

The original documents are located in Box 129, folder “Feb. 8, 1974 - Press Release, Letters Exchanged with Ken BeLieu” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, Feb. 8, 1974

CONTACT:
Paul Miltich: 456-2364

The following exchange of letters between the Vice President and
Kenneth E. Belieu, the Vice President's consultant for legislative affairs,
is released by the Vice President's Office:





THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1974

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your personal note from home. My pleasure over your rapid recovery from surgery was dampened by your decision soon to embark upon the business opportunity which you have delayed so long at my urging, but I suppose the Lincoln week lull in Congressional activity will enable you to attend, for a change, to some of your personal affairs.

Your fine help and wise counsel from the time of my nomination in October, first as a volunteer and since confirmation as one of the key members of my senior staff, have been absolutely invaluable and it is difficult for me to put my gratitude into words. It has been a demanding and challenging period, Ken, and the fact that I could rely on tested and true friends like you has kept me from making very many mistakes upon becoming the first "instant" Vice President in history. I will continue to rely on you in the future.

Of course, your sacrifices and services to the Nation formed a full and inspiring public career long before this postscript of helping get my Vice Presidential ship launched and under way. My thanks and my deep appreciation are only added to those of your many comrades and colleagues in government over the years, as you begin yet another chapter. You have my wishes and prayers for happiness, health and success in your new role-as I know I have yours.

Betty joins me in warm regards to Markie and you.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Honorable Kenneth E. Belieu
1214 Westgrove Boulevard
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

GRF:rdc

KENNETH E. BE LIEU
1214 WESTGROVE BOULEVARD
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22307

23 January 1974

Dear Mr Vice President,

It was most gracious and thoughtful of you to call last Saturday, inquiring of my health; and, I sincerely appreciate it.

I had hoped to reply before this but it seemed to take until now to get me moving.

Outside of the ennui that stems naturally from hospitalization and inaction I'm in fine shape. My doctor says that if I pass his inspection, at the end of next week, he'll let me rejoin the ranks of the industrious.

If it meets with your approval, I plan on coming back to the office for a few days to see

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if there are any loose ends
I can help with before going back
to the "civilian sector" and my new
job.

I'm certain that Bob told you,
when I called him from the hospital
last week, that I had reluctantly
decided -- for financial reasons --
that I should, as soon as possible,
pick up the, previously accepted but
postponed, business option.

This is the first time in my
life that I've ever chosen a path other
than the call of duty to my country; and
it has been a most difficult decision. But,
after nearly 33 years in government, it
seems best that I spend a few
of my remaining productive years in the
service of my family.

Your understanding sympathy
and support of the decision, which

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I suppose, in fairness to all, I should select a terminal date. If it is not too inconvenient let's say, not later than the tenth of February, 1974. I've no specific reason for that date, except it's my birthday and I know I'll find it easy to remember.

The privilege of working with and for you is an honor I shall long cherish -- both as a volunteer during your "confirmation period," and then temporarily as your consultant during the fledgling stages of your new Vice Presidential office. I only regret that the unexpected surgery cut the time so short.



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Markie and I send our love to you and yours and may God bless and support you in all your work.

Hoping to see you soon, I remain,

as ever

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Today is Date

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