

the service of the Federal Government it was usually not my own choice. But having been in the service of the Federal Government in the United States Navy for 3½ years, for almost a year and a half in the Office of Price Administration before I went into the Navy, then for 4 years in the House, 2 years in the Senate, and 8 years as Vice President, I always had a sense of pride about it, a sense of pride that I had that opportunity.

I know you will feel that way and particularly those of you who have given your lives to Government service. That is

why I am visiting every one of these departments, because I want the top leaders in the department to carry back to the people who work with you and for you and for us the message that everything they do does count, that in this administration we appreciate what they are doing. We are going to support them and we will appreciate their support as well.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the auditorium at the Department of Transportation.

45 Statement on Coastal Oil Pollution at Santa Barbara, California. *February 11, 1969*

THIS MORNING Secretary Hickel and I met and discussed the pollution of the California coastline in the wake of the Santa Barbara tragedy. Our conversation ranged beyond the current situation. It included discussion of how to prevent such occurrences in the future.

Acting at his recommendation, I have today directed the President's Science Adviser, Dr. DuBridge, to bring together at the earliest possible time a panel of scientists and engineers. They will recommend to me ways and means in which the Federal Government can best and most rapidly assist in restoring the beaches and waters around Santa Barbara. They will also submit their views as to how best to prevent this kind of sudden and massive oil pollution.

The obligation to develop our natural resources carries with it the duty to protect our human resources. This country can no longer afford to squander valuable time before developing answers to pollu-

tion and oil slicks from wells, tankers, or any other source. Every method in existing technology must be developed to control and remove oil pollution. We must also identify those avenues of research where resources will be most profitably committed in solving this problem. These considerations will be among the issues taken up by the group which Dr. DuBridge will assemble.

Secondly, Secretary Hickel has recommended, and I have endorsed completely, a full-scale review within his department with regard to existing regulations covering such drilling.

His own preliminary review has disclosed there were substantial disagreements in his department as to the adequacy of the existing regulations at the time they were prepared. Questions were also raised as to the wisdom of the original decision to allow drilling to begin off Santa Barbara.

In retrospect those reservations were

right and will be taken into account in the full-scale review the Secretary has initiated.

Its ultimate purpose will be twofold:

To determine the adequacy of existing regulations for all wells licensed in past years now operating off the coast of the United States.

Secondly, to produce far more stringent and effective regulations that will give us better assurance than the Nation now has that crises of this kind will not recur.

The findings of Dr. DuBridge's panel

will be made available to Secretary Hickel for inclusion in his review.

NOTE: A White House press release, dated February 13, 1969, announcing the appointment by Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, Science Adviser to the President, of a 14-member panel to study oil spillage problems is printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 5, p. 257).

The pollution at Santa Barbara was the result of an oil blowout at an off-shore drilling site on January 28, 1969, which created an oil slick covering an area of more than 50 miles.

46 Remarks at the Swearing In of Walter E. Washington as Mayor of the District of Columbia.

February 13, 1969

Mr. Justice Marshall, ladies and gentlemen:

We are here today for the swearing in of Mayor Washington. I would like to have him step forward and Mrs. Washington step forward with him.

[At this point Thurgood Marshall, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, administered the oath of office. The President then resumed speaking.]

Mayor Washington, I congratulate you and I want to make one point that perhaps had not occurred to many people in this room. I am a resident of the city of Washington, and while all over the United States it would probably be recognized that the President is the top citizen, in this city, the Mayor is the top citizen. I am a resident of your city.

At this time, too, I would like to present to this distinguished gathering the three men whose names will be sent to the Sen-

ate for confirmation, I trust, as members of the City Council: Gilbert Hahn, as Chairman of the City Council; Sterling Tucker as Vice Chairman; and the Reverend Jerry Moore.

Now, in presenting these three members of the City Council, or members-to-be—we cannot have them sworn in at this time, Mr. Justice, because the Senate would not appreciate my moving before they gave their consent, but I do think it would be appropriate in the presence of the Mayor and the members of the Council to make just a few remarks with regard to the immense importance of the assignments they will be undertaking in the years ahead.

Every day when we pick up our papers or listen to the television and radio, we hear about the crisis of American cities. We would be less than honest if we were not to admit that our cities are in crisis