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David Barclay Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Prime Minister

You could receive

Mrs. Dole - but you really do not
need to.

Do you want to?

14 March 1984

A.J.C. 16/3.

Must receive
her.

1/2 hour
mt.

Dear David

VISIT OF MRS ELIZABETH DOLE, US SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION

The US Secretary for Transportation, Mrs Elizabeth Dole, is to visit this country on 21 May at the invitation of my Secretary of State. This will provide a useful opportunity to discuss aviation, maritime and other transport matters.

Mrs Dole has indicated that she would particularly like to include a short courtesy call on the Prime Minister in her programme for the afternoon of 21 May if this could be arranged. She would not want substantive discussions, simply a cup of tea and a few minutes chat. As the only woman member of the Reagan administration, Mrs Dole would clearly welcome any publicity linking her with the British Prime Minister in the run-up to the November US elections.

While of course understanding that the Prime Minister would normally receive only visiting heads of Governments, my Secretary of State would support the idea of a courtesy call by Mrs Dole if it fitted in with the Prime Minister's other plans for 21 May. Mrs Dole is not one of the White House 'inner circle' but nevertheless is a dynamic member of the administration and will undoubtedly play a major part in the forthcoming election campaign. I attach a press cutting from the Wall Street Journal last year which gives a general idea of Mrs Dole's character and style. Our Ambassador in Washington and FCO officials also support the idea of a brief meeting between Mrs Dole and the Prime Minister if it could be arranged.

Yours sincerely

Alison Truphet

ALISON TRUPHET
Private Secretary

Elizabeth Dole, Picked for Transport Job, Is Called Politically Able and Well Liked

By ALBERT R. KARR

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—Elizabeth Hanford Dole, President Reagan's choice to be the next transportation secretary, is widely regarded as strongminded and politically astute.

As a White House consumer-affairs official in the Nixon administration, then a federal trade commissioner and, most recently, Mr. Reagan's liaison with business and other interest groups, Mrs. Dole, 46 years old, has been well-liked and impressive to people who work with her. One Washington lobbyist says, "she's got quite a fan club around town."

Her positions have often been considered conservative, but haven't been drastically so. She has taken pro-consumer stances without challenging business interests head-on, people who have dealt with her say. Michael Pertschuk, an FTC member, says Mrs. Dole was "a solid consumer advocate" on the commission, though "not a flamer." She was "very judicious, not quick-triggered," he says, "but she didn't duck tough decisions."

A transportation attorney adds, "She's very sweet, but she's tough." Some of that toughness emerged recently as she maneuvered to be named transportation secretary. Mrs. Dole has helped to drum up support for presidential policies among interest groups, including winning backing for Mr. Reagan's fights with Congress on budget-cutting and tax issues. But she isn't regarded as part of Mr. Reagan's White-House inner circle. It's understood she sought a cabinet post with the strong support in Congress of her husband, Sen. Robert Dole (R., Kan.), the powerful chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. She let it be known she wanted to be named to succeed Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, after it became clear Mr. Lewis would return to private industry, associates of Mrs. Dole say.

If the Senate confirms her as transportation secretary, as it's expected to do, Mrs. Dole will face some tough assignments. There's considerable work for her to do, even though Mr. Lewis racked up a long string of accomplishments. These included getting a gasoline-tax increase supported by the president and Congress, keeping planes flying and starting to rebuild the air-traffic control system after the controllers' walkout in August 1981, and gaining congressional backing for the sale of government-owned

Consolidated Rail Corp. to private interests.

Mr. Lewis "is a tough act to follow, and not a preliminary act—it was more like the grand finale," says Francis Francois, executive director of the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials.

But the rebuilding of the air-traffic control system isn't finished, and Mr. Lewis has said it will take as long as four years to improve the long-strained labor relations between Federal Aviation Administration managers and controllers. Such strains helped bring on the strike. Mrs. Dole probably also will have to carry out an administration plan being worked out to further deregulate trucking and other transport companies, in the face of Teamsters union and trucking-industry opposition. She will try to renew the so-far-unsuccessful administration plan to phase out federal operating subsidies for mass-transit systems. And she will monitor auto-safety deregulation amid court challenges.

Her efforts so far suggest she is well equipped to handle these and other such tasks. After speaking to a National Safety Council meeting in October 1981, she asked council officials what issues the administration might work on. Among their four or five suggestions, she zeroed in on drunken driving as the best prospect, and her efforts later were important in creating a presidential commission to spotlight the growing national issue, council officials say.

Mrs. Dole is a graduate of Duke University, where she was student-body president and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She received a degree from Harvard Law School, and later specialized in education problems of the handicapped at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She served as a consumer-matters official under Betty Furness, President Johnson's consumer affairs assistant, and remained in consumer work under Virginia Knauer, the Nixon administration consumer-affairs director, from 1969 to 1973. Currently Mrs. Dole is Mrs. Knauer's boss; Mrs. Knauer is White House special assistant for consumer affairs.

Mrs. Dole was named to the FTC in December 1973. She took a leave of absence to campaign for Sen. Dole when he ran unsuccessfully as vice president in 1976. She returned to the FTC after the 1976 election, remaining a commissioner until she resigned in March 1979. She campaigned for Sen. Dole in his failed bid for the presidential nomination in 1980, and then supported Mr. Reagan for election to the presidency.

She was a political independent, before registering as a Republican after her marriage to Sen. Dole.



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