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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

United States Capitol Historical Society

200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 543-8919



November 4, 1976

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

Dear Mr. President:

First of all, I want to comment on the election. Like you and Betty, Ethel and I are so sorry that the people did not give you another four years in the office of President. You would have performed magnificently and would have had a salutary influence on the proper direction of the Government. So I regret very much, more than you know, your defeat.

However, there is this to note; you were called upon to take the gravest responsibilities of Government in a most difficult time, and you have performed miracles in many areas. Your first objective was to restore confidence and respect for the White House, and you and Betty have done this. All Americans should be eternally grateful.

I can't help but notice how the press now gives you great credit. I am going to ask Tom Brokaw where he was when you and the country needed to hear from him before. But then the press in America in recent times, at least, is not known for utter fairness or adequacy. It may be that the second thoughts of those people are finally bringing the true story of your magnificent contributions to the people. Then you will begin to measure and be appreciated, and I think history will regard you as one of the greatest of all!

Mr. President, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the Annual Meeting of the United States Capitol Historical Society. I know you will read it with interest, for you have been interested in the Society since its inception and have made many contributions to its success. We, of the Board, Democrats and Republicans, are indeed grateful for this too. I, personally, shall never forget your encouragement and your help as we moved along with our programs.

By virtue of having served the office of President, you will become at the end of your term, a life member of the Honorary Board of Trustees. I am going to nominate you as chairman in the next Annual Meeting.

If you have any comments and/or suggestions after you have looked at, and have considered this report, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Schwengel".

FRED SCHWENDEL
President

Enclosure FS:sp

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

United States Capitol Historical Society

200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 544-8812



November 4, 1976

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

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Sincerely,

FRED SCHWEGEL
President



Enclosure 12:52

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

October 1, 1976

for

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States

U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

