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 SHEN

SECRETARY -DESIGNATE KLEPPE

MRS. KLEPPE

JUSTICE STEWART

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION

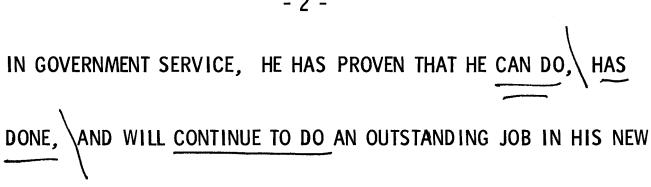
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

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.



POST AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR -- TOM KLEPPE. INTO

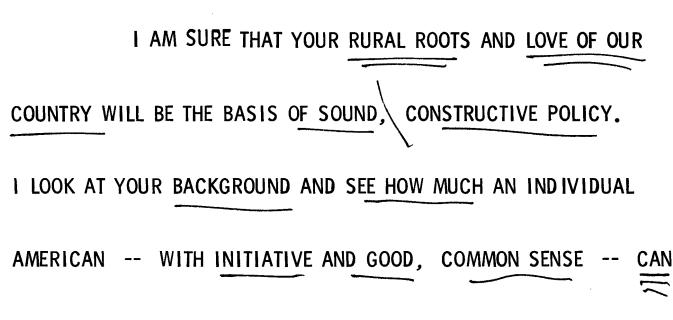
HIS TRUST WILL BE PLACED MANY OF THE VAST RESOURCES THAT

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.



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 ✓ 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

- 10 -

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 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