

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 12:00 P.M. (EDT)

MARCH 10, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE SWEARING IN OF
CARLA A. HILLS
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Carla, Mr. Hills, Mr. Justice White, the Hills family, distinguished guests:

I am in good company welcoming Carla Anderson Hills into the Cabinet as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Carla and Mr. Justice White, who will administer the oath, HUD Under Secretary Jim Mitchell and I are all graduates of Yale Law School. But I hasten to assure everyone that there is no conspiracy involved here--only coincidence.

I am pleased we will have the benefit of Carla's experience as Secretary of HUD--because I consider her the best qualified person for this very demanding position.

The job facing the new Secretary is immense. She assumes the very serious responsibility of administering this important Department at a time of recession in the housing industry. She has the unique skills and dedication which are vital in helping us move through a very difficult time into productivity and vitality in housing and urban development.

Carla has a tough act to follow. Her very capable predecessor at HUD, Jim Lynn, was instrumental in achieving passage of the historic Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, which I signed into law last August. One of Carla's major jobs will be to implement this massive and progressive program.

Senator Sparkman calls that act the most significant in the field of housing legislation since 1934. It will be of tremendous value in restoring to our locally elected officials decision-making authority in the housing and community development fields and in broadening the opportunities for individual home ownership.

Restoration of health to the housing market is imperative. I am convinced that our newest Cabinet Officer is equal to that challenge and the others which will confront her.

She is a distinguished attorney and an author, and served most ably as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division of the Justice Department. She earned unanimous praise for her administrative ability as well as her legal talents. Her intellectual credentials have been demonstrated by her achievements in professional and civic affairs.

Of course, Carla will not be alone in the task facing her. She has an excellent team to work with at HUD. I'm sure they share my optimism about the future of this Department and join me in welcoming aboard the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

###