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ADDRESS OF
HONORABLE BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI,
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
BEFORE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

- - -

10:30 A.M.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1979
THE GREAT HALL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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(This transcript was prepared from a tape recording.)

1 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Thank you.

2 I have been Attorney General for about ten weeks
3 now, and I thought it was time I came before the employees of
4 the Department of Justice to talk a little bit about some
5 important points, but more significantly to give you an op-
6 portunity to communicate directly with me, to ask questions
7 and to respond. So I took this occasion this morning to say
8 "hello," that I am glad to be Attorney General.

9 I have five points to discuss and then we will
10 save time so that you can ask the questions which you have on
11 your minds. The five points deal with:

12 First, the independence and merit decisions of the
13 Department of Justice; secondly, a report on judicial appoint-
14 ments; thirdly, access and exchange of ideas and information;
15 fourth, a few comments on the reorganization of OMF into the
16 Justice Management Division; and then, fifth, some observa-
17 tions about our physical facilities which could be termed
18 "moves."

19 (Laughter)

20 To begin with, a general observation: It is a tre-
21 mendously important and exciting time for me to be Attorney
22 General. In all of the offices and bureaus and divisions,
23 enormously important work is being conducted and substantial
24 progress is being made. It doesn't matter whether you
25 evaluate that in terms of legislative work, litigation work,

1 or administrative work. In every area, either through
2 implementation, through new initiatives or through study and
3 analysis, there are vital concerns which are being addressed
4 and from which I am receiving information, ideas, suggestions
5 and progress reports.

6 So if I were to choose a time in which to become
7 Attorney General, regardless of the fact that we are three
8 years into an administration or almost three years, I couldn't
9 have chose myself a better time, with better people in the
10 department to try to lead in some modest way.

11 During the course of the last ten weeks or so, I
12 have spoken out on eight occasions on a variety of different
13 subjects, including juvenile justice in New Jersey, the FBI
14 Charter and its importance, in Pennsylvania, most recently,
15 civil rights in a New Mexico speech, Department of Justice
16 initiatives, in West Virginia, the advocacy training and
17 revamping of the institute, in Los Angeles, and white collar
18 crime and the importance of fair sentencing, in Chicago, not
19 an inappropriate place to speak of white collar crime.

20 (Laughter)

21 I intend to continue to speak out on these subjects
22 and a wide range of other subjects at about the same average,
23 maybe once a week or once every ten days, dealing with the
24 important aspects of the department's work, whether it be in
25 the Civil Division or the Antitrust Division or the Office of

1 Improvements in the Administration of Justice, DEA or the
2 FBI, LEAA or any other subject in which vital work of concern
3 to the citizens of this country is being conducted fairly
4 and honestly and with great purpose by you.

5 As to those five points that I first mentioned:

6 With regard to the independence and importance of merit de-
7 cisions in the Department of Justice, and, equally as important,
8 the appearance of propriety and fair justice, I have issued
9 on Thursday -- and you will all receive a copy from the heads
10 of your offices and bureaus and divisions -- an articulation
11 of the statement made by Judge Bell last year concerning the
12 process to insure independence and to avoid the appearance of
13 undue influence or impropriety. The articulation of that
14 statement draws the distinctions between the utmost importance
15 of independence and its appearance in the litigation and
16 handling of cases and matters, both in investigation and
17 during the trial process, and the legitimate inquiry and
18 discussion and communication in the area of the department's
19 work involving policy and legislation; and, thirdly, again
20 the slight difference with regard to the area of the Justice
21 Department's work which deals with funding, principally LEAA.

22 This articulation I think will help us to better
23 understand the application of the independence and merit
24 decision practices and will confirm, I believe, our experience
25 over the last year and even before under Judge Bell's

1 statement of policy which was a general speech given I think
2 in the summer of 1978.

3 With regard to the second point, a report on
4 judicial appointments, I am happy to report to you that out
5 of the 152 new judgeships resulting from the Omnibus Judge-
6 ship Bill, all but 5 of those appointments are now either on
7 the bench or pending in one form of the nomination and con-
8 firmation process. So we have but five vacancies left out
9 of that massive legislation.

10 In fact, during the past two and a half years,
11 President Carter and the Department of Justice have processed
12 either again now sitting or pending the nomination and con-
13 firmation process not only those 147 judicial vacancies, but
14 the other additional vacancies created by normal attrition,
15 for a total number of appointments and pending nominations
16 and confirmations of 245 judicial positions, probably more
17 than have ever been processed and appointed in the history
18 of the country in any period of time.

19 Perhaps more significantly even than those gross
20 figures are the commitment to affirmative action and fair
21 representation which these vacancies and these positions
22 demonstrate.

23 With regard to the 245 positions which President
24 Carter has either made or in which he has tentatively made
25 a selection, concerning blacks, for example, at the time that

1 we considered and began work in this administration on
2 judicial appointments, there were a total of 19 blacks sit-
3 ting on the circuit or district courts. To date, on pending
4 and appointed members, black members of the courts, there
5 are 33 positions.

6 With regard to women, at the time we began, there
7 were 5 women on the circuit or district courts. At the
8 present time, pending or appointed, there are 39. With
9 regard to Hispanics, there were 5 at the time of first con-
10 sideration. There are now almost three times that number or
11 14 pending and appointed.

12 Of all the appointments made by President Carter
13 on the recommendation of the Justice Department, 13.5 percent
14 of the circuit and district court selections have been black.
15 Almost 16 percent have been women, and almost 6 percent have
16 been Hispanic.

17 I think that, number one, demonstrates the ability
18 of the Department of Justice to have well filled these
19 vacancies created by the normal attrition process and the
20 heavy duties of the Omnibus Judgeship Bill in terms of
21 timeliness and, more importantly, to do it aggressively in
22 order to help address and balance the representation of the
23 lawyers and the citizens of the country on the bench as far
24 as minority representation is concerned.

25 The process isn't finished, as I have answered in

1 public appearances and privately to reporters for public
2 distribution. Affirmative action and fair representation
3 will be with us for a long time generally and certainly it
4 behooves us to pay close attention to it in continuing to
5 fill vacancies which will occur at ever increasing rates
6 because of the numbers of judges we now have. So instead of
7 having an annual rate of vacancy of perhaps 20 or 25 per
8 year, we may be facing an obligation to promptly and timely
9 fill up to 40 vacancies per year in judicial appointments.

10 The third point that I would like to mention is
11 access and the exchange of ideas. I have to date met with, I
12 believe, the management, the sections chiefs and the deputy
13 chiefs and the assistants in each of the litigating divisions
14 and with many of the bureaus and offices at informal
15 luncheons in the Attorney General's dining room. And I have
16 established a program where three to four times a week I
17 will continue to meet with representatives, line level
18 attorneys, secretaries and para-legals, as well as super-
19 visors from different sections and divisions of the depart-
20 ment to informally exchange views, ideas, respond to ques-
21 tions and provide them with an opportunity of direct communi-
22 cation with me which otherwise would not perhaps be available.

23 In addition to the luncheons, the breakfasts which
24 the Attorney General has each morning, roughly at 8:00 o'clock
25 when I am in town, are open to any Assistant Attorney General

1 to attend, staff members and the Deputy and the Associate in
2 order to provide contemporaneous descriptions or explanations
3 of concerns which need my attention or which can be de-
4 veloped again in an informal setting promptly and expedi-
5 tiously.

6 I have appointed two Special Assistants. Although
7 they will have the title of Special Assistants to the
8 Attorney General respectively for Litigation and for Energy,
9 their duties and their reporting will relate to the Assistant
10 Attorneys General of each of the litigating divisions and
11 the heads of the respective offices and bureaus, and they
12 will report to and work directly with the Associate Attorney
13 General.

14 The purpose generally of both of these special ap-
15 pointments in those two areas, litigation and energy, is to
16 demonstrate the emphasis and the importance of, one, a
17 general duty of the department, litigation, and, two, an
18 ever growing field of litigative concern in which we are just
19 beginning to feel the pressure and the volume of work which
20 I foresee will be handled by the department over the next
21 two, three, four and five years and thereafter.

22 Therefore, to make sure that we are prepared to
23 handle that work correctly and properly, expeditiously and
24 with the best structure as well as substance, I have ap-
25 pointed a Special Assistant to the Attorney General for

1 Energy.

2 With regard to litigation, I have appointed a
3 Special Assistant there so that improvements in the manner
4 and method by which we litigate, whether those improvements
5 be new techniques, new methods, the removal of obstacles or
6 the promulgation of ideas which come from the litigators and
7 from the divisions of the United States Attorneys offices
8 themselves, and which often get lost in our normal channels
9 and do not receive the attention or study or analysis that
10 they deserve because of the press of other business, now have
11 a new opportunity to be examined and to be considered and
12 hopefully to produce to my attention and therefore for
13 implementation methods and means and improvements which will
14 assist you in the conduct of one of our major responsibili-
15 ties, and that is successful litigation on behalf of the
16 citizens of the country.

17 I have changed the membership in the United States
18 Attorneys Advisory Committee to the Attorney General and re-
19 cently appointed seven new members. They are supposed to be
20 changed annually and we have gone for a period of 18 months
21 or so without a change. And within the next ten days the
22 old board or U.S. Attorneys Advisory Committee will meet and
23 the seven new members will attend to develop a certain con-
24 tinuity and experience before their first duties and responsi-
25 bilities as full members of the board, which will be in

1 December and January.

2 With regard to the Justice Management Division, the
3 crude reorganization which has taken place to date is de-
4 signed to simplify and consolidate the ten sections of OMP
5 into three units to better carry out the three main missions
6 as I see it, and as Kevin Rooney sees it, of the old OMP or
7 of JMD.

8 One, the budget mission, which is so vital to all
9 of us both in the review and to obtaining the resources and
10 to doing the battles at all levels and ultimately in Congress,
11 that we need to conduct better and more forcefully in order
12 to obtain the resources and the support and the facilities
13 to carry out our enormous responsibilities.

14 Secondly, administration and personnel, the second
15 mission, the nuts and bolts of timely process, of physical
16 facilities, of securing personnel, making sure that they are
17 treated fairly and well and the process of applications and
18 out-reach are achieved in the best possible fashion and form.

19 And last or third, the third mission of OMP and JMD
20 is with regard to litigation support and systems, perhaps an
21 area through diffused responsibility, through multiple sec-
22 tions or duties in which we have lost points of communication,
23 where we have lost the thrust of achievement and instead
24 have exacerbated divisions or differences of view between OMP
25 and the litigation divisions or operating units of the

1 department.

2 The purpose and function of JMD in this regard is
3 to support, to help and to do everything possible to further
4 the obligations and duties and responsibilities and conduct
5 of litigation and operations by the divisions, offices and
6 bureaus of the department. They are, in this respect, in
7 this mission, a service unit of the department, and I am
8 confident and Kevin is confident that through this reorgani-
9 zation, the emphasis of this mission, that they will be
10 better able to perform their duties in this regard and the
11 respective divisions and units will be better able to com-
12 municate directly and focus their attention on support and
13 on systems management through the division of these responsi-
14 bilities in three clear sub-units of JMD.

15 Lastly, with regard to the moves: No move is a
16 happy time. I know that there are inconveniences, that
17 there is unfairness involved in the moves, there is disrupt-
18 tion, and there is unhappiness not only generally with the
19 move but in particulars. It takes time. It is costly.
20 There is confusion involved in it, and it is tough to bear
21 as well as tough to appreciate the overall significance of
22 a move.

23 The purpose of the moves which are contemplated over
24 the next year or year and a half and perhaps thereafter is
25 quite simple. It is, one and primarily, to get the best

1 possible physical facilities, not only buildings, bricks and
2 mortar, and offices, but accommodations and conveniences to
3 the employees of the Department of Justice that we can
4 possibly achieve.

5 Part of the purpose in these moves is to consolidate
6 different operating units of the Civil Division, the Antitrust
7 Division, and the Criminal Division from a multitude of
8 offices where we are separated, where we have excess costs
9 and expenses, we have sub-standard facilities, into one
10 facility or at most two facilities in order to bring cohesive-
11 ness to that unit, in order to upgrade and improve the
12 facilities, if possible, to make them more modern, to make
13 the personal physical enjoyment of work better, so that we
14 don't have sub-standard conditions of dampness, of lack of
15 paint, of lack of room, of three people being jammed into
16 one office, of no carpeting, rotting wallpaper or walls,
17 dirt, and a whole multitude of conditions which I know some
18 members of this department now suffer under.

19 And I would hope that, although everything takes
20 longer than I would wish or that you would wish, I would
21 hope that in the course of the next year we would be able to
22 consolidate all of the litigating divisions in one facility
23 or at most two interconnected facilities inside Justice and
24 outside Justice, so that for the first time in a very long
25 time the Antitrust Division will not be in four offices, the

1 Criminal Division will not be in five separated facilities.
2 I have made a commitment to the Civil Division and I make it
3 to every other facility that moves, that we will not only
4 concentrate on making the move as expeditious as possible,
5 but we will concentrate on the new facility, accommodating
6 the desires of the division as far as is practical with our
7 resources in terms of creature comforts, as well as the
8 tools and support equipment necessary to carry on the mission
9 of the division.

10 With regard to the litigating divisions particular-
11 ly, it is anticipated and planned, and unless something
12 outrageous happens over which I have no control, we will
13 carry it through -- the Civil Division move is under way,
14 the Antitrust Division's move is scheduled for within six
15 months, and the Tax Division's move is scheduled for some-
16 time later but it is contemplated to follow in the same re-
17 gard and the same purpose and for the same reason. It will
18 not be done arbitrarily or capriciously or without consulting
19 the responsible persons and the individuals within those
20 divisions.

21 But we can no longer tolerate the Department of
22 Justice being in 25 units and facilities, most of which are
23 sub-standard and with only the heads of divisions or certain
24 management people being in main Justice. I think that is
25 undesirable from their point of view and terribly undesirable

1 from the rank and file of the particular divisions' point of
2 view.

3 Those are the five points that I wished to discuss
4 with you briefly, and I now will be happy to respond or try
5 to respond to questions.

6 QUESTION: (inaudible)

7 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Because of the size and the
8 growth of litigating divisions in the department generally
9 over the last ten years, we are not able to bring all of the
10 litigating divisions in toto into the main Department of
11 Justice. It would not physically be possible. So the alter-
12 native to that, if you believe in the wisdom of consolida-
13 tion of a division into a single unit and the benefits of
14 communication as well as esprit de corps and the ability to
15 see and work with one another, you must select sites outside
16 of Justice but close enough for general communication in
17 which the Antitrust Division can be all in one building, in
18 which the Tax Division can be all in one building, and which
19 will permit, for example, the Criminal Division or the Civil
20 Rights Division to be all located in one facility, too, or
21 one building, too, and that will mean consolidating and
22 bringing back into main Justice one or more units of a
23 division which are now spread between anywhere from three to
24 five different locations. And that is what I mean by con-
25 solidation of litigating divisions or other units in one

1 facility, I meant one building generally.

2 Yes?

3 QUESTION: (inaudible)

4 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The question was that last
5 year Attorney General Bell stated that no Department of
6 Justice employee would be put on unemployment, that any
7 economies which were necessary because of budget or appro-
8 priation concerns would be accomplished through attrition,
9 and the question was would I make the same commitment.

10 And the answer is generally yes, except that I will
11 not accommodate that commitment to a particular division or
12 unit or office or bureau at the suffrance of some other
13 division or office or bureau, and I am not certain with re-
14 gard to LEAA, for example, that, depending on the congres-
15 sional action, that I could live up to the commitment and
16 fiscal responsibility in whatever the budget or appropria-
17 tion turns out to be simply through attrition. If I can in
18 any possible way, I certainly will because I believe in that
19 principle and I would seek to maintain current staff and
20 accommodate and even run some risks of failing to accommodate
21 budgetary restraints hoping for normal attrition accomplish-
22 ing the budget limitation by the requisite end of the year
23 period.

24 So I can make the commitment fully and strongly
25 with the only slight reservation that I can't do that which

1 is impossible.

2 Yes, ma'am?

3 QUESTION: (inaudible)

4 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Criminal Division is one
5 of those divisions which is suffering the most because it is
6 I think now currently in four or five different locations.

7 Yes, ma'am?

8 QUESTION: (inaudible)

9 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Two things about that.
10 Sometimes, you know, the premise of a question would direct
11 an answer, so you can't simply answer, you have to challenge
12 the premise, and that is true of your question.

13 I do not believe -- and I may be wrong, and Kevin
14 can enlighten me -- I do not believe the whole office of
15 litigation support and systems is moving thirty miles away.
16 I think what you are referring to, if I have the right im-
17 pression, is the systems part, the hardware and management
18 part of the ADP systems removing to a more appropriate or
19 better site in Rockville or wherever it may be. That has
20 little to do with the other functions or performances of that
21 mission or that office's mission.

22 It wouldn't matter particularly if the hardware
23 and the people, important as they are, who run the hardware
24 and run the systems were located in California. Many auto-
25 matic data processing systems, centralized systems which

1 serve New York or Washington or Florida have a centralized
2 location in Cleveland or Chicago or Washington, D. C. So it
3 is not orange and oranges but apples and oranges.

4 Where is Kevin, perhaps he can -- is that correct,
5 Kevin?

6 MR. ROONEY: Right now it is actually the systems
7 programmers that are being contemplated to move to Rockville,
8 the systems design and development staff. We have not final-
9 ized those plans and we are still looking at other options
10 downtown. But as much with any other group that may have to
11 move to the suburbs, we are looking for groups that will ac-
12 commodate the available space in the suburbs and which will
13 not injure other operations by breaking up a group that needs
14 to be together.

15 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Yes, sir?

16 QUESTION: My name is Narciso Leggs, and I am an
17 employee with U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
18 At the present time, the U.S. Attorney in San Diego has
19 under indictment four Department of Justice officers and is
20 attempting prosecution for a problem that has been with us
21 for a long time, the immigration problem. The problem has
22 been an ignored problem and the allegations against these
23 officers stem and are a result from the problem that has been
24 ignored by both the government, by the Department of Justice,
25 by the Immigration Service, and just the other day again by

1 the President of the United States. When Portillo was here,
2 he ignored the immigration problem, only to get the brown
3 vote.

4 What are you doing to solve the immigration problem,
5 to improve the facilities, the quality of work and to boost
6 up the morale for the Immigration personnel?

7 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Number one, I do not agree
8 that the problem has been ignored, and it is not one problem,
9 it is thirty problems. Secondly, I am serving on, as you
10 know or perhaps know, the Select Commission on Immigration
11 and Refugee Matters which is holding hearings throughout the
12 country, the first I think today or yesterday in Baltimore,
13 eleven more scheduled, and four plenary meetings of that
14 commission to come up with suggestions and changes, integrated
15 suggestions and changes dealing with social problems, legal
16 problems, economic problems, equitable problems which plague
17 not only INS but also plague generally our refugee practices
18 and policies and foreign relations in the country.

19 Secondly, although the issue may not have been dis-
20 cussed publicly at the meeting with President Portillo re-
21 cently by President Carter, there are nine task forces work-
22 ing, working groups studying nine aspects of relations with
23 Mexico, at least five of them cover and involve immigration
24 related subjects and matters, and two of which or three of
25 which the Department of Justice has a lead role and

1 representation on those working groups, and they have progress
2 reports which are -- some have been submitted and some are
3 due for submission.

4 Thirdly, within the Department of Justice,
5 I have encouraged the support of the improvements in
6 the processing of service and benefit rights programs that
7 were instituted by Leonel Castillo, encouraged and supported
8 and continued the attempts to modernize and to provide
9 automatic data processing and computerization to the hor-
10 rendous volume of paperwork in INS in the benefit entitle-
11 ment services which it provides; I have encouraged a solution
12 in many different ways to the terrible problem of material
13 witnesses. A partial solution has been achieved in the area
14 of the country covered by the Fifth Circuit with regard to
15 random choice of material witnesses and with speedy trial.
16 It is a more serious problem in the Ninth Circuit in
17 San Diego, where we recently achieved something of a break-
18 through through the approval of the magistrates notice
19 system so that all the material witnesses need not be held
20 so long as the defendant's counsel have notice promptly of
21 the selected witnesses which will be held.

22 I have encouraged the accelerated training of not
23 only language training but cultural training and sensitivity
24 training of border patrol officers in order to deal fairly
25 but firmly with their duties immediately on the border. I

1 think that probably the institution of this particular liti-
2 gation that you refer to, this prosecution is a partial re-
3 sult of a greater sensitivity and greater emphasis on
4 cultural and human understanding training which has been
5 instituted by the border patrol within the last two or three
6 years.

7 In addition to that, I think that within the
8 Department of Justice at least, the emphasis on civil rights,
9 the emphasis on law enforcement brutality, the appreciation
10 of the difficulties with regard to it, the attempt to de-
11 velop a national program or national standard for the use of
12 deadly force, the recent LEAA grant of in excess of \$800,000
13 for that study, the promotion within the department of a
14 task force to examine the present legal status of the use
15 of deadly force for ammunition, weaponry, as well as conduct
16 within state, local and the federal government, all go to
17 one area or another of problems which exist in the border,
18 exist within the immigration duties and exist particularly,
19 of particular concern to employees of INS and to Hispanic
20 Americans since the difficulties in the Southwest particu-
21 larly, but in other areas, generally are created by a whole
22 series of human tragedies in employment, in education, in
23 physical location, medical health, and other everyday con-
24 ditions exacerbated by the fact that people, men and women,
25 deserve a better opportunity and want a better opportunity

1 for themselves and for their children to earn a decent living.

2 QUESTION: I taught at the Border Patrol Academy
3 last year, and there is no sensitivity training program for
4 the Border Patrol agents. There has not been for three
5 years.

6 One other thing: It is hard for me --

7 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: There is no cultural train-
8 ing in Hispanic culture and Mexican-American culture?

9 QUESTION: I think there is about a one-hour or
10 two-hour program which deals with nothing but films. It has
11 nothing to do with sensitivity training, as a policeman would
12 have in the various states.

13 Now, it is very hard for me to believe what you are
14 saying, because here in my office in Washington, D. C., my
15 job is to detain prisoners, to detain illegal aliens. The
16 surroundings that I have, the facilities that I have where
17 I detain these aliens have holes this big (indicating) and
18 an alien can virtually go in and out of the cell as he so
19 desires. I have been here since December and that hole has
20 been there since December. It is so hard for me to conceive
21 that an immigration problem is going to be solved when the
22 Department of Justice cannot patch up a hole to keep an alien
23 inside.

24 Now, what is going to happen -- that is a problem.
25 It is a problem that has been ignored. What is going to

1 happen, one of these days an alien is going to run out of
2 there, he is going to escape and I'm going to have to go
3 after him and catch him. When that day comes, I'm not going
4 to do that.

5 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I haven't patched any holes
6 since I've been Assistant Attorney General or Deputy Attorney
7 General and I don't intend to patch any holes myself as
8 Attorney General.

9 (Laughter)

10 I will see that the hole gets patched the first
11 time I become aware of that particular problem.

12 QUESTION: (inaudible)

13 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I disagree with you and do
14 not believe that, that it will be ignored. I don't intend
15 to ignore it. I have searched now for the new head of INS
16 since Leonel is leaving, and a new Deputy, and I expect the
17 problems at INS to be partially solved. But they are balance
18 problems, they are problems with law enforcement and legiti-
19 mate duties, but there are also problems of decency and
20 respect and concern for victimized undocumented workers or
21 illegal aliens.

22 Yes, ma'am? Yes, sir?

23 QUESTION: My question is -- I was wondering if
24 you had in the budget about the print shop and better equip-
25 ment, et cetera.

1 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I don't know the answer to
2 that. Kevin will give you the answer. I don't think we are
3 about to do away with the print shop now either. I know
4 Judge Bell wasn't about to do away with it.

5 (Laughter)

6 QUESTION: I'm not speaking about doing away with
7 it. I was speaking of buying some better equipment.

8 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Better equipment.

9 QUESTION: That's right.

10 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Kevin?

11 MR. ROONEY: I'm afraid I can't respond directly to
12 the question. I don't know what plans we have for new equip-
13 ment down there, but I know that we continue to have Judge
14 Bell's commitment for the print shop.

15 (Laughter, applause)

16 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Yes, sir?

17 QUESTION: (inaudible)

18 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I haven't precisely decided
19 whether to -- how frequently to have these meetings. I enjoy
20 them and have enjoyed them in the past. I meet with and in-
21 tend to continue to meet with various segments of the depart-
22 ment. I have tried to make an effort -- I have only been
23 successful in doing it three times, to go about the depart-
24 ment for a couple of hours and the different buildings. I
25 have been to INS, I have been to the Community Relations

1 Service, I have been to the Civil Division.

2 I think it is important to utilize as many ways as
3 possible for the Attorney General particularly to do what he
4 can to learn to communicate and to provide means of access
5 to him from the members of the department in all its
6 operations and phases.

7 I would think that, as a general matter, that I
8 would like to have these sessions about once every six weeks
9 or so, but I wouldn't prejudge and say I am going to meet
10 every month or every two months. It will depend on how
11 things go. It may be that I will feel from time to time that
12 I ought to be meeting more frequently.

13 Yes?

14 QUESTION: (inaudible)

15 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Asian Americans.

16 QUESTION: (inaudible)

17 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: I don't have any statistics
18 on Asian Americans as judges. I do have and have considered
19 Asian Americans with regard to employment in the Department
20 of Justice and employment in management positions within the
21 Department of Justice, and it is very small.

22 So I think that the Asian American minority which
23 is one probably of the more outstanding minorities in terms
24 of lack of representation, is an integral part of affirmative
25 action and EEOC or EEO programs. I am not familiar with and

1 do not know the percentage of Asian Americans who are lawyers
2 and so I can't compare and evaluate the number of judges
3 either appointed or sitting in relationship to the lawyer
4 population or pool from which judges are chosen. I will find
5 that out though and let you know. Nelson Dong may be able
6 to tell me. He worked on some of these problems while
7 Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

8 QUESTION: (inaudible)

9 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: All right.

10 Any other questions?

11 (No response)

12 Thank you all very much.

13 (Applause)

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