

POOL REPORT

President's Trip to Capitol Hill for Unveiling of Portrait of Congresswoman Leonore Sullivan (D-Missouri), Chairman of the Maritime and Fisheries Committee

Just before the President was introduced Mrs. Sullivan said among other things "she was so happy to have him take time from his overcrowded schedule". The President kissed Mrs. Sullivan and said that he was coming to the Hill= so often lately that some were accusing him of trying to build up an attendance record.

They have been good friends for 22 years. They have shared many thoughts and ideas and he has come to the ceremony with a very special message -- "Leonore, we can't keep on meeting like this. ~~XXXXX~~ Betty is getting suspicious". In concluding his remarks, the President said he wished Mrs. Sullivan the very best as she leaves Congress at the end of this session which surprised Mrs. Sullivan since she did not intend to retire.

Later, as he moved through the crowd, greeting numerous people, the President was overheard saying, "someone told me she was retiring this year. I don't want her to go" laughingly.

Then we rushed across the street to a retirement party in progress for Congressman Leslie Arends, Ken Gray and Harold Collier, all of Illinois. The President described them as three very close friends -- special mention of close friendship with Les Arends. The President was then handed literally a 9-month old Erika Radewagen, daughter of Fred Radewagen, staff coordinator for Territorial Affairs. The President kissed the baby and gave her back to daddy.

Again, he made reference to his frequent trips to the Hill. This time saying, "he was coming back so much that some were accusing him of trying to vote". After more handshaking, the President returned to the White House.

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