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November 18, 1976

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

FILE REFERENCE:

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MP
Honorable Gerald Ford, President
The United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your very gracious and appreciated letter of congratulations reached me at the Naval Hospital. I am doing well and expect soon to be released from here. I look forward to visiting with you in the not too distant future.

Although I recognize that no political defeat is ever a pleasant experience (I have tried it), you have every reason to take much satisfaction from your service as Chief Executive. You left the Legislative Branch with a fine record of service and personal integrity. You are leaving the Executive Branch with that record fully intact. You still have the friendship, the confidence, and the admiration not only of your former legislative colleagues but of the people of the United States.

You are a much younger man than I am, but you are old enough for your political philosophy to be suspect in the eyes of many of our younger citizens. Without regard to party affiliation, I think those of us, who have watched the affairs of financing of government as long as we have, know that there is no possible way of maintaining the buying power of the peoples' income without reversing the long-established trend of spending more than we take in. I do not feel that you have been infallible. You have made mistakes just as the rest of us have. I have not voted your views on many occasions, but I have not felt that you were intentionally sacrificing the good of the nation for the hope of personal advancement. You have served America well.

My highest regard and best wishes go with you.

Sincerely your friend,

Bob Poage
W. R. Poage, Congressman

WRP:mm

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