

**Lieutenant Governor William W. Scranton's inaugural ceremony, January 16, 1979 (10:44)**

>> Chair at this time would invite the lovely wife of our lieutenant governor-elect to the rostrum to participate in the ceremony. Will everyone please rise? [ Gavel pounds ]

>> Chief Justice Eagan: Just a brief word. This is a day of pride and great joy for the people of Lackawanna County. And as one of the privileged few living in that richly blessed part of Pennsylvania, it is with great pleasure that I administer the oath of office to the next lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania, the honorable William W. Scranton III. Mr. Scranton, will you place your left hand on your Bible and raise your right hand and repeat after me? I...

>> I...

>> Eagan: William W. Scranton III...

>> Scranton: William W. Scranton III...

>> Do solemnly swear...

>> Do solemnly swear...

>> That I will support, obey, and defend...

>> That I will support, obey, and defend...

>> The Constitution of the United States...

>> The Constitution of the United States...

>> And the Constitution of this commonwealth.

>> And the Constitution of this commonwealth.

>> And that I will discharge...

>> And that I will discharge...

>> My duties as lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania...

>> My duties as lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania...

>> With great fidelity...

>> With great fidelity...

>> So help me God.

>> So help me God.

[ Applause ]

>> Governor Kline: Before presenting now-Governor Scranton, will you please be seated? We promised the photographers just a few minutes. And anyone else that may want to take a whack at a flash shot is perfectly free to do so.

[ Gavel pounds ]

The Senate will please be in order. It is now my honor and happy privilege to present the gavel of authority of the Senate of Pennsylvania to the honorable William W. Scranton III, lieutenant governor of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Governor Scranton?

[ Applause ]

>> Governor Scranton: Thank you, Governor Kline. Governor Kline, Governor-elect and Mrs. Thornburgh, Chief Justice Eagan, Dr. Ritter, Bishop Stevenson, my family, my friends, and members of the Senate of Pennsylvania. An inauguration is a celebration of a new beginning. It is also a time for giving thanks to those without whom this celebration and this beginning would not be taking place. There are so many to whom I owe thanks. To my family and to my friends, many of whom are here today, but many of whom, due to space limitations, are not, who have assisted, advised, and criticized me over the past 12 months. To those in the lieutenant governor's office and the Senate, who have worked hard to assure a smooth transition. To Dick Thornburgh, who never lost hope and who led his party to one of the great upset victories in Pennsylvania history. To the 3 million Pennsylvanians who came to the polls last November to make the political system work. And, most importantly, to a wonderful lady named Coral Scranton, who stuck by me even in the darkest moments and set out on the campaign trail on her own in my behalf. Courtesy would dictate expressing my gratitude to Governor Kline. But my feelings of appreciation to him go far beyond mere courtesy. His openness, advice, and assistance in this transition period have been exemplary. It doesn't take much exposure to the Senate to know that as president of this body, he has been liked and respected by both sides of the aisle. I will endeavor to follow his example of skill and

competence. But if I fail to do so, it won't be for lack of his willingness to help. To all of you, I say thank you very much for making today possible and for giving us the chance to provide Pennsylvania with four years of honest, progressive, and responsible government. It is with a deep sense of pride and with great expectations for what we can accomplish together that I take this oath of office today. As lieutenant governor, I will be an active part of the Thornburgh administration. But in addition to being part of the governor's team, there is a special assignment that goes with being lieutenant governor. That assignment is to preside over the Senate. And that is why it is appropriate to hold a separate swearing-in ceremony here in this Senate chamber. No one in this room needs to be reminded that the role of Senate president is more than ceremonial. It is nearly a full-time occupation in itself, as it should be. Party differences are part of the challenge of presiding. It is no secret that there will be a Republican lieutenant governor presiding over a predominantly Democratic Senate. This is something that would not happen in the House, and it is the first time it has happened in the Senate since 1959, when John Morgan Davis presided. We are going to have our differences of opinion, but those differences can be both instructive and constructive if we handle them properly. Inaugurals often include pleas to lay partisan politics aside and to go forward together. Politicians and the public know that this is not always going to happen. We have responsibility to our parties, as well as to the public as a whole. Partisanship in the best sense can focus public attention and encourage responsible debate. Responsible partisanship, though, means neither slavish devotion to the party line, nor automatic opposition to everything the other party attempts to do. Responsible partisanship demands from us a respect for the opposition and an adherence to basic ethical principles. To get things done for Pennsylvania, we must first get along with each other and constantly resist the temptation of opposition for opposition's sake. That requires restraint. On the part of the majority party in the Senate, not to automatically bottle up the administration's legislation and appointments, but rather to offer constructive criticisms and viable alternatives. On the part of the minority, to refrain from nitpicking and grandstanding and instead to show a willingness to compromise and share the credit. And on my part, a pledge to preside fairly and evenhandedly, rather than thwarting the will of the members with politically tinged, parliamentary hairsplitting. We all know that the image of Pennsylvania is at a low ebb. Dick Thornburgh and I feel that we were elected with a mandate -- not a Republican mandate, nor a Democratic mandate, but a Pennsylvania mandate to conduct government cleanly, competently, economically, and to bring Pennsylvania to the forefront as a productive,

evolving state where creativity and innovation are fostered and encouraged. All elected officials share this mandate. Pennsylvania must be rejuvenated politically, economically, and spiritually, and now is the time it must be done. How we approach this task here in the Senate of Pennsylvania, how we debate the issues and handle our differences, and, most importantly, what motives we bring to our jobs will determine whether this mandate is fulfilled. An inaugural, as I said, is a new beginning. I couldn't be more proud to be here today with so many distinguished Pennsylvanians. I couldn't be more hopeful for the future of Pennsylvania. On behalf of the administration, I invite you all to Dick Thornburgh's inaugural and the festivities being held around town. And after the celebrations are over, it will be time for us to go to work. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]