



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson “The Department of Homeland Security’s Management Directorate: Goals and Objectives of the New Under Secretary”

March 1, 2007 (WASHINGTON) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Subcommittee on Management, Investigations, and Oversight hearing entitled “The Department of Homeland Security’s Management Directorate: Goals and Objectives of the New Under Secretary”:

“Too often folks from the Department come up here, sit in the very chair you’re now in, and defend the indefensible. That doesn’t do anyone any good. We are in this together, and we need to know what’s wrong if we are going to help you fix it. Your job is not the sexiest in the Department, but it is one of the most important.

It falls to you to fit the many pieces of the Department into one functioning whole. You are charged with finding a way to improve the Department’s last-place finish in the recent OPM job satisfaction survey. Your office oversees the Department’s procurement operations, which have been beset with problems since the Department first came into being. It is your responsibility to unify the Department’s information technology, human resources, and financial systems.

And while you are doing all that, you have to try to right the ship in your own Directorate - because the reports we got during the tenure of your predecessor were, to say the least, not encouraging.

I am hopeful you can improve on all of these areas. I trust that you’re planning on sticking around long enough to make the trains run on time within your Directorate and across the Department. Today - and in the future - I’ll be looking for you to do more than just identify problems.

I’ll be looking to you to identify solutions. And where there is no solution I’ll be counting on you to say so. Don’t be afraid to tell us that something is beyond fixing. Because as you said when we met a few weeks ago, “bad news does not age well.” That is especially true when it comes to securing our homeland.”

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