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

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CABLE ADDRESS "PRELD" TELEX 226402

November 29, 1976

President Gerald R. Ford The White House Washington, D. C. 20200

Dear Jerry:

Joan and I would like you and your family to know how sad we are that you lost the election to Mr. Carter. As you know, this isn't just a political loss as far as we in Western Michigan are concerned. This was a very personal loss which so many of us in Western Michigan took very sadly. For as long as a week after the election, people were down right despondent every where I went and I must say that I felt the same way.

The accomplishments of your short administration were absolutely monumental. I think the key to your success was the fact that your administration was very open. It seemed to me that people from all walks of life had access to you in one form or another. I feel that you welcomed the comments and advice of others and weren't afraid to hear a no answer once in a while.

I know that in what ever you choose to do, you will be outstandingly successful and highly regarded. The American people have denied themselves a truely great President. For this I am sincerely sad.

Sincerely, Mathel

James A. Mitchell

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President Gerald R. Ford The White House Mashington, D. C. 20200

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Mimes A. Mitchell

JAM: Ka