

The original documents are located in Box 19, “11/12/75 - Remarks at Swearing-in Ceremony for Dr. Daniel Boorstin as Librarian of Congress” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, CONGRESSMAN NEDZI
DR. AND MRS. BOORSTIN
MR. VICE PRESIDENT
MR. SPEAKER
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN



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SOME YEARS AGO A LITTLE MOM AND POP BOOKSTORE WENT
BANKRUPT IN WASHINGTON AND HAD TO CLOSE ITS DOORS. BUT PEOPLE
WHO WORK WITH AND LOVE BOOKS ALWAYS SEEM TO RETAIN THEIR SENSE
OF HUMOR EVEN IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. I REMEMBER THE BOOKSTORE
AS BEING PADLOCKED, EMPTIED OF ITS TREASURES, BUT A SMALL SIGN
WAS PASTED IN THE WINDOW. IT SAID: "WORDS FAILED US."

TODAY WE HONOR A MAN, AS WELL AS AN INSTITUTION,
THAT WORDS HAVE NEVER FAILED. IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE
ON THE EVE OF THE NATION'S BICENTENNIAL FOR DOCTOR DANIEL BOORSTIN
(BOHR-STIN) TO BECOME THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

A NOTED AMERICAN HISTORIAN, EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR, DOCTOR BOORSTIN
WON A PULITZER PRIZE IN 1973 FOR HIS OUTSTANDING BOOK,
"THE DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE." OR, AS IT'S KNOWN AT THE
WHITE HOUSE: "THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN EXPERIENCE."

IT IS EVIDENT THAT DOCTOR BOORSTIN WILL BRING
TO THIS POST A LOVE OF LEARNING AND A SCHOLAR'S APPRECIATION
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES AND OF THE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION
OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO AMERICAN LIFE.

AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS, I AM FULLY AWARE
OF THE VALUABLE SERVICES THIS FACILITY PROVIDES TO MEMBERS
OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE AND TO THE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS.

BUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GOES FAR BEYOND

ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE CONGRESS. THIS LIBRARY IS A LEADING

SYMBOL OF INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN AMERICA. ITS DIVERSIFIED

COLLECTIONS PROVIDE AN INTELLECTUAL RESERVOIR THAT IS WITHOUT EQUAL.

AS THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS, DOCTOR BOORSTIN

WILL EXTEND IN A NEW DIRECTION HIS LIFELONG COMMITMENT

TO THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF AMERICA'S PAST.

HE BECOMES THE TWELFTH PERSON TO HEAD THIS INSTITUTION,
WHOSE 175-YEAR HISTORY PARALLELS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NATION'S
INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS. THE LIBRARY'S CONTRIBUTIONS
TO AMERICA HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE AND IT WILL CONTINUE
TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN AMERICAN LIFE IN FUTURE YEARS.

I CAME HERE TODAY BECAUSE OF MY PERSONAL ADMIRATION
FOR DOCTOR BOORSTIN AND TO SALUTE HIS PREDECESSOR,
QUINCY MUMFORD, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE. BUT I ALSO CAME
TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LIBRARY AS A BASIC INTELLECTUAL
RESOURCE OF THIS NATION.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT MY OLD FRIEND AND
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, CARL ALBERT, WILL SWEAR-IN DOCTOR BOORSTIN
AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

END OF TEXT