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(HEBERT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH TODAY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER PLANS OF REP. F. EDWARD HEBERT, D-LA., TO RETIRE, AND PRAISED HEBERT FOR HIS SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

BUSH GAVE HIS THANKS TO HEBERT AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS REMARKS DURING A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS, CHAIRED BY HEBERT.

BUSH TOLD HEBERT, "YOU HAVE MANY FRIENDS IN THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. I BELIEVE THAT YOU WERE IN AT THE BIRTH OF THE CONCEPT OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO."

"YOU CAN RIGHTLY TAKE PRIDE IN A TRULY OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION IN A NUMBER OF AREAS," BUSH SAID. "CLEARLY THIS IS SO WITH RESPECT TO YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP IN ASSURING THAT OUR NATION'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INTERESTS WERE SERVED."

HEBERT TOLD BUSH, "THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOST GENEROUS REMARKS. I HOPE THAT I SHALL ALWAYS PROVE WORTHY."

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