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## Remarks, delivered at Sederburg Tribute on June 27, 1990

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## REMARKS FOR SEDERBURG TRIBUTE - JUNE 27, 1990

It was once said that "politics is made up of three parts - complaints, compliments and compromise." Tonight we can set aside the first and third C and concentrate on the compliments.

Bill, you deserve the appreciation of all of us who have worked with you - your constituents and the thousands of faculty, students, and staff throughout Michigan. They may not know you well, if at all, but they have benefitted directly from your enlightened higher education policies. Those policies, I believe, are a result of your background as an

educator and a son of educators. You were born to make the contribution you have been making these past eight years. We can also credit your intelligence, your energy and curiosity, your interest in new approaches, and your exceptional sense of fairness. We who know you have come to trust your motives and approve of your actions - except on the golf course.

My favorite theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, said, "the whole art of politics consists in directing rationally the irrationalities of men." You have worked for a sane, fair, rational state policy for higher education dealing with forces

that I am sure did not always appear rational. You have succeeded to an unusual degree in the political arena, and your moves toward fairness in funding and excellence in research are a worthy legacy of your sensational career.

I have particularly appreciated the friendly way that you have always "heard me out." Everyone these past years has come to you asking for something. That must become tiresome, yet you listen and comment in a friendly and polite manner. Herbert Hoover reflected on the process with this comment. "The thing I enjoyed most," he said, "were the visits from children. They did not want public office." In the

future, Bill, when we come to visit you and Joyce we will  
bring our children.