

Suggested remarks for  
Secretary Elizabeth Dole  
Swearing-in Ceremonies  
February 3, 1983

I want to say that being accorded this office is a great honor, one that I will do my very best to merit. I recall a remark attributed to Calvin Coolidge to the effect that "no person should be honored for what he has received but only for what he has given." To that end I hope that what I can contribute will do honor to the office entrusted to me.

It is a rare privilege to become a member of the Cabinet. I am especially delighted that so many of the people I care deeply about are here today. I include, of course, my husband, Bob, who tells me he put the President's budget "on hold" long enough to come over here from the Senate. I'm not going to let him say a few words here because I think he has several jokes left over from my confirmation hearing, and I can't compete with that.

I am also thrilled that my mother, Mary Hanford, is here. She has never understood how I could leave Salisbury, North Carolina, and her visits to Washington have done nothing to change her mind. I have to agree with her, of course, that the skies are very blue in Carolina.

It is also very gratifying to have so many of the people I have worked with at the White House here today. Along with my family they have been a tremendous help and a constant source of inspiration -- and I shall need more of both, I am sure, in the months ahead.



As I told the members of the Senate, it will be my intention to give the best of myself, and to carry out the responsibilities of this office to the fullest extent of my abilities. In that respect, let me say that I am keenly aware of the traditions for excellence established by those who have preceded me here -- particularly my friend Drew Lewis, who has left an indelible imprint on the transportation structure of our country and the prospects for its further improvement.

There are issues before us that compel our immediate attention. The strife in the trucking industry, for example, threatens the safety of truckers and the safety of our highways. While the nation's commerce is not seriously affected, the attempted shut-down is hurting the truckers, and it will be my purpose to continue the efforts already underway to deal constructively with their concerns.

I look forward to working with the people here and with the transportation community at large on the issues that affect our nation's mobility. I want our common cause to be an uncommon commitment to excellence -- to the very finest efforts we can muster -- in support of programs that support this Administration's goals and serve the best transportation interests of the American people.

Thank you for joining me here today. I know this is the beginning of an effective partnership and a genuine friendship.

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