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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

about
9-30-74

From the President:

To:

Jack Marsh

Date:

Time

a.m.

p.m.

*This is excellent news
comment.*

Keep for future reference.

Write nice note to

Geo. Feldman



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

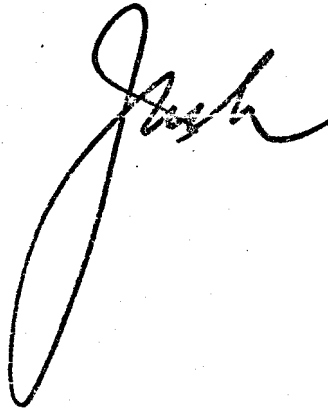
FROM:

JOHN O. MARSH, JR.



I thought you would find of interest the attached letter and editorial which come from your good friend, Ambassador George Feldman.

I have acknowledged his letter.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 16, 1974

PERSONAL

Honorable John Marsh
The White House
Washington, D.C.


Dear Jack:

The enclosed editorial entitled "Magnanimity Towards a Broken Man" appeared in the Saturday, September 14 issue of the London Times. It is significant not only for its content but because it substantially modifies an editorial published by the same paper on the day after the announcement of the pardon. Sober reflection of the situation of our ex-President's health and mental condition was obviously responsible for the London Times altering its previous view. They reached the conclusion that there was no use beating a dead horse, although there are people around who still enjoy witnessing such an event.

We are returning home on Sunday, September 22. I have several matters I believe of importance I would like to discuss with you and will telephone you a few days after my return.

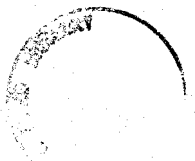
Very warmest regards.

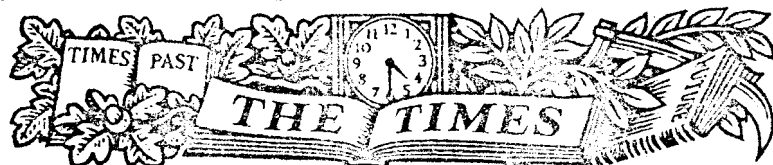
Fordocratically yours,



George Feldman

Enclosure:
Times Article





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone : 01-837 1234

MAGNANIMITY TOWARDS A BROKEN MAN

President Ford's difficulties in coming to his decision to grant a pardon to Mr Nixon were honestly exposed at his first presidential press conference three weeks ago. He said then that both he and his newly-appointed Vice-President Mr Rockefeller were agreed that Mr Nixon should be spared further prosecution. He added that he thought this opinion was shared broadly by the American people. The opinion polls did not at that time support his intuitions about American public opinion. For so long had the process gone on and so assiduous had been the tempered legal approach of such men as Judge Sirica and Mr Jaworski that the simple argument that no man must be seen to be above the law, and that this applied as much to a president of the United States as to any other man, seemed unanswerable.

Yet the option President Ford was then considering and which he has since exercised in pardoning the ex-President can now be seen in a more complex but more credible perspective. The revelations of Mr David Eisenhower, Mr Nixon's son-in-law, about the ex-President's deteriorating mental and physical condition

could not be set aside from any decision about Mr Nixon's further prosecution following his resignation. Just how large a part this played in President Ford's judgment can be assumed by what he must have known even before Mr Nixon's decision to resign. The phlebitis now reportedly so much worse was already a sufficient cause of anxiety for his doctors to warn Mr Nixon against the strain of his trip to Cairo last June. Of his mental condition less was known but both physical and mental deterioration must have been readily apparent to Mr Ford in his position as Vice-President. When he said at his press conference that he thought Mr Nixon had suffered enough from Watergate and that he was keeping open the option of granting him a pardon Mr Nixon's health must have weighed heavily against the clear legal arguments.

That mercy should have begun more and more to occupy President Ford's mind in reaching his decision would be in keeping with his own character and conduct. Obviously Mr Nixon's health was relevant to his decision. When the full facts are known it could prove the strongest possible defence of that

decision. Foreseeing that Mr Nixon's indictment and prosecution might prolong the whole process for as much as another year, what further deterioration in Mr Nixon's health might follow? Might his steady decline not lead inexorably and in public view to his death long before it was all over? If such fears could be entertained what defence remained for the dignity of the ex-president? When President Ford said he was searching his conscience it is easier now to see what thoughts were playing on it.

None of this weakens the arguments for the rule of law and its full application to men in public life. What President Ford has done is to set against the claims of law the higher claims of mercy; admitting that there will always arise those occasions when magnanimity can and should override justice. Undoubtedly President Ford's decision has led to political difficulties and they may not easily be resolved. Nor can it be said that all the thoughts that influenced his decision have been fully revealed. But certainly the argument of Mr Nixon's condition is a powerful one, deserving of respect before any charge is made questioning the pardon granted.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 1, 1974

Dear George:

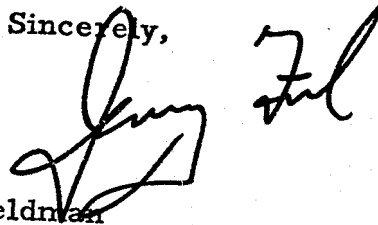
It was most thoughtful of you to clip and send the editorial from the London Times which I read with great interest. Incidentally, I had not seen it before.

The fact that this is an observation of a sister country whose institutions of law played such a large role in shaping our own is most meaningful. Our English friends have captured the deep-seated reasons that underlie the decision to pardon the former President.

Although I am sure you had a most worthwhile visit to Europe during the summer, I am sure you are glad to be home.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Carter", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honorable George Feldman
Suite 701
516 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10036