

The original documents are located in Box 23, “2/2/76 - Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Mr. Elliot Richardson as Secretary of Commerce” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

SWEARING IN OF ELLIOT RICHARDSON

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1976

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU ALL WITH US TODAY FOR THE
SWEARING-IN OF ELLIOT RICHARDSON AS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.
THIS IS THE FOURTH CABINET POST WHICH ELLIOT HAS HELD,
AND THE SIXTH MAJOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE HE WILL HAVE HELD
SINCE 1969. I THINK BY NOW, ELLIOT MUST KNOW THE OATH
OF OFFICE BY HEART.

ELLIOT RICHARDSON'S CAREER HAS BEEN ONE OF
DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE IN MANY CAPACITIES●
A FAVORITE SON OF MASSACHUSETTS, HE SERVED BOTH
AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THAT GREAT
STATE●

HERE IN WASHINGTON, HE HAS SERVED SUCCESSIVELY --
AND VERY SUCCESSFULLY -- AS UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE,
SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE,
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND AS OUR AMBASSADOR
TO GREAT BRITAIN.

HE IS A LEADER OF THE FIRST RANK. HE IS A MAN
OF INTELLECT, A MAN OF DEDICATION, A MAN OF PRINCIPLE,
A MAN OF COURAGE.

ELLIOT RICHARDSON ASSUMES THE LEADERSHIP

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AT A TIME OF SPECIAL CHALLENGE●

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF RECOVERY FROM THE WORST

RECESSION THIS COUNTRY HAS EXPERIENCED SINCE WORLD WAR TWO●

THE COURSE OF THAT RECOVERY DEPENDS, IN PART,
ON THE POLICIES WE ADOPT FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT●
I OUTLINED THOSE POLICIES IN MY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS,
IN MY BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL 1977, AND IN THE
ECONOMIC REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS LAST WEEK●

THEY ARE POLICIES INSPIRED BY COMMON SENSE●

THEY ARE POLICIES GROUNDED IN REALISM AND NOT IN FALSE HOPE

OR FALSE PROMISES● THEY ARE POLICIES DESIGNED TO RESTORE

A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AND

PRIVATE INITIATIVES●

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ELLIOT RICHARDSON
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEM.

HE WILL BE MY STRONG RIGHT ARM AS WE SEEK TO WORK
WITH -- AND THROUGH -- THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PUT
THIS ECONOMY ON SOLID FOOTING, WITH GROWTH WE CAN SUSTAIN
FOR YEARS TO COME.

IT WAS NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

BUT THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM THAT GAVE THIS NATION

ITS WEALTH, ITS ECONOMIC POWER, AND ITS HIGH STANDARD

OF LIVING WHICH MORE THAN 200 MILLION AMERICANS SHARE●

MY GOAL, AND MY COMMITMENT, IS TO PUT
THAT SYSTEM TO ITS MOST PRODUCTIVE USE AND PUT EVEN MORE
AMERICANS TO WORK IN REAL, MEANINGFUL, PERMANENT JOBS
THAT GIVE PEOPLE A FUTURE AS WELL AS A PAYCHECK●

MY TAX PROPOSALS ENCOURAGING BUSINESS EXPANSION

AND INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH / REFLECT THIS COMMITMENT.●

THESE PROPOSALS WOULD MOVE US CLOSER TO THAT GOAL,

AS WILL THE PRODUCTIVE PROGRAMS ALREADY BEING CONDUCTED

BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.●

BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN POLICIES, MORE THAN PROPOSALS,
MORE THAN PROGRAMS TO SUCCEED IN SUCH A GREAT ENTERPRISE●

IT TAKES PEOPLE AS WELL -- THE RIGHT KIND OF PEOPLE --

PEOPLE WHO ARE CONCERNED, COMMITTED, CONSCIENTIOUS AND
COURAGEOUS●

ELLIOT RICHARDSON IS SUCH A PERSON. I BELIEVE

HE WILL DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB AS HEAD OF AN OUTSTANDING

DEPARTMENT. HIS ABILITY AND WIDE EXPERIENCE,

HIS INDUSTRY AND HIS CHARACTER, ENSURE THAT SUCCESS.

IT IS GOOD TO HAVE HIM BACK IN WASHINGTON.

NOW IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE

MR. JUSTICE BURGER WHO WILL ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE.

END OF TEXT