



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October, 1974

THANK YOU . . .

While the heavy volume of mail on the pardon of former President Nixon does not allow me to respond personally as I would like, I do want to take this means to let you know how much I appreciate receiving your views on this.

This was not an easy decision to reach, as I am sure you are aware. Before making it, I undertook a thorough examination of the entire matter. This included my right to grant pardons under the Constitution, the legal actions contemplated by the Special Prosecutor, the probable duration of the criminal proceedings and a number of other factors. Throughout this evaluation process, my main concern was to heal the wounds to the Nation. That was the top priority. I know there are deep and genuine differences among good people over the decision I made. But I felt then, and I feel now, that I made the right decision in an honest, conscientious effort to end the divisions in this country.

Needless to say, I am sorry that you feel you are unable to support my decision on this. But I hope you will respect my reasons for making it as much as I respect your right to differ with me about it. Thank you for taking the time to let me know how you feel about this.

Sincerely,

*Gerald R. Ford*