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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df.*

September 23, 1974

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of Peggy's letter to the Editor. It is a most meaningful and perceptive presentation. Although she may not have had the satisfaction, as yet, of seeing it in print, please tell her that Betty and I were two most appreciative readers.

I want to close with one additional remark. Please, Bill, continue to write freely. We may be physically located at opposite ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, but the bonds of friendship remain unchanged.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

The Honorable J. William Stanton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

~~Act:~~ w/incoming to Nancy Howe for appropriate handling

GRF:WET:EF:VO:ve

GRF
2 brought back from Residence / 2 doubt if it needs further handling

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1974

Max L. Friedersdorf *WLF*

William E. Timmons *WT*

Jerry Jones *JJ*

Please return to Elouise Frayer for
dispatch

14
J. WILLIAM STANTON
11TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2448 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: AREA CODE 202, 225-5306

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING AND CURRENCY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

*Re
William Stanton
And...*

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
170 NORTH ST. CLAIR STREET
PAINESVILLE, OHIO 44077
PHONE: AREA CODE 216, 352-6167

MANTUA POST OFFICE
10748 NORTH MAIN STREET
MANTUA, OHIO 44255
PHONE: AREA CODE 216, 274-8444

September 19, 1974

BT
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

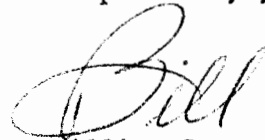
Dear Mr. President:

I promised myself I would be one of those Congressmen who would not bother you; however, I thought that you and Betty would like to see the enclosed letter to the Editor of The Washington Post -- which, to this date, has not been published.

I hope you know that my neighbor, Charles Bartlett, is a great personal admirer of yours. He might be a good person to check with about a press secretary.

Please don't bother to answer this. A big smile will do.

Respectfully yours,



William Stanton

WS:sm

Enclosure

A big, (but certainly not the last) hurrah for David Broder. A clearer eye in American journalism does not exist. In lieu of the high rise of the national temperature, his objectivity in defending the pardon of Mr. Nixon borders on the courageous.

It is perhaps symptomatic of our last tragic decade that we Americans now think with our blood rather than our brain.

We have become a nation of passion under continuous ignition. Never mind that circumstances have contributed to our excitability. Unless we reclaim some cool rhetoric we are threatened with decimation by defamation. In the last five days, I have read and re-read the arguments con and con the pardon for Richard Nixon (the pro being nearly non-existent). While most of them are being waved under the banner of "Equal Justice," they are in reality trumpeting timing rather than Due Process.

To debate the Pardon on the merits of the Pardon is to argue the principle of Equal Justice. To debate the Pardon on the basis of when it is rendered is to espouse expediency.

Consider the argument of timing. The chief goal enunciated for dragging Mr. Nixon through the legal process before we turn him loose in San Clemente, is, not to send him to jail, but to find out what he's done. Astonishing! Absolutely Astonishing!

For two years, on daily and nightly newscasts, in banner stories, in raging columns, in Congressional oratory, in over 9,000 pages compiled by the House Judiciary Committee, not to mention the excruciatingly intimate and infamous tapes, I for one, feel I have read everything Mr. Nixon has done and said right down to the expletive he tried to delete.

But as of September 9, the very same people who cried the evidence for his demise was overwhelming, are arguing that not only has the smoke disappeared, they now can't even lay hands on the pistol.

Did 38 members of the Judiciary Committee unanimously vote Articles of Impeachment for nothing? Did over 400 members of the full House of Representatives approve that report without sufficient account of wrongdoing? Was that just a rumor that over two-thirds of the Senate stood ready to convict Richard Nixon of High Crimes and Misdemeanors? Did we drive a man from office with no evidence? How shocking! What a travesty of justice.

From a self-serving point of view, the timing was indeed wrong. My husband is a Republican Congressman seeking re-election, bearing once again, the Watergate Albatross he thought had been lifted from his shoulders.

From the perspective of the Oval Office, the timing was indeed wrong. Gerald Ford knowingly calmed the wave of euphoria swirling about him and actively ended, by his own hand, a honeymoon with Congress and the nation. A man of undisputed integrity courted infamy.

But for the ultimate tranquility of the country what better timing? After a series of indictments and trial, Mr. Nixon may well have produced a divisiveness in America far more vitriolic than anything he achieved during the years of Watergate. The Nixon haters would have become more outraged with each new charge. The Nixon loyalists ... watching a broken, perhaps ill, ex-president shamed further ... would be crying martyr. The destruction of Richard Nixon might then become the destruction of us all.

It is with heavy heart that one watches our cynical national nature turn an act of compassion into a smoke-filled deal. It is Palm Sunday marching to Good Friday all over again.

The cancer that grew on the Presidency is now growing on our country. President Ford tried to excise it, but unfortunately, we seem to enjoy the misery more than the cure.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. William Stanton

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

J. William Stanton

M. C.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: NANCY HOWE

FROM: JERRY H. JONES 

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following comment:

-- I brought back from Residence. I doubt if it needs further handling.

cc: Don Rumsfeld