



## REMARKS

ANSI Reception Honoring Oliver R. Smoot as ISO President  
February 26, 2003

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### **Dr. Mark W. Hurwitz** **ANSI President and CEO**

- Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. For those of you whom I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I am Mark Hurwitz, President and CEO of the American National Standards Institute. It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the members and staff of ANSI, and on behalf of the entire U.S. standardization and conformity assessment community. This special occasion honors Oliver “Ollie” Smoot as he begins his term as the President of the International Standards Organization (ISO).
- As you may know, ANSI serves as coordinator of the U.S. standards system, accrediting organizations to bring together professionals and experts for the development of American National Standards. Our mission is to facilitate and promote voluntary consensus standardization as a means for enhancing the quality of life for our consumers and workers and advancing the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in a global marketplace.
- We represent the U.S. as its official member body to the international organizations of ISO, a worldwide federation of national standards bodies with representatives from 145 countries, and, via the U.S. National Committee, to the International Electrotechnical Commission. Our international relationships are significant from both a technological and an economic perspective. It is estimated that 80 percent of global merchandise trade is affected by standards and by regulations that embody standards. Trade in services is also on the rise.
- Ollie’s term comes at a point when international standardization is called on to respond to the globalization of trade, the issues posed by new challenges such as sustainable development, and the requirements of the information society. Whether referring to products, processes, systems or services, the U.S. strongly supports and is fully committed to a voluntary, consensus-based, private-sector led and public-sector supported standards process.

(pause)

- It is now my pleasure to introduce the chairman of ANSI’s Board of Directors, Dr. George W. Arnold.

Dr. Arnold . . .

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### **Dr. George W. Arnold** **Chairman, ANSI Board of Directors**

- Thank you, Dr. Hurwitz. Good evening everyone.
- Ollie Smoot is not actually finished with his service to ANSI – he is just transitioning on to the next phase.
- When ANSI nominated Ollie for the position of ISO President-elect in early 2001, we knew that his expertise in the standards, technology and law communities made him uniquely qualified to lead the organization. He had already served more than a dozen years as an ANSI Board member representing the Institute's Organizational Members and as a leader of many of the Institute's governance committees and countless delegations to regional and international policy groups.
- Throughout his tenure, Ollie has worked diligently to promote and support cross-industry collaboration. He has provided dedication and long-standing support to the U.S. standards community and is now positioned to provide the same level of dedication and support at the international table.
- Globally relevant standards are critical factors in meeting the global requirements necessary to promote trade and economic prosperity.

ANSI is focused on activities that will advance trade issues, protect our environment, develop effective social initiatives, improve safety and health programs and make an overall contribution to the betterment of our lives and the global economy.

- Under Ollie's leadership, the Institute made significant progress towards implementation of the U.S. National Standards Strategy. As you know, the NSS provides a framework for the U.S. standards system. It provides direction, structure and focus so that U.S. interests can work to ensure that the technologies incorporated into international standards will reflect the best technology without creating trade barriers.
- We were also well positioned to respond directly to the critical needs of the nation so that we could step forward in early February with a new Homeland Security Standards Panel to accelerate and coordinate the timely development of consensus standards within this national priority.
- It is these diverse public- and private-sector actions and initiatives that propel the Institute forward as we remain committed to enhancing of the quality of life for all global citizens.
- Ollie, if you are as successful during your tenure at ISO as you were with ANSI, I know we'll all be in store for a very exciting and positive future.

Please join me in extending our appreciation to Ollie and wish him every success as President of ISO.

- It is now my pleasure to introduce the Honorable Michael Oxley. Congressman Oxley is serving his eleventh term in the House of Representatives and is Chairman of the new House Committee on Financial Services. A firm believer in market competition, Mr. Oxley draws on his business and financial expertise to advocate policies promoting personal savings, jobs, and economic growth.

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### **The Honorable Michael Oxley**

- High honor and a major achievement to be a leader in the global standards community. Since ISO's founding, only three other Americans have held the office of President of this worldwide federation.
- The work of ISO is far-reaching. For more than 50 years, the organization has helped more than 140 nations reach agreement on the standards that underlie world trade, manufacturing, scientific research, and more.
- Life as we know it today would not be possible if it were not for international agreement on how we measure, determine quality, and provide for health and safety.
- As tariffs and other trade barriers wane and world trade increases, the pressures to harmonize standards in many fields increases. As the world becomes more interdependent, the importance of international standards grows. Having a strong leader at the head of ISO becomes more and more essential; having that person be an American is critical at this point in time..
- We are fortunate to have Mr. Smoot in this pivotal role.
- It is now my pleasure to introduce to you the guest of honor, Mr. Oliver R. Smoot, President of the International Organization for Standardization.

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### **Oliver R. Smoot ISO President**

- Thank you Chairman Oxley.
- In contrast to a new congressman, I have had a whole year as ISO President-Elect to learn this job.
- ISO is focused on its “1-1-1 Dream” – at most one standard, one test, and one conformity assessment to get products and services on the market. ISO can produce many standards to turn this dream to reality. I see my opportunity to ensure that the standards fulfilling the dream are truly globally relevant, reflecting global consensus.
- My key initiatives:
  - Get the Developing Countries actively involved in ISO’s technical committee work, so ISO better reflects global views.
  - Deepen consumer participation in the technical work so that national positions reflect all parts of their societies.
  - Bring our brand new CEO, Alan Bryden, formerly CEO of the French National Standards Body, up to speed. Significantly, Alan’s first official member body visit will be with ANSI in March.
  - Improve ISO’s process of identifying new areas of work.
  - Support ISO’s participation in development or use of security relevant standards to meet global needs for homeland security.
- The U.S. participates in ISO through ANSI. In the U.S. we have a uniquely synergistic partnership between the public and private sectors. This partnership is good for ANSI and ANSI’s representation of U.S. views in ISO. I hope George, Bob Noth, and Mark will be able to strengthen this partnership even more.
- Perhaps in two years I can come back to the Hill and give a report card.
- Thanks for you support and attendance.

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**Dr. George W. Arnold**  
**Chairman, ANSI Board of Directors**

**(Continuation)**

- Thank you, Ollie.
- Ladies and gentlemen, as the final component of our formal presentation this evening, I would like to present Ollie with a small remembrance of this evening's event. . .

In this folder is a copy of remarks that were entered into the Congressional Record by the Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Ranking Minority Member of the House Science Committee, on behalf of himself and Science Committee Chairman Boehlert. They honor Ollie as an outstanding American who has labored long for the betterment of Science and the global economy. It is my honor to add my congratulations to those forwarded by the members of Congress to Mr. Smoot.

Ollie, congratulations and best wishes.

- Thank you. Now, please continue to enjoy the reception.