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Carter Supporter Appeal



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

Department of Economics  
1035 Business Administration Building  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

NOV 16 1976

November 15, 1976

AH

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

These are sentiments with which this Carter supporter wholeheartedly agrees.

In spite of policy differences, I hope it is not presumptuous to say that you have been a credit to the Presidency. Those of us who have been privileged to exchange views with you personally can say this with particular warmth.

With every best wish to you and Mrs. Ford for a long and rewarding post-Presidential life.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter'.

Walter W. Heller  
Regents' Professor of Economics

WWH:slm  
Enclosure





Enclosure  
WHL:jm

Walter W. Heller  
Regents' Professor of Economics

*Walter W. Heller*  
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WHITE HOUSE  
MAIL ROOM

TWIN CITIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN





The Pilgrim Church

## Dr James Shannon

The United States owes a debt of gratitude to Gerald Ford. His obvious comfort, not to say relish, last week in the sunshine of Palm Springs cannot heal his deep and painful wounds as a defeated incumbent president of the United States.

Air Force One will no longer be his personal plane. Helicopters will not call for and deliver him in his own back yard. That unique hushed silence will no longer greet his ascent to the rostrum as the television cameras zoom in on the great seal of the president of the United States. And world leaders will no longer monitor his every word for signals of shifts in U.S. policy.

Nonetheless, a word of appreciation is in order for this honorable man who generously agreed to serve his country in a time of considerable crisis. Name another nation which could have weathered so smoothly the "dicey" transition between an exiled chief executive and a successor hand-picked by that departing leader.

At a time when public confidence in elected officials was low and slipping, Ford was readily endorsed by both houses of Congress as a successor to the disgraced Spiro Agnew. No small achievement. Consensus does not come easily or often in these two celebrated debating societies.

Ford was perceived by Congress in 1974, and is perceived by the citizenry today, as an honorable man. He also happens to be blessed with a wife who has courage, brains and style, and a family any man would be proud to call his brood.

Since that tragic day, Aug. 9, 1974, when Pat and Richard Nixon lifted off from the south lawn of the White House enroute to exile in San Clemente, Gerald and Betty Ford have brought dignity, integrity and solid domestic virtue to the White House. They have come to symbolize family solidarity and national purpose at a time when this nation desperately needed its lost symbols and tarnished models.

During the recent campaign it became a cliché for writers and critics of Ford to say that he is a "decent and honorable man." Most often this apparent compliment was intended as a put-down or as a prelude to the sage observation that somehow we need more than mere decency and honor in our national leader. The habitual misuse of such basic terms as decency and honor should not intimidate us. These qualities are and will always be essential traits in the character of persons who merit election to high office in this nation.

Ford entered the White House when that handsome residence had become a symbol of duplicity and sleazy politics. Without much flare or charisma, he began the slow, steady process of rebuilding the image of the Oval Office. And he brought it off. History may not rank him between Jefferson and Lincoln for his vision or creativity. But we can be certain that history will not belittle him by the deliberately pejorative use of words like "decent" and "honorable."

He is now, at the age of 63, an ex-president, in good health, respected by millions of citizens who believe and trust him, including many who did not vote for him.

Ford's good name, his unblemished personal reputation, his handsome family and his long career of public service will still be his after Jan. 20. Few men in history can look back on such a career of integrity and achievement in both their public and private lives.

In the complex domestic and foreign affairs of this nation there are many roles which Gerald Ford could fill effectively. Averell Harriman can't carry the load forever as our only elder statesman. Come to think of it, Harriman, at 85, would probably welcome a little bipartisan support in his one-man, fire-fighting brigade.

