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[Introductory Remarks of Commissioner J. Clay Smith, Jr. at Swearing-In Ceremony of Clarence Thomas as Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission]

J. Clay Smith Jr.

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Introductory Remarks of Commissioner J. Clay Smith, Jr. at
Swearing-In Ceremony of Clarence Thomas as Chairman of the
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission -- 3 p.m., May 17, 1982

SINCE FEBRUARY 23, 1982, THE U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION HAS BEEN WITHOUT A PERMANENT CHAIRMAN. I AM SINGULAR PLEASSED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS AGENCY NOW HAS A CHAIRMAN. TODAY, I FEEL A GREAT SENSE OF PRIDE OF RELIEF FOR EEOC BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY HAS A LEADER -- AND THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE FOR CHAIRMAN -- BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR-AND-A-HALF IT HAS FIVE SITTING COMMISSIONERS, ALSO.

WE RECEIVE THE ARRIVAL OF CLARENCE THOMAS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION WITH GREAT PLEASURE AND POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS. FOR NOT ONLY DOES HE GIVE US A COMPLEMENT OF COMMISSIONERS, BUT ALSO THE PREPARATION, VITALITY AND COMMITMENT TO ENFORCING THE STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMISSION WHICH ARE SO CRUCIAL TO A SOCIETY YET ENCUMBERED BY IMPEDIMENTS TO EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

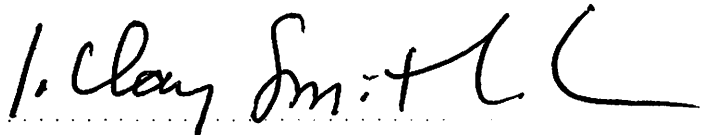
CLARENCE THOMAS HAS BEEN AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PAST YEAR AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND BEFORE THAT HE SPENT THE BETTER PART OF TWO YEARS ON THE STAFF OF SENATOR JOHN C. DANFORTH. HE'S ALSO SERVED AS AN ATTORNEY FOR THE MONSANTO COMPANY AND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN IS A GRADUATE OF THE COLLEGE OF HOLY CROSS WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS ALSO THE ALMA MATER OF JUDGE ANGELO SANTANIELLO, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, WHO WILL SWEAR-IN MR. THOMAS. HE EARNED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM YALE LAW SCHOOL.

PERHAPS HIS MOTHER, MRS. LEOLA LING, WHOM WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE WITH US TODAY FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, CAN EXPLAIN TO US HOW HER SON HAS ACHIEVED SO MUCH AND STILL MANAGE TO BE ONLY 33 YEARS OLD. MY GUESS IS THAT HE HAS MADE HIS OWN OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SHEER HARD WORK.

IN CLOSING, I WISH TO OFFER A PERSONAL NOTE TO THIS EVENT. TO THE STAFF, GIVE THIS CHAIRMAN A CHANCE -- AS YOU GAVE ME -- TO LEAD THIS AGENCY; TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS AND TO BUSINESS -- HELP HIM TO BALANCE THE SCALES OF JUSTICE; TO OMB, GIVE HIM THE MONEY TO DO A CREDITABLE JOB; TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR MAINTAIN YOUR FAITH IN THE GOALS AND MISSION OF THIS AGENCY; TO CLARENCE THOMAS, ON BEHALF OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE COMMISSION -- WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK IN THIS, ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT, YET, CHALLENGING JOBS IN AMERICA.

AND, NOW THE SWEARING IN; WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY BRIEF REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN CLARENCE THOMAS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Clay Smith, Jr." followed by a stylized flourish.

J. CLAY SMITH, JR.
COMMISSIONER