

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

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

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.●

FOLLOWING HIS SUCCESSFUL AND VARIED WORK
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND
AEROSPACE WORKERS OF THE AFL-CIO, / BILL USERY
WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN 1969●

IN FEBRUARY OF 1973, HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL

MEDIATION 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.

CHIEF

AND NOW / JUSTICE BURGER WILL ADMINISTER

THE OATH OF OFFICE.

END OF TEXT