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ROBERT McCLORY  
13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY  
UNION DELEGATION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 18, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

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2200 SEMINARY ROAD  
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098  
(815) 338-2040

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

*MP  
encl*  
I wonder how many Presidents have been able to feel, as can you, that they achieved during their time in the White House what they set out to do.

Movingly and briefly on August 9, 1974, you told the American people your major goals. You said, "...our long national nightmare is over," and you made that happen.

You said, "We must go forward now together," and you created the climate where that could and did occur.

You spoke of Watergate and asked, "let brotherly love purge our hearts of suspicion and hate." Under your administration, that, too, quickly came to pass.

The phrase Dennis Farney, White House correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, used in describing you I shall not soon forget. He wrote on November 7, 1976: "He was open, all-of-a-piece, a splendid human being." Those of us who had the privilege of knowing you as a colleague in the House of Representatives and who have worked with you as Vice President and then as President well know the truth of that.

Also, Frank Starr of the Chicago Tribune described clearly your outstanding service as our President during these last two years. A copy of that article is enclosed.

Thank you for your generous letter. I agree it is a time when those who embrace the philosophy of government you and I cherish must endeavor in every way to articulate, promote, and protect it. I also feel strongly that we must not permit control of our party to fall into the hands of its more extreme elements.

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MCHEERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
2222 GARDNER ROAD  
WATERMAN, ILLINOIS 60089  
(312) 332-2049

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 18, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

ROBERT MCCLORY  
400 DIXIE COURT  
BLAIR, ILLINOIS 60120  
(312) 637-3008  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
U.S. INTERSTATE COMMERCE  
COMMISSION

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

WHITE HOUSE  
MAIL ROOM

1976 NOV 19 AM 11 40

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The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
November 18, 1976  
Page Two

Indeed, it is my hope that you will continue to serve as the national head of our great Republican Party.

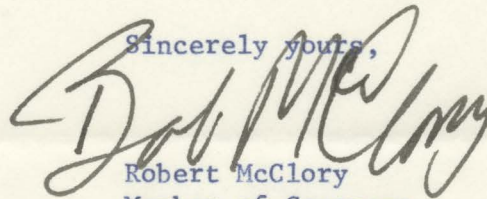
It is my further hope that we may have your frequent advice, counsel, and active help as we strive to reach those goals with which our party is identified and which encourage us to work toward a more successful Election Day.

Somehow, in times of terrible need, the United States has been blessed with great Presidents who through inner resources were able to lead the nation out of despair and fear. In my view, you have become one of that select few.

That August day in 1974, you rallied the American people to you as I think they never rallied to a new President before when you said, "...I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers."

As friends and as Americans, Doris and I send our prayers, our best wishes, and our boundless appreciation to you, to Betty, and to your children.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob McClory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert McClory  
Member of Congress

RMCC/jm  
Enclosure

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
November 18, 1976  
Page Two

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Sincerely yours,

  
Robert McGlory  
Member of Congress

RMG/jm  
Enclosure

# Thank You, Mr. President

By FRANK STARR  
Of The Chicago Tribune

**THANK YOU, Jerry Ford.**  
You deserved better. But voters in their wisdom know that high public office is not a fit means of expressing gratitude, and this is not the first time that they have turned out a leader to whom they owe a great deal.

In your valiant final campaign you asked for a mandate that would say, in your words, "Jerry Ford, you've done a good job — keep on doing it." That you weren't asked to keep doing it doesn't mean it wasn't a good job.

There probably is no satisfactory means of expressing the public gratitude you are due. But it will be recalled that you took on a most difficult task at a most difficult time and that, largely through your own direct and open manner, you began the healing process.

IT will be recalled that you didn't seek the job. It has been recalled that you even said you wouldn't seek reelection, though the burden of governing during

that difficult two years clearly would have been unnecessarily heavier as a known lame duck.

It is even possible that your own effort to hasten the healing planted one of the seeds of your defeat. The very quick pardon of Richard Nixon undoubtedly saved the country additional pain and continued division at the investigation, indictment, and trial of a president. But you paid for it, it would appear from polling voters, with your defeat.

Moreover you were defeated in part by your own issue. That the race in the end was so close is partly evidence of your claim to the issue. Jimmy Carter had based his campaign two years ago on a promise to ease the pain and heal the wounds of Watergate, Vietnam and other embarrassments. By election day the swelling already had gone down, thanks largely to your effort.

BUT the difficulty remained that yours was the party of Watergate and that you were appointed by Richard Nixon. That burden was nearly impossible to put down.

Further it appears you were defeated fair and square in an extremely close but in many ways traditional election, defeated by a classic but remarkable coalition that combined former Wallace supporters with blacks, Catholics with Jews and Baptists, northern cities with the rural south, labor unions with some white-collar voters.

That was a brand of unification of a kind that your strong Midwestern commitments to conservative values could hardly duplicate.

It also appears that the electorate voted generally for legitimate reasons of philosophy, party loyalty, and so on. At least, according to polling results, there was little evidence that votes were based on such relatively unimportant issues as your misstatement about eastern Europe or Carter's Playboy interview.

It is also possible that the electorate voted for a completely new start, a start that would relieve the nation of every vestige of that difficult time including the transition administration.

THAT, in any case, has now been accomplished. In January our national slate will have been scrubbed as clean as we can scrub it. But we passed through this crisis and renewed our fully democratic legitimacy due largely to your efforts.

That it was a difficult choice and not a national act of ingratitude may be the lesson of the high voter turnout and narrow margin.

This two year presidency will be recalled as the presidency of healing and reunification. For that, thank you Jerry Ford.

