

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release:

March 14, 1994

The following letters were exchanged today between the President and the Associate Attorney General. The text of the President's letter is attached.

March 14, 1994

The Hon. Webster Hubbell
Associate Attorney General
United States Department of Justice

Dear Webb:

It is with profound sadness and regret that I accept your resignation as Associate Attorney General of the United States.

I know better than anyone the spirit of citizenship and devotion to the law that inspired you to join our Administration and to take part, as Holmes said, in the actions and passions of our time. In the last year, these values came shining through as you worked for civil justice reform and immigration enforcement, fought to end discrimination in public housing, and to protect the civil and voting rights of all Americans.

In these tasks you affirmed our commitment to justice, always with keen judgment and good humor, especially at vital times of challenge for the Department. The Attorney General and I will miss the service and advice you gave us. And I know your accomplishments in office will outlast any interest in the private matters that have arisen from your prior law practice and that motivated the difficult decision you announced today.

Like you, I hope that you will return one day to public service. I remain, as always, grateful for your long and lasting friendship.

Sincerely,



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

The Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 14, 1994

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

For over a year, I have had the privilege of serving you, the Attorney General, and the nation at the Department of Justice. I am deeply grateful and honored for this opportunity to serve as the Associate Attorney General of the United States. I have tried to serve with honor and distinction and to follow your lead in trying to make a difference in the every day lives of the American people.

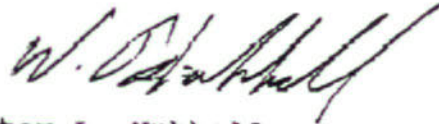
As a public servant, I owe it to you and to the American people to evaluate constantly whether my continued service can be as effective as you would expect of me, whether it furthers or distracts from your agenda, and what effect being in the public eye is having on my family and colleagues. Over the past weekend I have undertaken such an evaluation, and I have decided to submit my resignation as Associate Attorney General. My resignation shall be effective as soon as possible, allowing the Attorney General the time to effect a smooth transition at the Justice Department.

I am proud of the reputation I have established over the past 20 years as a private lawyer, Arkansas Supreme Court Justice, public official, and private citizen. Unfortunately, because of public speculation about me and my former law firm, I will have to spend a significant amount of my personal time on an internal matter with my former partners. I am confident of the outcome.

I will leave the Department of Justice with great admiration for the Attorney General, high regard for the professionalism and dedication of its employees, and with great pride in the Department's accomplishments during the past year.

Public service has always been one of the greatest joys of my professional life. It is my sincere hope and belief that by devoting sufficient time and energy now to my family and other private issues, I will reenter public service in the future. Thank you for allowing me such a wonderful opportunity and, most of all, thank you for your friendship.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. L. Hubbell', written in a cursive style.

Webster L. Hubbell

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THE REUTER TRANSCRIPT REPORT

PRESS CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCING THE RESIGNATION OF
WEBSTER HUBBELL AS ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

BRIEFER:
JANET RENO, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, DC

3:30 P.M. EST
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1994

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TRANSCRIPT BY: FEDERAL NEWS SERVICE
620 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20045

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ask the president to accept his resignation. I understand that that has now
occurred.

There are no words capable of fully conveying to you my deep respect and
admiration for Webb Hubbell or how sad this event makes me. He has been a
tireless crusader for doing justice, for doing the right thing. He is a
compassionate, deeply caring advocate for many Americans whose voice has not
always been heard in the councils of government.

Webb was directly responsible for changes in the Justice Department's
information policy, which had made the Justice Department and government more
open and accountable.

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x x x accountable.

He is responsible for substantial increases in the staffs of the anti-trust division and the civil rights division and in forging new initiatives in these areas. He is responsible for major issues in immigration and environmental enforcement and equality for the disabled. The fact that the civil rights division now has 18 more lawyers fighting housing discrimination, 8 more lawyers working to protect voting rights, and 21 more lawyers seeking equal opportunity for the disabled is a testament to the commitment and energy of Webb Hubbell.

In the months ahead, we will see more of his legacy. He has been working on a major effort to reform the civil justice system -- his objective, to reduce the costs and delays associated with civil litigation, and most importantly, to give all Americans, the poor as well as the rich, access to our legal system and to the courts.

I understand the difficulty of trying to do two things at once, a burden for Webb that no longer seemed tolerable. It is characteristic of Webb that he wanted to give his full attention to one matter or the other -- or resolving old, private disputes. I know nothing of the latter, but of the former I can say unequivocally that Webb Hubbell gave fully of himself to make America a better place, and I'm going to miss him.

Q Ms. Reno, let me ask you a question. This is the second attorney within ten days to resign from the administration.

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Is this saying something in particular about the choices the administration is making in terms of attorneys here?

ATTY GEN. RENO: No.

Q Ms. Reno, the president is in Detroit. He's participating in a jobs conference. This resignation is going to step all over his headlines today. Fairly or unfairly, people are going to say that this is another example of improper coordination within the administration.

ATTY GEN. RENO: Only the media cares about people stepping on headlines. We do it the right way.

Q Ms. Reno, do you -- how much -- you didn't mention this, obviously, in your statement, but how much does the fact that there have been charges of overbilling and all the rest of that have to do with -- and improprieties while he was a partner at the Rose Law Firm, have to do with his departure?

ATTY GEN. RENO: He wants to try to address the issue of the private dispute and he doesn't feel he can be effective.

Q Do you think that this is the right thing for him to do, the best course of action for him to take?

ATTY GEN. RENO: Each of us, faced with something like this, has to make their own best judgment. And I support him, as a person who has watched a valued public servant in action. I know that Webb Hubbell will make the best decisions for himself, for the president, for his family, and for America.

Q Ms. Reno?

Q Ms. Reno?

Q Ms. Reno, last week you said he was not distracted by these allegations, he was able to work effectively. Now he is. What has changed since last week?

ATTY GEN. RENO: No, what I told you was that I had not had any -- seen any impact, because Webb Hubbell was giving his full service to public service, and he has obviously reached a conclusion that the

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time has now come when he must look to the private issues involved. But I saw no -- absolutely no interference with his work, because he is a man who is so committed.

Q Ms. Reno, did you try to -- did you suggest that he not resign, and can you tell us if you have anyone in mind to replace him?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I don't have anybody in mind at this point. We're reviewing all possibilities to make sure that it's a person who will best serve the department.

I have talked with him today, and understand the issues that he has faced with his family, caring about the United States, caring deeply about his family, to whom he is so devoted. And I have told him that I would support him in whatever decision he made.

Q Ms. Reno, when does he leave?

Q How will this affect the Justice Department's relationship with the White House?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I don't think it will affect it.

Q Ms. Reno, do you remain convinced that he didn't do anything wrong, do you believe he didn't do anything wrong?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I don't believe he did a thing wrong, and I think ultimately that that will be clear to everyone.

Q Will you definitely fill the position?

ATTY GEN. RENO: Yes.

STAFF: A few more questions, then we'll have to stop.

ATTY GEN. RENO: Ms. Reno, you said that one of the things that you liked least about your first year here is your inability to get positions filled rapidly. And now you've had the two top positions in the department under you resign within a matter of a few months. In a sense, are things going backwards on that point?

ATTY GEN. RENO: No, I think they will go forward.

Q You said you didn't believe he did a thing wrong. Do you base that on knowledge of his character or knowledge of the facts involved in his -- (inaudible) -- the Rose Law Firm?

ATTY GEN. RENO: I don't have any knowledge of the facts. I base it on my judgment of his character.

Q Ms. Reno, could any of this lead to either possible disbarment proceedings or any criminal actions against him?

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ATTY GEN. RENO: That would have to be addressed in another context.
STAFF: I'll take this last one. (Harry ?), did you have a question?

Q When is his resignation effective?

ATTY GEN. RENO: He has indicated that it would be as soon as possible.

Thank you.

STAFF: Thank you very much.

Q Thank you.

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