# 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 m 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

23 January 1974

# Dear Mer Vice President

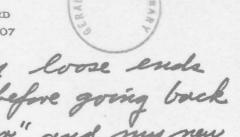
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I'm certain that Bob told you, when I called him from the hospital last week, that I had reluctantly decided -- for financial reasons -- that I should, as soon as possible, pick up the previously accepted but postponed, business option.

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 could only be mine -- as evidenced in our conversations -- has been and remains a deep source of warm satisfaction to me. At the same time it has made my choice most hard to come by.

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