

**The original documents are located in Box 24, “3/3/76 - Remarks at a Birthday Reception for Senator John McClellan of Arkansas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS

BIRTHDAY RECEPTION FOR SENATOR McCLELLAN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1976

I'm delighted to be here this evening, honoring one of our most distinguished Senators, my good friend John McClellan of Arkansas.

Senator McClellan, as I'm sure you know, was born on February 25th, 1896. Well, 1896 was a leap year -- and I can't help but think that if John had been born just four days later, tonight we'd be celebrating his twentieth birthday. And that would be very appropriate because I don't know of anyone who is younger at heart than John McClellan.

John McClellan has a record of public service going back for more than 40 years, when he was first elected to the House of Representatives. He was elected to the Senate in 1942 and reelected five times after that.

And as all of us who have served in the Congress know, you don't get that many votes of confidence unless your constituents

know you've been working long, hard and effectively on their behalf.

I might add that tonight we are toasting not only the man, but one of his finest accomplishments. It was Senator McClellan and the late Senator Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma who were most responsible for the opening of the Port of Catoosa, near Tulsa, five years ago.

As I'm sure you appreciate, the legislation authorizing that Port resulted in the creation of the largest single civil works project ever undertaken by the Federal Government Corps of Engineers -- the Arkansas River Navigation System. When that project was dedicated, it was rightly renamed the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System.

John, on this very special occasion, I salute your achievements on behalf of the people of Arkansas and the people of all the United States. I know you will continue to serve them wisely, honorably and well.

And I wish you many, many happy returns of the day.

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