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*Pres -  
Ford,  
Steven*

April 23, 1975

Dear Colonel Gemmel:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge your letter of April 21 concerning the case of Congressman George Hansen.

While I appreciate what appears to be a similarity between the offense committed by Congressman Hansen, and the circumstances surrounding Steven Ford's failure to register on time under the Selective Service Act, such is not the case. Each year many young Americans fail to register under the Selective Service Act. As a result the Selective Service has a longstanding policy to prosecute only in the case of a flagrant violation. In the prosecution of violations of the Federal election laws there was no similar existing prosecutorial policy. Therefore, Congressman Hansen's case was brought to trial. Also, the courts generally require proof of willful intent in the case of a violation of the Selective Service Act. There was no proof that Steven Ford intentionally failed to register. However, proof of intent is not required to convict one who failed to file a required financial report under the Federal election campaign law.

In response to your request that the President extend Executive clemency to Congressman Hansen, I must inform you that clemency is only considered after the U. S. Pardon Attorney receives an application from one who has committed a Federal offense. The application is processed in accordance with existing guidelines which have been promulgated by the Attorney General with the approval of the President. If Congressman Hansen submits an application, it would be handled according to these guidelines. Presently, no application has been filed on his behalf.



Thank you for taking time to inform me of your concerns.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Colonel Bruce H. Gemmel  
USAF (Retired)  
2786 North Quebec Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22207

PWB:JTF:fcf



2786 North Quebec St.,  
Arlington, Va., 22207  
21 April 1975

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JF-1  
The President of the United States,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr President:

Yesterday my wife and I sent your offices a telegram asking for a pardon for Congressman George V. Hansen, who has been sentenced to two months in prison for a technical violation of Federal laws governing campaign financing; although the prosecutors noted at the time he pleaded guilty that he had filed reports in September that were in substantial compliance with the law.

However, he has still been sentenced to two months imprisonment for these technical violations, without intent to falsify his reports.

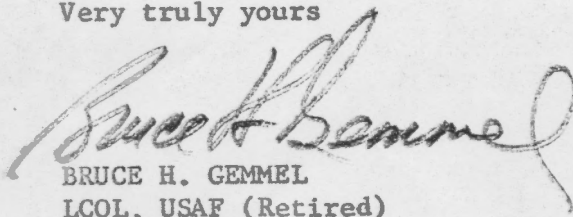
Just today we read in the Washington Post about another incident involving technical violation of Federal laws, this one involving your son Steve. We can agree with the applicable selective service board that there had been no deliberate attempt to violate these laws, on your son's part. And we are pleased that this matter has been resolved in your son's favor.

However, here we have two cases involving technical violations of the law, one earning a two month prison sentence and the other without penalty, and we can agree only with the latter case.

Again urge a Presidential pardon for Congressman Hansen; if this is not possible, then perhaps, if legally permissible, the Prosecutors could recommend a suspension of the imprisonment to the Judge.

My wife and I have known George and Connie Hansen, and their fine family, for several years now; he was once our next door neighbor. We simply cannot believe that he could be guilty of a wilful violation of the Federal laws.

Very truly yours

  
BRUCE H. GEMMEL  
LCOL, USAF (Retired)



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June 1975

**Steve To Utah U.**

WASHINGTON —(AP) —  
Steve Ford, the President's  
19-year-old son, will go to  
Utah State University next





## Ford To Visit Stable Boy 5/20/76

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. — (AP) — A local stable boy wants a visit from the President of the United States for his 20th birthday, and it looks like he's going to get it.