

STATEMENT BY EARL L. BUTZ
OCTOBER 4, 1976

I have submitted my resignation to the President as a member of the Cabinet.

This is the price I pay for a gross indiscretion in a private conversation. The use of a bad racial commentary in no way reflects my real attitude.

By taking this action, I hope to remove even the appearance of racism as an issue in the Ford campaign. President Ford is a decent man with high moral values, who insists that every American be treated equally and with dignity. Every member of his Administration must and does subscribe to the same values.

The record of the Ford Administration with respect to minorities is one of generous program support, sympathetic and dignified treatment, and genuine progress in economic and social terms. This area will continue to receive top priority.

My resignation must in no wise be interpreted as signalling a change in the farm policies of the Ford Administration. Under President Ford, net farm income in the U. S. is more than double the level of 1965-68 - the last four years of the Johnson Administration. Exports have tripled, cost to the taxpayer has been reduced by three-fourths, and 60 million acres formerly held out of production at public expense have been released for production. Farmers have had the yoke of bureaucratic control lifted from them. World and

domestic food needs are being filled more adequately than ever before. The use of food and food assistance programs for humanitarian needs is much higher than in the 1960's.

It is important that the agricultural program of this Administration be continued. That is why farmers should support Gerald Ford in the election. That is why I shall continue to work tirelessly for his election.