The original documents are located in Box 39, “10/4/76 - Remarks Upon Accepting the Resignation of Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice
The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.
I want to announce today my decision to accept the resignation of Earl Butz as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

This has been one of the saddest decisions of my presidency.

Two years ago Earl Butz told me that he wanted to leave the cabinet. At my request he agreed to stay on until the end of this term, in spite of personal obligations.
TO HIS FAMILY. I FELT I NEEDED HIM IN THE CABINET TO IMPLEMENT MY POLICIES OF FULL FARM PRODUCTION COUPLED WITH FAIR PRICES FOR THE CONSUMER AND GOOD INCOME FOR FARMERS THROUGH SALES OF THEIR PRODUCTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

EARL BUTZ HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND, AND A MAN WHO LOVES HIS COUNTRY AND ALL THAT IT REPRESENTS.
EARL BUTZ HAS DEVOTED MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF HIS LIFE TO PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC SERVICE:

-- AS AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION;

-- AS A PROFESSOR AND THEN A DEAN AT ONE OF OUR MOST DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITIES;
-- AND MORE RECENTLY AS THE SECRETARY OF A
DEPARTMENT THAT HAS HELPED TO RESTORE PERSONAL FREEDOM
AND ABUNDANCE TO AMERICAN FARMS.

YET EARL BUTZ IS ALSO WISE ENOUGH AND COURAGEOUS
ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THAT NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, NO
MATTER HOW DISTINGUISHED HIS PAST PUBLIC SERVICE,
SHOULD CAST A SHADOW OVER THE INTEGRITY AND GOOD WILL
OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT BY HIS COMMENTS.
FOR THAT REASON I HAVE ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION

OF THIS DECENT AND GOOD MAN.

- END OF TEXT -