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Remarks by: ROBERT MORGAN
Attorney General of North Carolina

1/2/73

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE
BURLEY B. MITCHELL, JR.

Your Honor, I am Robert Morgan, Attorney General
of North Carolina.

It is with a great deal of personal pleasure that
I come before you today to present Mr. Burley B. Mitchell, Jr.
for the administering of the oath of office for Solicitor
for the Tenth Solicitorial District of North Carolina.

There are two reasons why I am particularly proud on
this occasion and delighted to have an opportunity to share
in this ceremony: First, Burley Mitchell, Jr., is eminently
qualified for the position to which he has been appointed by
Governor Robert W. Scott. He graduated from the University
of North Carolina in 1969, and, as I have said many times in
the past, was a lawyer the day he was admitted to the Bar.
This cannot be said about every young law school graduate.
But he is favored with the natural bearing of a lawyer and
the skills and ability necessary to be an effective advocate.

Burley Mitchell has been diligent in his pursuit of the
law. He is a legal scholar who recognized long ago that the
Law is in fact a "jealous mistress", and requires a long and
constant courtship. He learned long ago the meaning of
advocacy and the satisfaction to be derived from representing
a client well. And I can say without hesitation that he has
been a good advocate for the State of North Carolina during
the three years he has served on my staff. As Solicitor of
the Tenth Solicitorial District he will be equally effective.

He has the kind of experience necessary to do so.

He has been admitted to practice and has appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of North Carolina, the Court of Appeals of North Carolina, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, all United States District Courts in North Carolina and all State Trial Courts in North Carolina.

As Attorney General I was so pleased with his performance as a member of my staff and his legal abilities that in 1970 I appointed him an Assistant Attorney General of the State of North Carolina, the position which he held until the time of his appointment.

I did so without hesitation knowing that because of his personality, his professional abilities and temper of the metal of which he is made, he would represent the State of North Carolina in a manner which would reflect credit upon the office and himself. He fulfilled well that trust just as he will the duties entrusted to him today.

Burley Mitchell will make a good Solicitor because I think he shares the Philosophy of one former President of our Nation who stated that "[N]o man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we

require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right; not asked as a favor."

Burley Mitchell will make a good Solicitor because he is also a reasonable man and as Sir Edward Coke declared more than three and a half centuries ago, "Reason is the life of the law." I predict his ability to combine reason with professional competence will soon win the sentiment of the people and the law will be stronger and more respected because of their support.

The second reason I am pleased with this appointment and proud to be participating in this ceremony, is more personal. I would be less than honest if I did not tell you that I take great pride in the fact that Governor Scott turned to the staff of the Attorney General of North Carolina to fill this very important position.

When I assumed my present office four years ago, I stated that I hoped that we could find attorneys for our staff who were so qualified that the people of North Carolina would automatically turn to my office to fill positions in the Government of our State. During the last four years, we have built a staff of highly competent and respected attorneys. Burley B. Mitchell, Jr. is only one of a number of attorneys now qualified to fill any position of leadership that this State might offer. His selection to be Solicitor of this

District, therefore, reflects credit upon his colleagues who remain to serve the State as "State's Attorneys" in our office.

I have enjoyed having Burley Mitchell, Jr. serve on my staff as Assistant Attorney General. I regret to see him leave for he has done an outstanding job, but I share with him the joy of this occasion and this recognition of his personal and professional accomplishments.

Your Honor, with great personal pleasure I present to you Burley B. Mitchell, Jr. for the administration of the Oath of Office for Solicitor of the Tenth Solicitorial District for the State of North Carolina.