

Unveiling a Portrait of 'A Rich Vein of Affection'

Richard G. Kleindienst returned to the Department of Justice yesterday, two years and eight months—and one conviction on a misdemeanor charge—after he resigned as the 68th Attorney General at the height of the Watergate scandal.

The occasion was the unveiling of his official portrait, commissioned by the Department for \$5,000 from Arizona artist Robert G. Harris.

In the audience were both Arizona senators, Barry Goldwater and Paul Fannin, and House Minority Leader John Rhodes (R-Ariz.), as well as some 150 friends and former Justice Department colleagues of Kleindienst's, or as he put it: "Nearly everybody on the face of this earth who made it possible for me to discharge my responsibilities and after I left, who really made it possible for me to stand up and be here today."

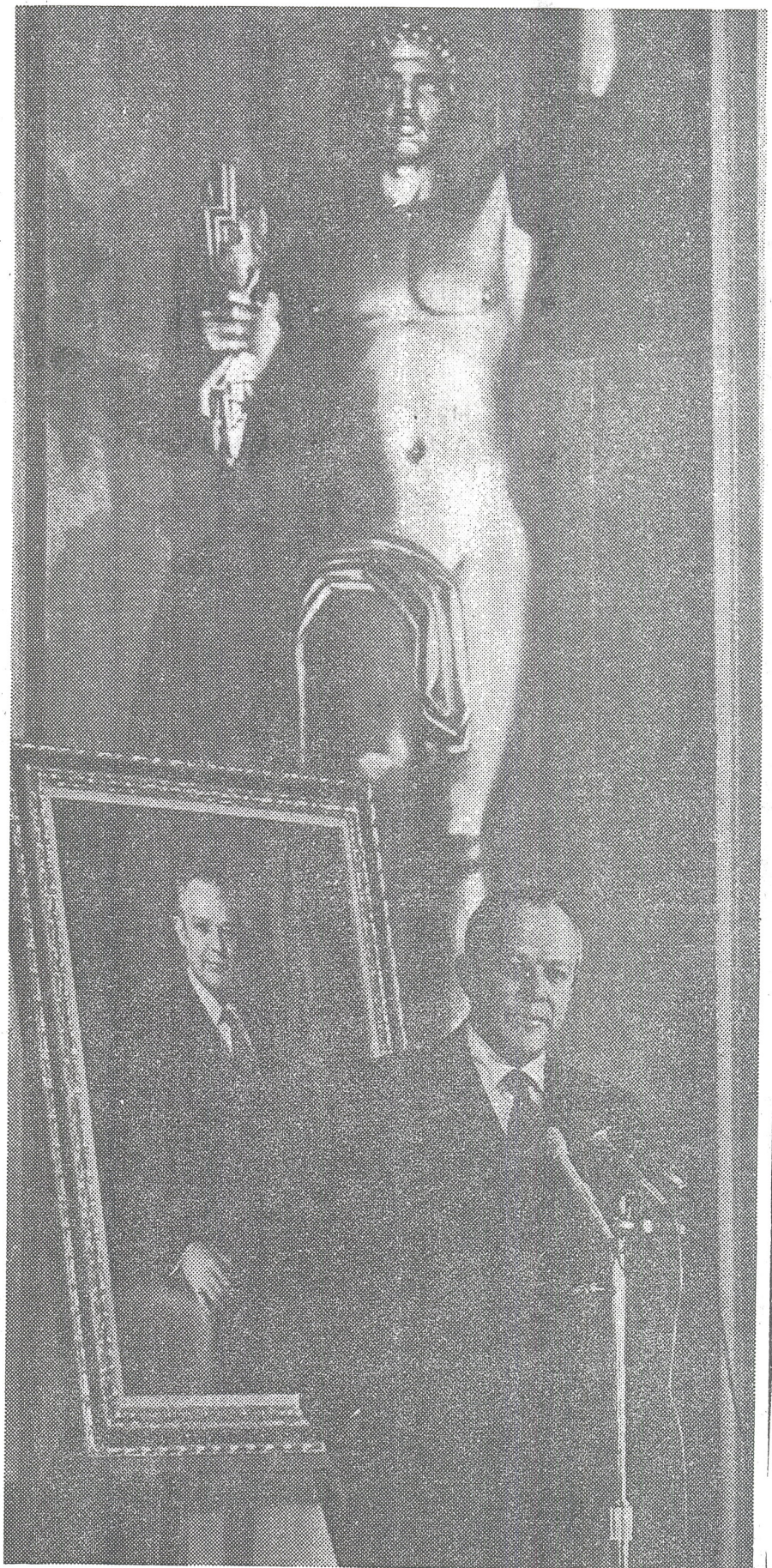
Kleindienst, who was accompanied by Mrs. Kleindienst, spoke almost reverentially of the Constitution and its provisions for a "government of law and not of men . . . the Department of Justice is the implementor and protector of that law."

The ceremony was begun by Attorney General Edward Levi, who told the crowd that "this is the kind of occasion when it's natural to make flattering remarks which may not be genuine. I want to disclaim any such intentions. The simple truth is that when I returned to this Department almost a year ago, I was struck by the rich vein of affection I found for Richard Kleindienst."

Kleindienst appeared visibly moved by the brief ceremony. He said of the portrait later that it was not at all how he viewed himself. "I see myself as much younger and slimmer."

Kleindienst is now in private law practice here. He pleaded guilty in 1974 to a charge involving his testimony on the ITT case and received a one-month, suspended jail sentence plus a \$100 fine.

—Donnie Radcliffe



By Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

Former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst at the unveiling of his portrait at the Department of Justice