

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY NOVEMBER 13



**Virginia Mae Brown, West Virginia's first woman insurance commissioner and the first woman to serve in the Interstate Commerce Commission, was born in Putnam County on November 13, 1923.**

**CSO: SS.8.6, SS.8.9, SS.8.11, SS.8.24**

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1. In addition to serving as the first woman to hold the title of insurance commissioner and Commissioner of the Interstate Commerce Commission, list three additional roles in Virginia Mae Brown's career.
2. List (3) goals that Virginia Mae Brown advocated for during her time as Commissioner of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

**Think Critically:** How has interstate commerce and West Virginia's role in the global economy as it relates to natural resources and national/ international business and trade changed over time? What is West Virginia's largest export? Were women taking on positions of authority anachronistic to women's roles in the late-1970s—or had the paradigm shifted due to the women's rights movement?

Interstate Commerce Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20423

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JUL 30 1979

Dear Mr. President:

Virginia Mae Brown, Vice Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is one of five persons--and the only woman--recommended by the Fourth Circuit Panel, United States Circuit Judge Nominating Commission for appointment to a new position on the Fourth Circuit.

As one who has worked closely with her as a colleague for the past 5 1/2 years I am writing to commend to you her many fine personal qualities, which in my opinion are well suited to a career on the Federal Bench. She works well with others, seeks common ground where there are collegial differences, and has an unusual ability to look at personal, emotional, and highly charged situations in a detached, objective, and impersonal manner. She is conscientious and hard working, willing to carry more than her share of the load without grumbling, and always has been concerned about the image and credibility of the Commission, consistently acting to strengthen them. She possesses a "judicial temperament."

At the Commission, Vice Chairman Brown has been alert to the need for change. As a Commissioner who has advocated modernization of our organizational structure, reduction of regulatory lag, stimulating competition, and reducing unnecessary regulation and constraints on surface transportation, I can attest that she has given strong support to Chairman O'Neal in his efforts to achieve those goals. Without her aid considerably less would have been accomplished.

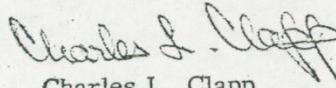
Important, too, in assessing her qualifications for the Federal Judiciary is the wealth and breadth of her working experience. It has given her a knowledge and understanding which surely would be invaluable on the Court. Her long tenure here--more than 15 years--has prepared her to deal effectively with some of the most complex issues relating to transportation. In her home state of West Virginia Vice Chairman Brown served as Insurance Commissioner and as a member of the Public Service Commission. Prior to those assignments she was

Mr. President

first a law clerk to the Attorney General of the State, then Executive Secretary to the West Virginia Judicial Council, Assistant Attorney General for nine years, and subsequently Legal Counsel to the Governor. These are impressive credentials, made all the more noteworthy since in the majority of these assignments she was the first woman to be named to the position.

Virginia Mae Brown is a splendid human being. Her appointment would permit her to continue her years of dedicated service to her State and country. I commend her many strengths to you.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Clapp  
Commissioner

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

June 29, 1979

cc: Senator Robert C. Byrd  
Senator Jennings Randolph  
Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator Birch Bayh