

**The original documents are located in Box 18, “10/17/75 - Remarks Upon the Swearing In of Mr. Thomas Kleppe as Secretary of the Interior” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SKEW . . . .

SECRETARY -DESIGNATE KLEPPE

MRS. KLEPPE

JUSTICE STEWART

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

IN THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THERE'S A TOWN

WITH THE WONDERFULLY SELF-CONFIDENT NAME OF "CAN-DO."

TODAY, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO HONOR A MAN FROM

NORTH DAKOTA - WHO DOESN'T COME FROM "CAN-DO", BUT HE

SURE LIVES UP TO ITS SPIRIT.

IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, HE HAS PROVEN THAT HE CAN DO, HAS  
DONE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN HIS NEW  
POST AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR -- TOM KLEPPE. INTO  
HIS TRUST WILL BE PLACED MANY OF THE VAST RESOURCES THAT  
HAVE MADE THIS NATION GREAT.

TOM, I KNOW YOU WILL FAITHFULLY SERVE THE 214 MILLION

AMERICANS WHOSE NATIONAL RESOURCES YOU ARE NOW PLEDGED

TO PROTECT.

I AM SURE THAT YOUR RURAL ROOTS AND LOVE OF OUR  
COUNTRY WILL BE THE BASIS OF SOUND, CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY.  
I LOOK AT YOUR BACKGROUND AND SEE HOW MUCH AN INDIVIDUAL  
AMERICAN -- WITH INITIATIVE AND GOOD, COMMON SENSE -- CAN  
ACCOMPLISH.

BORN IN THE SMALL NORTH DAKOTA FARMING COMMUNITY

OF KINTYRE (KIN-TIRE), TOM IS THE FIRST NATIVE OF HIS HOME STATE

TO SERVE IN THE CABINET. HE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE TO WORK

IN HIS FATHER'S GRAIN ELEVATOR . . . BECAME A BANK PRESIDENT AT

21 . . . THE YOUNGEST MAYOR IN THE HISTORY OF BISMARCK, NORTH

DAKOTA . . .

PRESIDENT OF A MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN BISMARCK . . .

ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS TWICE.



A YOUNG MAN WHO EARNED MONEY AS A RODEO RIDER . .

. . HE HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED A VERY ACTIVE INTEREST IN SPORTS.

HE'S A TOP HANDBALL AND TENNIS PLAYER . . . HE SHOOTS GOLF

IN THE LOW 80'S -- AND ONCE EVEN MADE A HOLE IN ONE.

TOM, / I KNOW ANOTHER GOLFER -- I WON'T MENTION ANY NAMES --

WHO SWINGS A MEAN NINE IRON AND WHO'S LOOKING FOR A PARTNER

LIKE YOU. ALL I CAN SAY IS: NOT ONLY WILL I LOOK FORWARD TO

YOUR ADVICE AND COUNSEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR NATURAL

RESOURCES -- BUT ANY THOUGHTS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON MY BACKSWING

AS WELL.

DURING TOM'S FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS AS SMALL BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATOR, SMALL BUSINESSMEN RECEIVED NEARLY EIGHT BILLION  
DOLLARS IN LOANS TO START OR EXPAND THEIR OWN BUSINESSES AND  
HELP THE ECONOMY. THAT FIGURE REPRESENTS MORE THAN HALF THE  
LOANS -- IN DOLLAR AMOUNT -- THAT S.B.A. HAS APPROVED IN  
ITS 22-YEAR HISTORY.

AS A RESULT OF S.B.A. INITIATIVE, ABOUT 65 BILLION

DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WENT TO

SMALL BUSINESSES DURING TOM'S TENURE AS ADMINISTRATOR,

SMALL BUSINESS NOW GETS ONE-THIRD OF ALL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CONTRACTS.

TOM, I KNOW YOU WILL BRING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR THE SAME DEDICATED PROFESSIONALISM YOU BROUGHT  
TO S.B.A. I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL MEET YOUR  
~~NEW RESPONSIBILITIES~~  
NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN A WAY THAT WILL BENEFIT THE NATION  
AND ALL AMERICANS.

ONE OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES WILL BE  
TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS -- THE  
TREMENDOUS BEAUTY WHICH IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST NATURAL  
HERITAGES. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU MUST FIND THE WAY TO  
EXTRACT ENERGY FROM THOSE LANDS -- ENERGY THAT IS CRITICAL  
TO OUR ECONOMY.

YOU MUST ASSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONSHIP

AS WE DEVELOP THE OIL RESOURCES OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL

SHELF . . . THE OIL SHALE RESOURCES OF THE ROCKIES . . . AND

THE COAL RESOURCES THROUGHOUT OUR NATION.

YOU MUST RECONCILE THE NATIONAL NEED FOR ENERGY -- WHICH

MAKES POSSIBLE THE JOBS WE MUST HAVE IF AMERICA IS TO

CONTINUE TO PROGRESS -- WITH THE DEMAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL

QUALITY.



YOU ALSO MUST BE EVER MINDFUL THAT THE PUBLIC LANDS

UNDER FEDERAL STEWARDSHIP BELONG TO ALL AMERICANS. EVEN

WHEN WE GRANT CERTAIN PRIVILEGES TO ONE PORTION OR ANOTHER

OF OUR CITIZENRY TO USE THESE PUBLIC LANDS, THEY MUST NEVER

BE USED TO BENEFIT THE FEW TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE MANY.

I KNOW YOU WILL DO A FIRST-CLASS JOB, AS YOU  
ALWAYS HAVE -- THAT YOU WILL BRING A DEDICATION TO THIS JOB  
THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY.

NOW, I AM PLEASED TO ASK JUSTICE POTTER STEWART  
TO SWEAR IN OUR NEW SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THOMAS KLEPPE.

END OF TEXT