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JANUARY 22, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
W. J. USERY
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

THE OVAL OFFICE

11:30 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to say that I am very delighted that Bill Usery is going to be the nominee for Secretary of Labor. His long experience as head of the Mediation Service and the tremendous record that he spelled out over a period of time of working very successfully with both labor and management in the settlement of some of the most difficult disputes in this very controversial area qualifies him superbly to be Secretary of Labor.

I want to thank Bill for assuming this responsibility and express to you, Bill, the gratitude of not only myself, but I think the American people. We are very fortunate to have you available and willing to assume this very tough job here.

We have a number of prospective disputes, legitimate labor-management problems in the rubber industry, and the automotive industry and the trucking industry, as well as others. The department will be in very good hands.

Thank you very much.

MR. USERY: Thank you, Mr. President.

It is a great honor to serve you and serve in your Cabinet. I will assure you and the American people that if I am confirmed, to do my very best. I look forward to working with you. It certainly is a very difficult and tough year, but I have always been very optimistic about where we can go.

I realize it is a tremendous responsibility, and I look forward to it. You can be sure that I will not only work hard, but faithfully, to do my very best.

END (AT 11:34 A.M. EST)