

The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “2/7/75 - Remarks for Swearing-In Ceremony of Edward Levi, Attorney-General (Includes draft)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

REMARKS FOR
SWEARING IN OF EDWARD LEVI

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1975

Mr. President -
I suggest you
speak off the cuff -
These remarks (p. 3)
are too critical of
Satch - by
implication.
Dn

MR VICE PRESIDENT

- 1 -

MR JUSTICE POWELL

ACTING ATTORNEY GEN. SILBERMAN - MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dy*

IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE HERE AT THE GREAT HALL

OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT
TO EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE TO THOSE OF YOU WHO
WORK AT THIS GREAT INSTITUTION. I KNOW THAT LIFE AT TIMES
HAS NOT BEEN EASY DURING THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS AND
OCCASIONALLY DIFFICULT DECISIONS HAD TO BE MADE. BUT THE
DIFFICULT DECISIONS WERE MADE, AND THOSE OF YOU HERE TODAY
HELD THIS DEPARTMENT TOGETHER DURING THAT TURBULENT TIME.
WE ALL ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU.

Silberman

IT IS ALSO A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO SWEAR IN
ED LEVI AS SEVENTY-FIRST ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.
ED LEVI IS AN OUTSTANDING LEGAL MIND, A FINE EDUCATOR AND --
MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL -- A FELLOW YALIE. OUR NEW
ATTORNEY GENERAL TOOK HIS J-S-D DEGREE FROM YALE IN 1938,
JUST THREE YEARS BEFORE I RECEIVED MY OWN L-L-B DEGREE FROM YALE.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I RESOLVED TO DO WHEN I
BECAME PRESIDENT WAS TO REDEEM THE INTEGRITY AND TRUST
OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM. IT HAD TAKEN SOME PRETTY ROUGH
HANDLING AND IT WAS CLEAR TO ME ONE OF MY FIRST ORDERS OF
BUSINESS WOULD BE THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE. WITH
THE SWEARING-IN TODAY OF EDWARD LEVI, WE TAKE ANOTHER
BIG STEP TOWARD THAT RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE.

IN LOOKING FOR A NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, I DETERMINED THAT A TRADITIONAL POLITICAL APPOINTMENT WOULD NOT DO. RECENT EVENTS HAD RAISED WIDESPREAD DOUBT ABOUT OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM IN GENERAL AND OUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN PARTICULAR. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS BEEN AND MUST REMAIN A STRONG ARM OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICIES. BUT IT MUST NOT BE INVOLVED IN PARTISAN POLITICS.

POLITICS HAVE NO PLACE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PARTICULARLY NOT

IN DECISIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC CASES. THE MAN WE ARE

SWEARING IN TODAY UNDERSTANDS THIS DISTINCTION. ED LEVI IS,

AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, A RENOWNED LEGAL SCHOLAR. HE IS ALSO

A MOST CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR. HIS DISTINGUISHED RECORD

AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AND EARLIER AS DEAN OF

ITS LAW SCHOOL HAS BEEN ONE OF INNOVATION AND THOUGHTFUL CHANGE.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, ED LEVI IS A PHILOSOPHER AND A MAN OF VISION

WHO UNDERSTANDS THE MEANING OF THE RULE OF LAW AND ITS LIMITS.

UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, I KNOW WE WILL HAVE A DEPARTMENT OF

JUSTICE WHOSE INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS WILL BE A SOURCE OF PRIDE

TO US ALL.

IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT WE HAVE WITH US TODAY
ANOTHER MAN WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO OUR LEGAL INSTITUTIONS.
AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, JUSTICE POWELL, BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT
TO THE SUPREME COURT THREE YEARS AGO, WAS A HIGHLY RESPECTED
PRIVATE PRACTITIONER, A NOTED LEGAL AUTHOR AND A PAST
PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. IT IS A PRIVILEGE
TO HAVE HIM HERE ~~TO~~ ADMINISTER THE OATH.

YOU MOVE TO YOUR RIGHT TO
JOIN THE OTHERS

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: Talking Points - Swearing in of Edward Levi

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 11:00

Friday, February 7, at Justice Department

SPEECHWRITER: Aram Bakshian

EDITED BY: Paul Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Advance Office

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- () OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) _____
- () CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) _____
- () PRESS (Nessen) _____
- () LEGAL (Buchen) _____
- () ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) _____
- () OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) _____
- () DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cole) _____
- () NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) _____
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) aw
- (X) OTHER Geoff Shepard MS
- () _____
- () _____

TALKING POINTS, LEVI SWEARING-IN, FEBRUARY 7th, 1975

1. It is a privilege for me to be here at the Great Hall of the Justice Department. I should like to take a moment to express my admiration and gratitude to those of you who work at this great institution. I know that life at times has not been easy during the past couple of years and occasionally difficult decisions had to be made. But the difficult decisions were made, and those of you here today held this Department together during that turbulent time. We all are grateful to you.
2. It is also a special pleasure for me to swear in Ed Levi as 71st Attorney General of the United States. Ed Levi is an outstanding legal mind, a fine educator and -- most important of all -- a fellow Yalie. Our new Attorney General took his J.S.D. Degree from Yale in 1938, just three years before I received my own L. L. B. Degree from Yale.
3. One of the first things I resolved to do when I became President was to redeem the integrity and trust of our legal system. It had taken some pretty rough handling and it was clear to me one of my first orders of business would be the restoration of confidence. With the swearing-in today of Edward Levi, we take ^{another} / big step toward that restoration of confidence.

4. In looking for a new attorney general, I determined that a traditional political appointment would not do. Recent events had raised widespread doubt about our justice system in general and our Department of Justice in particular. The Department of Justice has been and must remain a strong arm of the executive branch. The Justice Department must participate in the development of Administration policies. But it must not be involved in partisan politics. Politics have no place in law enforcement and particularly not in decisions regarding specific cases. The man we are swearing in today understands this distinction. Ed Levi is, as all of you know, a renowned legal scholar. He is also a most capable administrator. His distinguished record as President of the University of Chicago and earlier as Dean of its Law School has been one of innovation and thoughtful change. Most importantly, Ed Levi is a philosopher and a man of vision who understands the meaning of the rule of law and its limits. Under his leadership, I know we will have a Department of Justice whose integrity and fairness will be a source of pride to us all.

5. It is particularly fitting that we have with us today another man who has contributed greatly to our legal institutions. As most of you know, Justice Powell, before his appointment to the Supreme Court three years ago was a highly respected private practitioner, a noted legal author and a past President of the American Bar Association. It is a privilege to have him here. Justice Powell.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SWEARING IN OF EDWARD HIRSCH LEVI AS ATTORNEY
GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday - February 7, 1975

Department of Justice

Departure: 10:50 a.m.

From: Terry O'Donnell

TOP

BACKGROUND

Edward Hirsch Levi was nominated on January 16, 1975, as Attorney General of the United States and confirmed by a voice vote in the Senate on February 5.

Levi's swearing in ceremony in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice will involve remarks by you, administering of the oath by Justice Powell, and remarks by Levi.

SEQUENCE

- 10:50 a.m. Depart South Lawn via motorcade en route Department of Justice.
- 10:56 a.m. Arrive Justice Department courtyard, proceed to elevator up one flight where you will be met by Mr. Levi.
- 11:00 a.m. Ruffles and Flourishes.
Announcement of you and Mr. Levi.
"Hail to the Chief".
- You proceed directly to the podium. Mr. Levi takes his seat.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE

2.

11:07 a.m. You conclude your remarks and proceed directly to your right to stand next to Levi as Justice Powell recites the oath.

11:09 a.m. You take your seat after completion of the oath by Justice Powell.

11:10 a.m. Attorney General Levi delivers remarks.

11:12 a.m. Levi's remarks conclude. You depart the stage, escorted by the Attorney General.

11:14 a.m. Motorcade departs.

11:20 a.m. Arrive White House.

#