

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
LOWELL W. PERRY
AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
OF
LOWELL W. PERRY
AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

12:58 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Lowell, Mrs. Perry, Judge Keith, distinguished guests:

This is a very great moment in this Administration. It is my great privilege and pleasure to have selected for this very vital role a person that I have known a good many years, a person that I have admired for many, many years.

He first came to my attention when I saw his prowess on the gridiron at the University of Michigan. He made it and I didn't. He was really good and played not only exceptionally well at Ann Arbor, but very well for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

I have known Lowell over a period of time since then. I have always looked at his career, both in Government and with private employment, as an example of what a person can do who has got ability and the desire and the dedication.

I think, in this instance, it is Government's gain to have Lowell with us, and Lynn Townsend probably is losing one of his very finest young people in his Chrysler organization.

It just seems to me that Lowell Perry is the right person to do a fine job in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and I look forward to the job that he will do.

This Administration is totally dedicated to the elimination of any discrimination in the area of sex, race, creed, color, or what have you. Under the leadership of Lowell Perry, I am certain and positive that that dedication to that cause will be carried out.

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And it is a great privilege, Lowell, for me to participate in your oath-taking with your old friend, and a friend of mine, Judge Damon Keith of the Federal Court in Detroit.

(Judge Keith administered the oath of office.)

MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. President, for your faith in my abilities to provide the leadership in administering Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of the most important laws in our land today.

I welcome the opportunity to serve your Administration and the citizens of the United States, and I pledge myself to a fair, open, and vigorous implementation of the responsibilities entrusted here to me today.

I might say that I have been gratified at the great response from individuals and organizations across the country, and I am really encouraged by it, and I would also like to take just this slight opportunity to say to my many friends and relatives who traveled here with me on this most important day of my life -- the very most important day of my life -- I will do the things that I swore to with Judge Keith. (Laughter)

Thank you.

END

(AT 1:01 P.M. EDT)