED "GATEWAY OPERATIONS" AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL ADJUSTMENTS TO EASE THE COST BURDENS OF INDEPENDENT TRUCKERS WORKING FOR REGULATED CARRIERS ARE TWO SUCH EXAMPLES.

I AM VERY PROUD OF THE NEW EFFORTS THAT THE COMMISSION HAS UNDERTAKEN AND THE RESULTS THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF A GOOD FRIEND AND A FELLOW KANSAN.

CHAIRMAN STAFFORD, PLEASE COME FORWARD TO TAKE YOUR OATH OF OFFICE.