

The original documents are located in Box C2, folder “Elson, Edward L. R.” of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

12-20

THE REV. EDWARD L. R. ELSON, S.T.D.
CHAPLAIN

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 17, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

Dear President Ford:

Before the opening of the new Congress and the Inauguration I want to express to you my abiding appreciation for your great service to our nation.

You had already made a superb contribution to the Congress when the Vice Presidency and later the Presidency were thrust upon you.

In the history of our nation few presidents have contributed so much in so short a time. Greater and vastly more difficult than legislation, diplomatic or military achievement is the work of reconciliation and healing of the people. In your term as President you have already done what others have promised. Above all the notable achievements of your long career you have restored integrity and dignity to the office of President. You have established a standard of genuine piety, high character, and consistent fidelity to high principles which Americans in coming generations will do well to emulate. It has been a great privilege to have known you and to work with you at various times during your career in Washington.

Helen Elson joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Ford and your family a joyous Christmas and continued usefulness in the years to come.

Faithfully yours,
Edward L. R. Elson
Edward L.R. Elson

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM
1976 DEC 20 AM 8 34