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# The Republican Party of Louisiana

DONALD BOLLINGER -- STATE TREASURER  
P. O. BOX 250 -- LOCKPORT, LOUISIANA 70374

November 8, 1976

1976 NOV 11 AM 11 07

## THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

President Gerald R. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We lost our battle, shed our tears, gnashed our teeth and now are ready to come out fighting. It is most regrettable that you lost but the results showed that much of our country appreciated your efforts.

Louisiana and its people will always appreciate your visits here. Many friendships were started and I hope will continue.

Good luck and feel free to use the welcome mat, which always is out for the Ford family.

Sincerely,

*Donald*  
Donald Bollinger

DB:js  
Enclosure



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WHITE HOUSE  
MAIL ROOM

976 NOV 11 AM 9 50



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## To Ford, with Appreciation

Almost all the post-election attention, understandably, has been focused on the winner and the future — how Jimmy Carter won, how he will govern. Of the loser we have had only glimpses of a subdued Jerry Ford at the ceremonial concession of defeat, a few speculations on the probable course of his 2 ½-month lame-duck administration and some interest in what he will do in retirement. Since the next ceremony, the Inauguration, belongs exclusively to the new president, we take this occasion for an appreciation of Gerald Ford.

The President's pertinent comments on Tuesday's results have been that he is disappointed but not distraught, that he takes personal responsibility for his defeat, and that he judges that history will treat kindly his handling of his brief, historic tenure. To be disappointed is natural; not to be distraught reveals an appreciation of America's collapse-proof flexibility. To blame himself for the defeat shoulders too much — in such an unusual campaign, too many variables are involved.

We, too, think history's judgment of Mr. Ford will be benign.

Whatever Richard Nixon's motives in appointing him to succeed the disgraced Vice President Spiro Agnew, when Mr. Ford became president after Mr. Nixon's own resignation in disgrace, he filled a need the American people felt. Jerry Ford was a plain, honest man — a real person after the years of artificial presidential image-making that had ended in a traumatically shattered facade.

One could identify with his human-scaled reality even if one quarrelled with him as president. Indeed, one of his greatest assets was that he had never been hardened by a quest of the presidency. Given it, he sought re-election, we would judge, more as a matter of public obligation than of private ambition.

History's long narrative will doubtless cast him as the briefest of transitional figures, made notable more for his character than for his acts. His contemporaries owe him a more personal debt for having brought us down gently from the Vietnamese and Watergate years so that we could turn our interests back to matters of continuing national importance.

