The original documents are located in Box 23, “2/10/76 - Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for William J. Usery, Jr. as Secretary of Labor” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SWEARING IN OF W.J. USERY, JR.
AS SECRETARY OF LABOR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1976
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MR. CHIEF JUSTICE
MR. VICE PRESIDENT
MR. SECRETARY-DESIGNATE
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
LET ME WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY

FOR THE SWEARING IN OF BILL USERY AS SECRETARY OF LABOR.
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT BILL USERY HAS OUTSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY. WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK TO THE IMPRESSIVE RECORD HE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS IN SUCCESSFULLY MEDIATING SO MANY OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES.
HE IS TRUSTED AND RESPECTED BY LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ALIKE

BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF BOTH.
IN FEBRUARY OF 1973, HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL MEDICATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE AND HE HAS SERVED WITH DISTINCTION AS MY SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LABOR-MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.
BILL USERY ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AT A TIME OF SPECIAL CHALLENGE.
LABOR CONTRACTS COVERING NEARLY TWICE AS MANY
WORKERS AS LAST YEAR ARE COMING UP FOR RENEWAL.
KEY INDUSTRIES ARE INVOLVED, SUCH AS RUBBER, TRUCKING,
AUTOS, ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION.
THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAM OF STEADY, BALANCED ECONOMIC RECOVERY WILL DEPEND PARTLY ON REACHING COMMON SENSE LABOR AGREEMENTS WITHOUT PROLONGED, MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES AND WITHOUT INFLATIONARY SETTLEMENTS.
ONE OF OUR TOP NATIONAL PRIORITIES

IS FINDING MORE JOBS FOR MORE AMERICANS.

WE MUST GENERATE REAL, PERMANENT, FULFILLING JOBS --

NOT GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED JOBS THAT MAKE WORK,

BUT DO NOT MAKE A FUTURE -- EITHER FOR AMERICA OR AMERICANS.
PERMANENT JOBS HAVE TO BE GENERATED

BY THE STEADY, BALANCED GROWTH OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR,

WHERE FIVE OUT OF SIX JOBS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE TODAY.
THIS STEADY APPROACH IS ALREADY YIELDING CONVINCING RESULTS: TOTAL EMPLOYMENT HAS Risen BY MORE THAN 2 MILLION JOBS SINCE LAST MARCH, AND JANUARY SAW THE LARGEST MONTHLY DECLINE IN THE JOBLESS RATE IN OVER 16 YEARS -- DOWN FROM 8.3 PERCENT TO 7.8 PERCENT. WE EXPECT THIS GOOD TREND TO CONTINUE.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL CONTINUE PROVEN JOB TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS AS WE WORK OUR WAY TOWARD COMPLETE RECOVERY. I KNOW BILL USERY HAS HAD A LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN HELPING UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE AND VETERANS -- AS WELL AS ALL OTHER AMERICANS WHO WANT JOBS AND CAN'T FIND THEM.
THIS IS A PRIME NATIONAL PRIORITY

WE WILL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF BILL, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN ACHIEVING THESE GOALS.

AND NOW JUSTICE BURGER WILL ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE.

END OF TEXT