

September 25, 1974

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
PUBLIC AND DELEGATES OF ILLINOIS
LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING

Thank you very much, Bob.

Les, and Harold and Ken, it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to come over and pay tribute to three very close and very good friends of mine.

Illinois has a special affection, and these three have a very special, special affection. Of course, there has been no better friend of mine in my 24 years in the House than Les Arends, and I am proud of that friendship. I know how much his departure will mean to all of you in the Congress, all of your staff and to all of us in the Executive Branch.

Les, we will miss you very, very much.

Now that I am moving to the left -- (Laughter) -- Harold Collier, we will miss you. I am sure the Committee on Ways and Means will have a hard time replacing somebody who has done so well and worked so hard, but we hope you will be around.

They tell me that your golf game has improved. (Laughter) He is getting more practice, Ken says. But we do miss you, or we will, and we look forward to working with you, whether it is in Chicago or whether it is in Washington, because your counsel and help will always be gratefully received.

Ken, I tell you, you set a new style. (Laughter) Ken, you were way ahead of all the people that I have ever seen the last year or two, and you not only set a new style with apparel, but you set a new style with the speeches and the recommendations that you made.

I have admired your straightforwardness, and it has been a pleasure and a privilege for me to work with you. I think all of us should be grateful for the things Ken has done in this capacity in the Committee on Public Works. There will be some "kengraved" monuments, and I

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mean good ones, here a long, long time. (Laughter)

Thank you very much. And I said at a meeting I just attended honoring one of our good colleagues, or one of my former good colleagues, that I have been up on the Hill so much lately that people are accusing me of trying to vote, or to build up my attendance record, I am not sure which. (Laughter)

But it is nice to be back up here with friends. Good luck and God bless all of you.

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