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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13474
Folder ID Number: 13474-018

Folder Title:
Swearing-in of Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher, 2/3/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	25	6	1	1

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/1/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

1. Add Now Sec. Baker will swear-in Bob.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

Winston
staff copies
staffed 3 times

1030 FEB -1 PM 3:57

(McIntyre)
February 1, 1989

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER
COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1989

This is a special occasion for me because, as most of you know, Bob Mosbacher and I have been friends for a quarter century. I trust his advice, I respect what he's accomplished in business, and I know he will be a valuable member of my economic team.

It's also an honor for me to participate in this swearing-in ceremony in a hall named after another dear friend of mine, Mac Baldrige. Mac was a tremendous Secretary of Commerce and I know he would have been pleased to see that the Department which meant so much to him will be in such capable hands.

When what was then called the Department of Commerce and Labor was established in 1903, Congressman Charles Cochran described what he believed were the ideal qualifications for its Secretary. He said, "Above everything, he should be a man of affairs, acquainted with the vast subject with which he must deal; vigilant, enterprising, resourceful, and possessed of the sagacity which distinguishes the American man of business from all others."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, those of you who know anything about Bob Mosbacher know that he fits that description to a "T." He is a savvy international businessman -- an entrepreneur who built his own extraordinarily successful business and kept it on solid footing even during tough economic times.

Bob is also known as a world-class sailor who has won international and national titles. To use a sailing analogy, Bob will now take the helm at Commerce and help chart America's economic course into a new era of prosperity. It's Bob's mission to foster, promote, and develop the foreign and domestic commerce of the United States -- a mission easily stated but not so easily executed.

As Secretary, Bob will promote American exports aggressively, continue our support of research and development, operate an export control program balanced between safeguarding security and encouraging exports, responsibly manage our nation's fisheries resources, and play an important role in this Administration's efforts to clean up the oceans and America's coastlines. I know that preserving and protecting the environment is a special concern of Bob's.

Bob will work with business to create innovative programs and achieve scientific breakthroughs in manufacturing, transportation, communications, and other areas to guarantee that

the United States maintains its leadership role in the world marketplace.

Both Bob and I are committed to making America more competitive than ever before. Our businesses can compete with anyone, anywhere in the world if we're given a fair chance. Our commitment to free and fair trade will enable us to ensure that our trading partners respect our right to compete in their marketplace while they compete fairly in ours.

Bob has a big job ahead of him. But whether it's trade or tourism, NOAA [pronounced "noah"] or the Bureau of Standards, minority business development, the census, or any of the other important areas the Department of Commerce is responsible for, I know Bob has a great team behind him willing to give 100 percent.

The growth of commerce -- both nationally and internationally -- is the key to guaranteeing that America's most productive and prosperous days are still ahead. As a fellow Texan said recently, Bob Mosbacher is the right man to "do the job that has to be done."

Bob, congratulations. Good luck and God bless you.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/31/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE 12:30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u> 4:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY 12:00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122 X2930) by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 02/01, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

Gray - no comments

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 JAN 31 PM 8:35

(McIntyre)
January 31, 1989

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER
COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1989

Mr. Vice President, distinguished members of the United States Senate, employees of the Commerce Department.

This is a special occasion for me because, as most of you know, Bob Mosbacher and I have been friends for a quarter century. I trust his advice, I respect what he's accomplished in business, and I know he will be a valuable member of my economic team.

When the Commerce Department was established 75 years ago, Congressman Charles Cochran described what he believed were the ideal qualifications for a Secretary of Commerce. He said, "Above everything, he should be a man of affairs, acquainted with the vast subject with which he must deal; vigilant, enterprising, resourceful, and possessed of the sagacity which distinguishes the American man of business from all others."

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As Secretary, Bob will promote American exports aggressively, continue our support of research and development, operate an export control program balanced between safeguarding security and encouraging exports, and play an important role in this Administration's efforts to clean up the oceans and America's coastlines. I know that preserving and protecting the environment is a special concern of Bob's.

Bob will work with business to create innovative programs and achieve scientific breakthroughs in manufacturing, transportation, communications, and other areas to guarantee that the United States maintains its leadership role in the world marketplace.

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The growth of commerce -- both nationally and internationally -- is the key to guaranteeing that America's most productive and prosperous days are still ahead. As a fellow Texan said recently, Bob Mosbacher is the right man "to do the job that has to be done."

Bob, congratulations. The floor is yours.

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(McIntyre)
February 1, 1989

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VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
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RESPONSE:
mention Georgetown also perhaps a line about Sec Verity and see Mac Baldrige - was a close Bush friend

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 JAN 31 PM 8:35

(McIntyre)
January 31, 1989

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VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:
see comments on page 2
Gordon Wilcutt

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 JAN 31 PM 8:35

(McIntyre)
January 31, 1989

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P.55
History of
DoC Com.

responsibly manage our Nation's fisheries resources,

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draft

(McIntyre)
February 1, 1989

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#

(1)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1st page

Before I go any further
~~I wanted~~ I want to
I want

You know it's a very
special moment for
me today to be here
to help swear in such
a close friend in a
hall named ~~named~~
after another great friend -
Melcom Beldridge.

Mac was ~~at~~ ^{the} tremendous
Secretary of Commerce

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

and I know he
would have been pleased
to see that ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~department~~ ^{that meant so much to him} will be
~~run~~ ⁱⁿ ~~by someone~~ ^{such a}
capable, caring ~~man~~ ^{Secretary}
as individual. ~~It~~

Love,

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

(2)

Bob has a big job
ahead of him. ~~What he's~~
got a great team here
at ~~the~~ Commerce.

But whether it's trade or tourism,
Noah or the Bureau of Standards,
minority business development,
the census, ^{and 50 many others} ~~and I could go~~
on, ^{and on.} ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~staff~~ ~~that~~ ~~I~~ ~~know~~
I know ^{you} ~~you'll~~ live up to your
reputation as a talented team
~~that~~ ~~always~~ ~~gives~~ 100%.

I know
he's got a great team
behind him. Willing to give
100%.

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See comments - particularly last page.

RESPONSE:

SWS

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Ext. 2702

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(McIntyre)
January 31, 1989

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This is in S. America.

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States Senate, ^{staff} employees of the Commerce Department.

This is a special occasion for me because, as most of you know, Bob Mosbacher and I have been friends for a quarter century. I trust his advice, I respect what he's accomplished in business, and I know he will be a valuable member of my economic team.

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Bob, congratulations. The floor is yours.

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Does the Pres want to mention his dear friend Mac Baldridge who presided at Commerce for 7 years?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER

SUBJECT: Swearing-in Ceremony of Robert Mosbacher

I have reviewed the draft remarks. They look fine and are certainly appropriate for the occasion.

cc: J. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/31/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:
 Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122 X2930) by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 02/01, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 JAN 31 PM 8:35

(McIntyre)
January 31, 1989

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER
COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1989

Mr. Vice President, distinguished members of the United States Senate, employees of the Commerce Department.

This is a special occasion for me because, as most of you know, Bob Mosbacher and I have been friends for a quarter century. I trust his advice, I respect what he's accomplished in business, and I know he will be a valuable member of my economic team.

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Bob, congratulations. The floor is yours.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

MARLIN FITZWATER

B. J. Fitzwater M.F.

SUBJECT:

Swearing-in Ceremony for Robert Mosbacher

The swearing-in will take place in the Malcolm Baldrige Great Hall at the Commerce Department. We would suggest that since Secretary Baldrige was such a close friend of the President, the President make mention of the location of the swearing-in in his remarks.

cc: Jim Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/31/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF ROBERT MOSBACHER

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
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SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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All comments

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1989 JAN 31 PM 8:35

(McIntyre)
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Bob, congratulations. The floor is yours.

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*This needs a graph
on the dedicated employees
of the Commerce Dept who
have such varied responsibilities:
Census
Trade
NOAA
MBDA
etc.*

1st draft

(McIntyre)
January 31, 1989

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Both Bob and I are committed to making America more competitive than ever before. Our businesses can compete with anyone, anywhere in the world if we're given a fair chance. Our commitment to free trade will be ^{and fair made us to which will make sure} ~~linked to a reciprocal~~ commitment to fair trade by our trading partners. They must respect our right to compete in their marketplace and they must compete fairly in ours.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 3, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROBERT MOSBACHER
AT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Department of Commerce

10:40 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for that warm welcome. This is a very special occasion for me because, as most -- I'd say please be seated, but -- (laughter) -- I don't think that would go over too well back there. What a wonderful, wonderful turnout for our new Secretary. But this is a special occasion. Bob Mosbacher and I have been friends for a quarter of a century, more; and I trust his advice, I respect what he's accomplished in business, and I know he will be a very valuable member of our economic team.

It's also an honor for me to participate in this swearing-in in a hall that's named after another dear friend of mine, Mac Baldrige. He was a tremendous Secretary of Commerce and I know he would have been so pleased to see that this Department, which meant so much to him, will be in such capable hands.

When what was then called the Department of Commerce and Labor, established back in 1903, Congressman Charles Cochran described what he believed were the ideal qualifications for the Secretary. He said, "Above everything, he should be a man of affairs, acquainted with the vast subject with which he must deal, vigilant, enterprising, resourceful, and possessed of the sagacity which distinguishes the American men of business from all others."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, those of you who know anything about Bob Mosbacher know that he fits that description to a tee. And he's a savvy international businessman, an entrepreneur who built his own extraordinarily successful business and kept it on solid footing even during tough economic times. He also is known as a world-class sailor, won international and national championships, and to use a sailing analogy, he will now take the helm at Commerce and help chart America's economic course into a new era of prosperity.

It's Bob's mission to foster, promote, and develop the foreign and domestic commerce of the United States; a mission that's easily stated, but not so easily executed. As Secretary, he will promote American exports aggressively, continue our support of R&D -- research and development -- operate an export control program balanced between safeguarding security and encouraging exports, responsibly manage our vast national fisheries resources, and play an important role in this administration's efforts to clean up the oceans and America's coastlines. I know that preserving and

while they compete fairly in ours.

Bob has a big job ahead of him. But whether it's trade, or tourism, or NOAA, or the Bureau of Standards, Minority Business Development, the Census -- any of the important areas of this Department -- I know that he has a great team behind him, willing to give 100 percent. And one of the reasons I wanted to come here to the Department is to express my confidence in those of you who have worked as careers for the federal government.

The growth of commerce, both nationally and internationally, is the key to guaranteeing that America's most productive and prosperous days are still ahead. As a fellow Texan said recently, Bob Mosbacher is the right man to do the job that has to be done. So I came over here to wish him well -- wish all of you well.

Mr. Secretary, congratulations, good luck and God bless you.

And now, Secretary Baker will do the honors. (Applause.)

(The Secretary is sworn in.) (Applause.)

SECRETARY MOSBACHER: Mr. President, Secretary Baker, if I may digress for a second, to wonderful, wonderful Americans who this country is so proud of and so lucky to have -- friends of over 30 years -- thank you, sir. And, of course, my family and, of course, all of us who are going to work together -- fellow employees of the Department of Commerce.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to addressing the challenges and opportunities the American people have in several vital, important walks of our national life.

Mr. President, on behalf of this Department of Commerce, we accept our mission. Of course, it's a mission -- and a major objective of ours at this Department is to promote our economic growth and competitiveness. We must ensure that trade is a two-way street for American business by expanding overseas markets for top U.S. goods and services while ensuring fair competition through effective enforcement of our trade laws.

Another vitally important mission is to improve the beauty and quality of our oceans, shorelines, and estuaries. Our fine people in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -- NOAA as it's known to all of you and now many of us -- are already working vigorously at cleaning up our oceans. But, of course, even though they're working on this, more work can and must be done because we have been blessed with abundance of beautiful natural resources, including our oceans, estuaries, our beaches, our shoreline, and we must do all in our power to preserve and protect these precious assets.

Third, as an old sailor, I know how vitally important it is to keep our weather forecasts accurate and our warnings early. You know, Mr. President, there are a lot of people in this country who view Willard Scott as our weatherman. (Laughter.) But we in this Department know that NOAA is the bureau that serves as the provider of the meteorological data to the nation's weathermen, and so

less than to strive to succeed as never before would not be right.

Finally, let me say, Mr. President, we have -- you have given us -- and to me and to all of us here -- a special assignment that is near and dear to your heart. We know this. Specifically, we're going to strengthen the Minority Business Development Agency so that all Americans will have the fullest opportunity to participate and enjoy the great American dream. It's important and it must happen.

I'm humbled by the challenges that lie before us and confident that together we will offer our hands to help achieve our President's goals. As Reverend Parker said, if we work together, all is possible.

Again, my thanks to you, sir, to the family I love, and to all of you. Together we can do the job. God bless you.
(Applause.)

END

10:52 A.M. EST