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EXECUTIVE
JL/NIXON

September 23, 1974



Dear Joanne and Paul:

I have received your telegram indicating your opposition to my pardoning of President Nixon. I appreciate your straight talk and forthright opinion and, while I am sorry that we are not in agreement, I do want to thank you for taking the trouble to let me know your views.

My assumption to the Presidency followed a year of turmoil and strife unprecedented in our nation's history. I just did not think that it would be in the best interest of the country to let this matter drag on for another year of longer and, thus, my decision to grant the pardon was made. Once the decision was made, I announced it to the American people as I could see no good reason to hold off and wait for a good time to make the announcement.

To be sure, there were good arguments on both sides of this issue. It was a tough decision for a very exceptional case but I am certain in my heart that I have done the right thing and I am confident that time will prove that it was the correct decision.

Thank you once again for your telegram, and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Newman
c/o CMA, Inc.
8899 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90048

GRF:ML:gct

60 - Pardon

RECEIVED
SEP 25 1974
CENTRAL FILES

Date	Name
9-11-74	Judy Roth

The White House
Washington

WHA910(1738)(1-026696C254)PD 09/11/74 1514

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02035 BEVERLYHILLS CA 100 09-11 1139A PDT

PMS GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

YOUR PARDON OF RICHARD NIXON CONCERNS US NOT SO MUCH
BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE A COVER
UP WHICH MIGHT WELL DWARF WATERGATE AN ACT WHICH WAS
POORLY ADVISED AND IMPERIALISTIC IT CONCERNS US
BECAUSE IT WAS STUPID STUPIDITY IN THESE PERILOUS
TIMES MAKES A GOOD DEAL MORE NERVOUS ABOUT OUR
ADMINISTRATION THAN MERE POLITICAL CRIMINALITY WHEN



YOU ASCENDED TO THE PRESIDENCY YOU RECEIVED A TELEGRAM
FROM US EXTENDING OUR GOOD WISHES AND PROMISES
OF SUPPORT THIS TELEGRAM CANNOT QUITE CANCEL

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THAT BUT IT IS A SCREAM OF PROTEST AND A PLEASE TO EXERCIZE WISDOM
JOANNE WOODWARD PAUL NEWMAN AND FAMLY

Mr. & Mrs Paul Newman

NNNN

Go CMA, Inc.

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