

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.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

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I WANT TO ANNOUNCE ~~TO YOU 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 ~~THAT~~ 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
the
OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT BY HIS COMMENTS.

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FOR THAT REASON I HAVE ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION

OF THIS DECENT AND GOOD MAN.

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