The original documents are located in Box C3, folder "Michel, Robert H." of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 2112 RAYBURN BUILDING (202) 225-6201

November 15, 1976

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

Dear Mr. President:

It's really very difficult for me to write this formal note, for I felt so wrapped up in your own personal campaign for reelection and have suffered the same letdown as I'm sure you have experienced in coming so close and yet losing.

However, I did want you to know how very much Corinne and I personally appreciate all the things you've done during your Presidency. You've got to take heart and some measure of comfort in knowing that you took over the reins under the most difficult set of circumstances since Lincoln's time, when one takes into account the aftermath of Watergate, the worst recession since the Great Depression, and a hostile Congress.

You have probably done more by way of restoring the people's confidence in the Presidency, simply by being what you are. This will always be remembered by your friends, and by your political foes as well.

I'm crushed that we won't be working so closely during the next two years, but do hope you will decide on a course of action that will still keep you in close touch, both politically and personally. As a matter of fact, while the weather here in Washington can't compare with Palm Springs this time of year, we're going to be around for several weeks and would love to either team up with your handicap against a couple of our friends or take some of that Presidential money as an opponent out at the Smoldering Stump.

Corinne joins me in expressing to both you and Betty our sincere thanks for a job well done and our warmest best wishes for whatever you choose to do.

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Sincerely

Robert H. Michel

RHM: sy

ROBERT H. MICHEL

MINORITY WHIP

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

WANGER Manufact

LABOR, HENGTH TOTOLTON, AND WILLPARE DUDGOMENTIES

WASHINGTON OFFICE, 2112 RAYBURN BURDING (202) 215-0201

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

November 15, 1976

(202) 073-0358

COURTING:
CHARLES PROBAN

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CARR SCHITCLES

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

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