Hazel O'Leary is sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Energy on February 5, 1993, by U.S. District Court Judge Anne Thompson. Holding the Bible is the Secretary's son, Carl Rollins. At far left is Vernon Jordan, head of the President's Transition Team, and Dennis Bakke, President of the AEC Corp. Second from right is Harley Goodbear, an official of the Native American Church, who offered the invocation.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

and government" to lead the Department through the upcoming period of change. Clinton added that O'Leary was sensitive to one of the Department's "biggest problems": its "very little credibility out here in the heartland. Ask any governor of either party," Clinton argued, "and he or she will probably be able to cite some example when they've had dealings with the Department of Energy which were exceedingly frustrating, where the credibility of the Federal Government was suspect and where the states felt they weren't being treated in an upfront, open and reasonable manner."[243]

O'Leary, in her own statement and at her confirmation hearing on January 19, echoed the words of the President-elect. She agreed that energy policy decisions were central to creating jobs, maintaining the health of the economy, and improving the quality of the environment. Looking at her own experience, she noted that after being "twenty years in this business" the Nation was no better off in terms of dependency on foreign oil than it was in 1974. "That's unconscionable for this nation," the new secretary asserted, "and it's also unconscionable for those who have attempted to set policy. It has not worked." Like Clinton, O'Leary stated, "I believe we need change in the Department of Energy. Change is necessary because I know the same tried-and-true strategies do not work." O'Leary's own goals for the Department were, in her words, "very simple [but] very difficult to undertake—to maximize all energy conservation, efficiency, and alternative energy, to