The original documents are located in Box C2, folder "DeJonge, Maury" of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

The Grand Rapids Press 🖃

Press Plaza, Vandenberg Center

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502

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Nov. 7, 1976

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

Dear Mr. President:

I remember as you greeted me so warmly at Kent County Airport Nov. 1, you remarked, "Maury, we have been together through tick and thin."

We have, Mr. President, and I wanted you to know that we who supp ort you and who have been your friends since 1948 contin ue to believe in you, trust you and love you.

The fact that you were placed in the office of President of the United States did not increase those feelings. They were there from the beginning.

I regret deeply, that you were denied a full four-year term in office, elected by all the people of our great nation. But be assured that your many millions of friends, especially those many thousands in the 5th Congressional District, will continue to remember you as the man who truly bound the nation's wounds in one of its darkest moments.

My wife, Theda, and our two children, Mary and Tom, while deeply disappointed as a result of the election, want you to know you are in our hearts and prayers forever.

If at any future time I can be of service to you, I am at your disposal. Please convey to Betty our best wishes. God bless you in whatever He has planned for your future.

Warmest Personal Regards

Maury DeJonge

Enclosure

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Press Plaza, Vandenberg Cantor

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NOV 1 7 1976

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I have heard the wild Bird sing,
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So I know what freedom is.

I have looked into the eyes of a child,

So I know what faith is.

I have seen a rainbow

So I know what beauty is.

I have planted a tree

So I know what kiddness is.

I have seen a blossom burst into bloom

So I know what glory is.

I have lost a friend

So I know what sorrow is.

I have knelt down in prayer

So I know what peace is.

I have seen a mother at a crib

So I'm sure of the meaning of love. I have seen and I have felt these things and now I know what God is! I have heard the wild Bird sing, So I know what freedom is. I have looked into the eyes of a child, So I know what faith is.

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