

SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
INTRODUCTION - BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI

OCTOBER 17, 1980

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU AND TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE  
OF INTRODUCING TO MY DISTINGUISHED FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE NORTH  
CAROLINA STATE BAR, THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI, ATTORNEY  
GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

I THINK THAT WE ALL CAN AGREE THAT THE FEELINGS OF PRIDE AND  
DEEP AFFECTION THAT WE HAVE FOR OUR COUNTRY ARE MADE STRONGER WHEN  
WE SEE IN THE HIGHEST COUNCILS OF OUR GOVERNMENT PERSONS OF THE  
INTELLECT AND ABILITY OF OUR SPEAKER TODAY. AND OUR HOPES FOR THE  
FUTURE OF OUR NATION ARE BOOSTED.

BENJAMIN CIVILETTI, SINCE JOINING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN 1977, HAS HAD A REPUTATION AS A TRUE  
PROFESSIONAL. HE HEADED THE CRIMINAL DIVISION AND SUPERVISED THE WORK

OF SOME 350 ATTORNEYS. THAT WAS A CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENT AND A SENSITIVE POSITION. BUT HE WAS MORE THAN EQUAL TO THE TASK AND, AS A RESULT, JUST A YEAR LATER WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECOND-RANKING POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

AS DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. CIVILETTI HAD POLICY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL DEPARTMENTAL COMPONENTS THAT DEAL WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. THESE INCLUDE THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION, THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE, THE BUREAU OF PRISONS, AND THE CRIMINAL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH HIGH PRAISE OF MR. CIVILETTI, I MUST AT THIS TIME PAUSE TO GIVE SOME CREDIT FOR HIS SUCCESS TO A GOOD TEACHER. HE WAS PRIVILEGED TO SERVE UNDER AND WORK DIRECTLY WITH MY GOOD FRIEND, THE HONORABLE GRIFFIN BELL. I CAN SAY IN ALL CANDOR THAT I HAVE

NEVER BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A WARMER, MORE UNDERSTANDING AND TALENTED PUBLIC SERVANT. I STILL COUNT IT A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INTRODUCE GRIFFIN BELL TO THIS SAME GROUP IN CHARLOTTE, AND I TREASURE THE OPPORTUNITIES WE HAD TO WORK TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON.

SINCE OUR SPEAKER WAS APPOINTED THE NATION'S CHIEF LAW OFFICER IN THE SUMMER OF 1979, UPON THE RESIGNATION OF THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL, I HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK WITH HIM ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. EACH TIME HE HAS BEEN MORE THAN HELPFUL, AND EACH TIME I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY HIS SINCERITY AND HIS DEDICATION TO THE POSITION HE HOLDS. I HAVE THE FEELING, AND I HOPE THAT TIME SHALL PROVE ME CORRECT, THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI UNDERSTANDS THE NEED TO REDRESS THE GROWING INBALANCE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE VARIOUS STATES. I HOPE THAT HE WILL WORK TOWARD MAKING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL EVEN MORE A PARTNERSHIP WHICH HONORS THE

POSITION THAT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS INTENDED THE STATES TO OCCUPY  
IN OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM. I THINK WE ALL WOULD ENCOURAGE HIM TO DO SO.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BENJAMIN CIVILETTI TOOK A RATHER TRADITIONAL  
ROUTE TO HIS PRESENT POST. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND LAW SCHOOL, HE SERVED AS A LAW CLERK FOR A MEMBER OF THE  
BENCH, AND THEN AS AN ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY IN MARYLAND.  
HE THEN JOINED THE RESPECTED BALTIMORE LAW FIRM OF VENABLE, BAETJER  
AND HOWARD WHERE HE HEADED ITS LITIGATION DIVISION.

BENJAMIN CIVILETTI'S RECORD IN THE PRIVATE PRACTICE WAS OUT-  
STANDING AND HIS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE LEGION. THERE WAS LITTLE  
DOUBT WHEN HE WAS TAPPED FOR A TOP POST IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE THAT HE WAS QUALIFIED AND WOULD SERVE WITH DISTINCTION. HE  
HAS FULFILLED EVEN THE HIGHEST OF EXPECTATIONS AND THERE IS THE  
FEELING THAT HIS QUIET AND EFFECTIVE MANNER WILL CAUSE HIM TO RANK WITH

THE BEST WHO HAVE SERVED BEFORE HIM AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

WE SHOULD ALL BE PLEASED AND ASSURED THAT BENJAMIN CIVILETTI  
SITS IN THE HIGH COUNCILS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL, I WELCOME YOU TO NORTH CAROLINA TODAY AND,  
WITH GREAT PLEASURE, I PRESENT YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTH  
CAROLINA STATE BAR.