

**The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/21/76 - Remarks Upon the Swearing-in of Five Members on the Federal Council on the Aging” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...→

FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

SECRETARY LYNCH

/ DR. FLEMMING

MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON AGING

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS --- I WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO  
WELCOME MR. BLACKSTONE WHO IS 105 YEARS  
YOUNG

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING FOR THE

SWEARING ~~INTO OFFICE~~ OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON

THE AGING. THE SIXTH MEMBER, THE HONORABLE BERTHA ADKINS,

WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL, IS BEING SWORN IN

AT THIS TIME IN AUGUSTA, MAINE, WHERE SHE IS ADDRESSING

GOVERNOR JIM LONGLEY'S CONFERENCE ON AGING.



IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE ITS FORMATION / THE COUNCIL

HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELL-BEING OF OLDER

AMERICANS / PARTICULARLY IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

DESIGNED TO IMPROVE TAX POLICY AND COORDINATE BENEFIT PROGRAMS

FOR OLDER PERSONS.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL TO THE  
ATTENTION OF ALL AMERICANS -- ONE OF THE COUNCIL'S MOST  
SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS -- THE BICENTENNIAL CHARTER FOR OLDER  
AMERICANS. THE CHARTER IS A "BILL OF RIGHTS" FOR AMERICA'S  
SENIOR CITIZENS -- A TESTAMENT OF OUR NATION'S HEARTFELT CONCERN  
FOR OUR OLDER CITIZENS.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT HISTORY JUDGES A SOCIETY ON HOW WELL  
IT CARES FOR ITS OLDER PEOPLE. IN AMERICA -- IN RECENT YEARS,  
THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING HAS LED THE WAY TO A RECORD OF  
SOLID PROGRESS IN HELPING MANY OF OUR OLDER CITIZENS LEAD  
INDEPENDENT, SATISFYING AND HEALTHY LIVES.

SINCE THE 1971 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING FIRST

FOCUSED NATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS OF

OLDER AMERICANS:

-- SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS HAVE RISEN BY 50 PERCENT.

-- A NEW NATIONAL NETWORK OF STATE AND AREA AGENCIES ON  
AGING HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

-- NUTRITION PROJECTS FOR THE ELDERLY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED  
AND ARE NOW SERVING OVER 300 THOUSAND HOT MEALS A DAY.

-- SPECIAL HOUSING PROGRAMS FOR OLDER AMERICANS HAVE  
ALSO BEEN SET UP.

THIS IS A GOOD START; BUT, OUR EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF

OLDER AMERICANS HAVE ONLY BEGUN.

OUR FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE TO PROTECT THE RETIREMENT

INCOME OF OLDER AMERICANS.

INFLATION -- WHICH HITS THOSE ON FIXED INCOMES HARDEST --

IS THE FOREMOST THREAT TO THE STABILITY AND VALUE OF RETIREMENT

INCOME.

WE HAVE CUT INFLATION IN HALF. BUT, IF OUR OLDER

CITIZENS ARE TO FULLY ENJOY THEIR LATER YEARS -- IT MUST BE CUT

FURTHER -- AND IT WILL BE!

WE MUST STRENGTHEN THE FINANCIAL UNDERPINNINGS OF THE

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

CONGRESS ADJOURNED WITHOUT ACTING

UPON MY PROPOSALS TO ENSURE THE FISCAL INTEGRITY OF THE SYSTEM.

I WILL URGE THE NEW CONGRESS TO MAKE THIS ITS FIRST ORDER

OF BUSINESS.



I WILL ALSO URGE THE NEW CONGRESS TO ENACT MY PROPOSAL  
OF EARLY THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE OLDER AMERICANS WITH PROTECTION  
AGAINST THE DEVASTATING FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF EXTENDED ILLNESS.

ANOTHER AREA OF GREAT CONCERN TO OLDER AMERICANS IS THE  
SPECIAL THREAT TO THEIR WELL-BEING POSED BY CRIME.

OUR OLDER CITIZENS HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO LIVE SECURELY AND TO  
WALK THE STREETS WITHOUT FEAR. THAT IS WHY I WAS

PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED BY A PROVISION IN THE CRIME CONTROL ACT  
WHICH I RECENTLY SIGNED.

THIS NEW PROVISION REQUIRES THAT STATE CRIME CONTROL  
PLANS DEAL SPECIFICALLY AND FIRMLY WITH THE CRIMINAL ATTACKS  
WHICH ARE MADE AGAINST OUR SENIOR CITIZENS.

ALL AMERICANS CAN COUNT ON MY ADMINISTRATION AND THE  
FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING TO CONTINUE TO SEE THAT THESE  
AND THE MANY OTHER ISSUES WHICH PARTICULARLY CONCERN OUR  
OLDER CITIZENS ARE MET HEAD ON.

I LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE TO THE LEADERSHIP

MISS ADKINS, MR. MARTIN, MONSIGNOR FAHEY (Fay-hee),

MR. WINSTON, MRS. DEVERAUX (Dehver-row), AND

MR. HOLLAND -- WILL PROVIDE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

**STEVENS**

AND NOW, JUSTICE ~~REDACTED~~, WILL YOU PLEASE SWEAR IN

THESE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ON THE

AGING.

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