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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS  
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
DR. GUYFORD H. STEVER  
UPON BEING SWORN IN AS DIRECTOR  
OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OVAL OFFICE

1:51 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Vice President, Dr. Stever and Mrs. Stever, distinguished guests:

Ever since I first came to the Congress I have had a great interest in science and technology. I recall very vividly my first exposure, as a Member of the Committee on Appropriations, to military research and development programs, and subsequently I had the opportunity to serve on the select committee that changed NACA to NASA, and subsequently became very interested in the space program itself.

As I recall, the first science adviser to the President was made under President Eisenhower by Executive Order. Subsequently, of course, after a few years, of course, it was discontinued. But, the Vice President and I quite a few months ago felt that it would be highly beneficial if we would establish an Office of Science and Technology in the White House by statute.

The Vice President worked very closely with the Members of the House and Senate Committee and finally legislation was recently enacted to establish the Office of Science and Technology in the White House, with the man holding that position to be the personal adviser to the President on these important subjects.

I am very pleased to participate in the ceremony today when Dr. Guy Stever will be sworn in by the Vice President to this first office. Dr. Stever was on the faculty at MIT, subsequently served as president of Carnegie-Mellon University, and for some time has been the head of the National Science Foundation.

We are very, very fortunate to have a man like Guy Stever to take this oath of office for this important responsibility, and I want to thank you, Guy, for assuming this job and initiating this program. We are proud of what you have done and we are extremely fortunate to have someone like yourself undertaking this new responsibility.

I congratulate you and wish you well, and now will the Vice President act in the capacity as a justice or officer of the Government.

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(Vice President Rockefeller administered the oath of office.)

MR. STEVER: Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, "Boss" (Laughter), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honor for me to be selected by the President and to be confirmed by the Congress to start this new Office of Science and Technology policy here in the White House and to serve as the President's science adviser.

The President gave you a little history. It was just one day later, two years ago, when he first spoke to me at a reception here in the White House, saying that we had to get started on getting this going, and he assigned the job to the Vice President and he has described what has happened.

Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, most of all I want to thank you and also the Members of the Congress, the bipartisan support of it there, for the science community who have felt so strongly about their field -- they feel its importance, they know it can't solve all the problems, but there are some of the problems of our society in which they can help a great deal, and that is really what we are all going to try to do for you, and I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that.

Thank you very much.

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(AT 1:56 P.M. EDT)