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May 27, 1975

Dear Miss Holm:

Because of my extremely heavy schedule your very kind and thoughtful letter of March 26th has gone unanswered much too long. However, your comments and observations are nevertheless very much appreciated.

It's true that many people were confused and angered by my pardoning of the former President. But in the months that have followed I believe there has been a broader acceptance of the fact that there was a need to end the divisiveness that the whole tragic episode had provoked.

The remark of your driver that "Rockefeller has enough money to be confirmed as King if he wants to be" was very puzzling. As you will recall, it was the Vice President's wealth that caused the greatest controversy during his confirmation hearings.

You may be sure that I, probably more than anyone else, am most concerned by the percentage of crime in our country. However, except for possibly one year under former President Nixon, the crime rate throughout the country has been increasing steadily for the past ten or fifteen years, regardless of the occupant of this office. So I really don't think we can attribute all of it to the current rate of unemployment, or to the fact that all of us are not rich.

We certainly have to accelerate our efforts at all levels of government—federal, state, and local, to insure that we have proper enforcement of the law. Persons who violate the law must be prosecuted and to the extent that the federal government can do so, I intend to see that they are.

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Pardon Nixon

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Holm, Celeste

I wholeheartedly agree that we must all work together in total cooperation. That is why I have been willing to go more than half way in meeting the Congress in an effort to straighten out some of our country's difficulties. Like you, I strongly subscribe to the theory of team effort dedicated to a common goal. With God's help I am most optimistic that our problems can be solved.

Thank you again for writing. Thought-provoking observations such as yours are always most welcome, despite the fact that my schedule may not allow a personal response in each instance.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Miss Celeste Holm
88 Central Park West
New York, New York 10023

GRF:ml

M/Write White

Holden a very nice
note - if I can copy
before Tues. P.M. it
would help.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1975

Mrs. Ford:

When I saw Celeste the other night she spoke in such glowing terms of you and the President that I thought her letter to you would be just a short Easter Message. I had no idea it would be of such magnitude. Please use your own judgement about showing it to the President.

Wilma

Wilma

*Send to —
Mildred Leonard*

*Please use your
good judgement as
to how the President
answers these letters*

Ms. Celeste Holm

*88 Central Park West
N.Y. N.Y. 10023*

March, the 26th

1975

My dear Mr President -

How we rejoiced at your very first appearance as president, encouraged as you certainly were by the sounds of friendship & support from so many. And how we watched your radiant wife & children hanging, as we did, on your every word which came so spontaneously from not only your head but your heart! At that moment you held us all in your hand!

Suddenly we had emerged from the clouds of sham & trempery to a sunlight of openness & truth.

Then came the pardon which confused & angered so many who felt that justice had at last to be done. And again the country's confidence was fragmented.

As an actress, I have in the last year covered 60,000 miles, lecturing & concertizing & conducting seminars. I am acutely concerned with the growing rage & frustration now surfacing with the growing crime rates.

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I am currently serving my second term on the Governing Board of the National Association for Mental Health. Last fall in Chicago where I was speaking at their Mental Health Ball, I was driving back to the airport & asked my hired chauffeur if he thought Rockefeller would be quickly confirmed as Vice President, to which he replied, "He's got enough money to be quickly confirmed as King if he wants to be!"

And this kind of thinking is the root of our problem! We show that we believe money to be the only symbol of success in this country. Maybe it's because most of our forefathers came here from such great privation that individual wealth became all-important. It's not possible for everyone to be rich in money, but if that is the only measure of success, how ^{surprisingly} dangerous become those who know that they cannot achieve it. That's when they come & turn down your house!

Isn't it time we rediscovered where real success lies — to accomplish something positive in harmony with those around us. In the theatre we know that no show can succeed without the total & constant cooperation between all the actors as well as the crew backstage!

To me the purpose of the Arts is only to remind us of the value of life itself. Young people today are longing to feel appreciated & to be a contributing part of something larger than themselves. We have bragged about competition as the basis of our free enterprise system. That's ok for the football field or the baseball diamond — but out in the great wide workaday world, it's cooperation & the sense of being a respected cog in an important wheel that counts.

I think this is why so many young people are attracted to the theatre & where we work as a team dedicated to a common goal.

The best movie director I ever worked with started the first day's shooting by saying, "You are all here because you know your jobs & I'm going to need all the help you can give me."

We would have done anything for him & that film subsequently won the Academy Award.

"Doing your own thing" was, I think, the dumbest phrase the kids ever adopted because no one can do anything that doesn't affect the world around him somehow. Even breathing changes the chemistry of the atmosphere.

I have infinite confidence in the strength & courage of the American people, as I'm sure you do, to deal with the enormous difficulties that confront us, but only if we recognize our own value in relation to each other. This then can be our challenge, our opportunity, to realize our strengths & our abilities. Let's get back to "Together we stand" because divided we most certainly will fall.

And we all need encouragement. The motion pictures & television

are the most powerful instruments of communication we have ever had & yet their producers seem to have no realization of their responsibility to our minds & our hearts.

You have it in your hands to promulgate this kind of unifying encouragement.

May I quote Abigail Adams in a letter to John:

"I wish you every public as well as private blessing & wisdom to conduct you in this difficult day."

And now is the most important time we ever have.

Sincerely

Clus Hoffman

801 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

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The President

*FLIXMAN
never open*

Cecile Holm
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Ny Ny 10023