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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

November 9, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

The events of November 2 brought back vividly to our minds your call to me in the early morning hours of August 9, 1974, while Vera and I were in Holland, having just arrived there for a rest. On that precipitous return trip we reflected on the state of the nation and the unparalleled circumstances in which you were to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency. I confess that, as we flew back to Washington, it was clear that no American, since Lincoln, had ever been called upon to take such enormous burdens under such melancholy conditions. Mr. Johnson had the advantage of a unity forged out of a common tragedy, as did Mr. Truman. You were confronted with massive problems and a country divided, disillusioned, and confused.

In the two short years since then you accomplished what seemed at the outset almost impossible. Faith and trust in government have been restored due to confidence in your own integrity. You achieved that while extricating us from Vietnam, bringing inflation under manageable control, reducing unemployment, cooling off tensions in this troubled world, and maintaining peace.

Success in less than all of these would have earned you a high place, and in the perspective of history this will be universally acknowledged. As it is, nearly 39 million Americans attested this on November 2.

As we recalled the anxiety we felt flying back to Washington that night in August 1974, we realized the debt we and all Americans owe you for your calm, steadfast, and courageous leadership in one of the dark periods of American history. For this Vera and I, joined by Wade and Margaret, record our thanks to you, to Betty, and to your family, for you have borne the brunt and brought the nation to a condition that paves the way for your successor.

We wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Respectfully and sincerely,



The President

The White House

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Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C.

CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

November 9, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

The events of November 2 brought back vividly to our minds your call to me in the early morning hours of August 9, 1974, while Vets and I were in Holland, having just arrived there for a rest. On that precipitous return trip we reflected on the state of the nation and the unparalleled circumstances in which you were to assume the responsibilities of the Presidency. I confess that, as we flew back to Washington, it was clear that no American, since Lincoln, had ever been called upon to take such enormous burdens under such melancholy conditions. Mr. Johnson had the advantage of a unity forged out of a common tragedy, as did Mr. Truman. You were confronted with massive problems and a country divided, disillusioned, and confused.

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Success in less than all of these would have earned you a high place, and in the perspective of history this will be universally acknowledged. As it is, nearly 39 million Americans attested this on November 2.

As we recalled the anxiety we felt flying back to Washington that night in August 1974, we realized the debt we and all Americans owe you for your calm, steadfast, and courageous leadership in the darkest periods of American history. For this Vets and I are deeply indebted by Wade and Margaret, record our thanks to you, to Betty, and to your family, for you have borne the brunt and brought the nation to a condition that paves the way for your successor.

We wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Respectfully and sincerely,

The President

The White House

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