

The original documents are located in Box C50, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 10/5/1976” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file
P.H.W.
10/5/76

Gov. Longley's
letter to
Jim Field

To go in
with new
telephone
recommendation
10/14

11:50

10/14



JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

October 7, 1976

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

Dear President Ford:

First of all, I am still amazed and enough of a hero worshiper of America and the Presidency and of Gerald Ford to still feel amazed and flattered that the President of the United States would call me on the telephone. I say this as I think without being presumptuous, we have developed a mutually close, appreciative and respectful friendship as two human beings separate and apart from our official capacities as President and Governor of one of the fifty states respectively. Therefore, when your call reached me, and you asked me to please consider "coming out publicly" and/or endorsing you for President in the November elections, I was truly surprised and humbled. Perhaps I shouldn't have been because I know you are aware that people in the White House and most recently Steve McConally of your staff and Bill Simon and others have said that they thought I could help with the independent vote...but I still have difficulty in accepting or believing that Jim Longley would have sufficient impact or effect on behalf of Gerald Ford or anyone else for that matter.

Therefore, as I told you on the telephone:

(1) While I do not believe my endorsement would be helpful, based on your request that I "consider it further" ... I promise to "think about it."

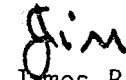
(2) We did discuss my questioning and challenging of Mr. Carter, which was totally unsolicited by you or anyone for that matter, and my challenge within the week to Mr. Carter as to how he was qualified to apply for the position of Commander in Chief and satisfy the liberals who would burn our flag and cop out on America by playing games with Websters Dictionary and with the words "amnesty" and "pardon" and issue a blanket forgiveness on their terms albeit I did support individual consideration and still do providing appropriate penalties are considered and/or imposed.

(3) I did tell you that if within a week or ten days you still felt my endorsement...expressed public support of you would be helpful, then I would consider doing whatever you asked of me, but at the point of your telephone call, I was not prepared to say what I would do even though I do know how I am going to vote.

I admire and respect you and Betty and your entire family more than I could ever adequately express. Therefore, let me say once again on behalf of the Longley Family.....our sincerest thanks to you and Betty and the children for all you have done as a family to bring faith and confidence and dignity back to the White House and the Presidency of the greatest country in the world.

My very best personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

James B. Longley

JBL:bh

Jim -

I have attached the President's notes on
call- I don't know where this has been

since it arrived - maybe mails just slow ---

I don 't think you want your usual note (routine)

Do you want any note? Trudy

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO: Governor James B. Longley, Maine
207-289-1110 (o)

DATE: As soon as possible

RECOMMENDED BY:  Jim Field (per Stu Spencer/Bill Russo)

THROUGH: Richard B. Cheney

BACKGROUND: As the only Independent Governor in the country, James Longley's support of you would be of great help to the President Ford Committee effort in Maine and, in my opinion, throughout the country. Before other overtures can be made, however, I believe a phone call from you will be necessary to get the Governor's attention. During the primaries last spring, Governor Longley said that you were "too nice to be in politics" and deserved to be elected. The Governor made this remark after a visit to the White House during a Governor's conference in Washington. In early summer, the Governor publicly supported you over Governor Reagan for the Republican presidential nomination and publicly criticized Jimmy Carter for being "fuzzy" on the issues.

Although Governor Longley said last spring that if he decided to support you he would be willing to campaign all over the country for you, he has not yet decided whether or not to support you. In a recent letter to our State Republican Chairman, John Linnell, the Governor declined an invitation to welcome Senator Dole to Maine on October 2 stating that he had not decided which presidential candidate to support, and, therefore, he felt he could not participate in the Dole visit. (The letter to Linnell was personal, and should not be mentioned in your conversation with Governor Longley).

TALKING POINTS:

1. You should discuss the need to cut down government spending in your conversation with the Governor. (The Governor and Secretary Simon are good friends and philosophically compatible.)
2. You should tell Governor Longley how helpful it would be for the Republican Party to have the only Independent Governor on our team.

Date Submitted:

September 30, 1976

ACTION:

*10/5/76 Called very friendly.
Approves way I handled Butz matter.
Voting for me. Said if I called him
a week, & I thought it helpful, he
would probably publicly support me.*

*Called Jim Field (Donna) and
gave her results 10/11/76
HBF*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM RE:

Mike Ford's Opening of the Augusta and
Bangor, Maine, Ford/Dole Headquarters
Wednesday, September 29, 1976

FROM:

SUSAN PORTER

Following his morning class, Mike Ford will fly from Boston to Augusta to open the Ford/Dole Headquarters at 3:00 p.m. He will also pay a private courtesy call on Governor Longley. He will then go by car to Bangor, Maine, for the opening of the Ford/Dole Headquarters and after dinner will fly from Bangor to Boston. Arrangements for his visit are being made by Jock McKernon (O: 207-947-6377; H: 207-942-6552), the Maine PFC Chairman and Executive Director. It is my understanding that Senator Dole will be in Portland, Maine, the following week.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Cathy Barker Roth
William Nicholson
Jerry Jones
Terry O'Donnell
Max Friedersdorf
Steve McConahey
Jim Connor
Dorothy Downton
✓ Jim Field
Jim Baker
Stu Spencer
John Michels
Elly Peterson
Pat Bailey
William Greener III
Jud Summer
Kathy McCort
W-16



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JAMES B. LONGLEY
GOVERNOR

September 28, 1976

Jim
Died
FYI

Governor Jimmy Carter
Carter for President Headquarters
Plains, Georgia

Dear Gov. Carter:

I wanted to inform you that I am honoring a request to extend a courtesy greeting to Michael Ford, the son of The President, at the State House here in Augusta on Wednesday, September 29th. Even though I had had the privilege of meeting Michael and his wife previously and would have felt justified in greeting Michael at the State House on his visit to Maine on that basis, I want you to know that I am not extending preferential treatment during the height of the campaign.

At this point, I have not taken a position in the presidential race. However, as the father of five children who took on the tough assignment of campaigning for me, I have always been grateful to those public officials who took time to greet my children and bid them welcome.

That is what I am doing in this case, but I would like you to know that I would extend the same courtesy to your children if they should decide to visit Maine.

One of the things we learned to appreciate in my campaign for Governor was a good bed and a night's rest away from a hotel room or travel van. As a matter-of-fact, that was my original offer to Michael when I heard he was making a hectic swing through the state. While we would not want the executive residence used for such purposes as news conferences or campaign activities, I have enough sympathy for the rigors of a campaign to extend the offer of a good bed to the President's children or your own.

Very truly yours,

James B. Longley

JBL:bh

cc: President Ford

Harold Pachios, Chairman
Maine Democratic Party

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



President Gerald Ford

White House

Washington, D. C.