

The original documents are located in Box C3, folder “O’Brien, George M. and Mary Lou” of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
ILLINOIS

November First
1976

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Ford,

It is late in the afternoon. Mary Lou and I, in some degree like yourselves, feel the relief of the campaign's end.

We felt we must tell you how simply great it was to have you come to Joliet to help us.

You are a great pair, a luminous example of what a family should be (Jack was *superb* in "Meet the Press" Sunday), and we respect, admire and in truth we dearly love you. With all our hearts -
Mary Lou and George



1976 NOV 4 PM 2 22

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GEORGE M. BROWN
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



14
Support
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

1-3-77



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

GEORGE M. O'BRIEN
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
ILLINOIS

December 28, 1976

ME
Copy
Dear Mr. President:

I thought you might enjoy a clipping from the editorial page of the Joliet Herald-News, which was so well written by Editor Jack Crittenden. You met Jack at the Sheraton the night of the Dole-Mondale debate. He was a reporter on a Michigan paper when you were beginning a great political career.

If ever an American President left public office standing tall in every sense of the word, that President is you; and we out here in the 17th District, like everyone else in the country, feel deeply about you.

Mary Lou and I wish you and Betty much well deserved happiness in the years ahead, and we hope to see you in the 17th District another day.

Very respectfully yours,

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501



WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

1977 JAN 3 AM 8 48

George M. O'Brien
Representative
Michigan

Dear Mr. President:

I thought you might enjoy a clipping from the editorial page of the Joliet Herald-News, which was so well written by Editor Jack Critchfield. You met Jack at the Sheraton the night of the DeLo-Mondale debate. He was a reporter on a Michigan paper when you were beginning a great political career.

As every American President will realize, office standing tall in every sense of the word, that President is you; and we are here in the 17th District, like everyone else in the country, feel deeply about you.

Mary Lou and I wish you and Betty much well deserved happiness in the years ahead, and we hope to see you in the 17th District another day.

Very respectfully yours,



The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

JAN 2 1977

HERALD NEWS

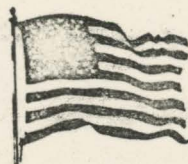
The Ring of Truth

"A Paper for All the People All the Time"



a Copley
Newspaper

Office and place of business, 300 Caterpillar Dr., Joliet, Illinois, 60436. Published by Copley Press, Inc., an Illinois Corporation. Published every day and Sunday morning. Second class postage paid at the post office at Joliet, Illinois.



William B. Sullivan
Jack Britton

Publisher and Editor

Executive Editor

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

President Ford standing tall

We read President Ford's first published interview since the election — with UPI reporter Dick Growald — with some relief. There had been rumors that Mr. Ford had taken his defeat badly and was spending his last days in the White House in bitterness and depression.

That obviously isn't the case, nor is it in character for Gerald Ford. A man overly sensitive to political reverses could not have survived in politics as long as he has, nor have risen as far as he did. Spending 25 years as a Republican in a Congress dominated by Democrats makes Mr. Ford no stranger to coming out on the losing side.

That Mr. Ford has kept out of the spotlight since the election is also no surprise. Jimmy Carter quite naturally is dominating news of the White House transition. We might observe that the smoothness and good feeling of that transition owe as much if not more to the personality of Mr. Ford as to that of Mr. Carter.

Indeed, history may record that Mr. Ford was in some respects a transition president. Though his 29 months in office have left a record of statesmanship and decision-making that will stand on its own right, he has performed an unusual role in the sequence of administrations that make up presidential history. He may sense that himself, telling Growald that he thinks his greatest achievement was the healing of wounds that wracked our body politic when he took the oath of office in August of 1974.

"When I became President, the people were angry with one another, they were disillusioned

with government, there was a lack of faith in the White House and in the whole American form of government," says Mr. Ford. That is no description of the conditions that will greet the next tenant of the Oval Office.

Mr. Ford can take considerable credit for expelling the ghosts of Watergate from the presidency, for winning back public confidence in an office that must function as a major seat of power regardless of who occupies it. His stalwart, uncompromising dedication to that goal is a measure of personal accomplishment that stands above the ordinary standards of judgment of a political officeholder.

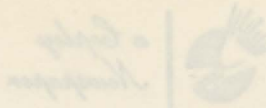
Mr. Ford, of course, did not see himself as a transitional figure with only that role to perform. He is known to have been laying plans for a new administration that would take on the individual stamp he could not impart to the executive at a time when stability and continuity were of high importance. We can only speculate on the new directions in government that might have emerged under an elected President Ford.

One thing is certain. The former congressman from Michigan who was thrust into the presidency by events beyond his choosing is leaving office with an uncommon degree of respect and affection in the eyes of Americans on both sides of the political fence. Mr. Ford says he's looking forward to an active future within his party and outside the political sphere. We're glad to hear that. It would be the country's loss if Jerry Ford becomes a has-been after Jan. 20.

BRALD NEWS

"A Paper for All the People All the Time"

Office and place of business, 300 Cal-
ifornia St., San Francisco, Cal.
Published by Capital Press Inc., an Illinois
Corporation. Published every day and
Sunday morning except when postage
paid at the post office at San Fran-
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Publisher and Editor
Executive Editor

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Judy - for the
special book.

J.
Berg-Hansen

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached is for your information.
It will be handled in a routine manner
unless you indicate otherwise.

Jim Connor

JHC