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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

From the President:

To: Bill Timmons

Date: 10/2/74 Time _____ a.m.
p.m.

I hope this will be
satisfactory answer.

J,

DRAFT

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for your letter giving me the benefit of your views on my forthcoming appearance before the House Judiciary Committee chaired by Bill Hungate.

I noted carefully the points you made. You summarized many factors which I had to weigh against this course of action. After considering them, I reached the ^{difficult} decision announced.

Thanks again for having written me. ^{and your} ^{very} ^{thoughtful}

Sincerely,

analysis

The Honorable Charles W. Sandman, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.
2D DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *def.*

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

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MONOPOLIES AND COMMERCIAL LAW

October 1, 1974

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to reconsider your offer to appear before the Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee headed by Congressman William Hungate. There is not one iota of seriousness behind that entire inquiry. Their motives are purely political.

Last year, I lost the largest election in the nation. I say this because at that time there were only two Gubernatorial contests, and since New Jersey is a far larger State than Virginia, the New Jersey contest was number one in the nation. On this date last year, my opponent and I were even-up. But the three events that happened last October made it insurmountable for any Republican to win in my State.

The motive behind the inquiry of the Hungate Subcommittee is to repeat the great Democratic success of 1973. Make no mistake about that. The whole world knows why you pardoned former President Nixon. No earthly good can come of the entire inquiry. They will badger you from pillar to post and make it necessary for you to come back again and again. Before the television tubes and the media we will have a replay of all of the events of last October. This by itself will cause a devastating loss in the House of Representatives.

DISTRICT OFFICES

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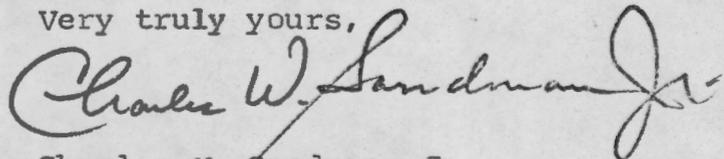
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Honorable Gerald R. Ford
October 1, 1974
Page Two

The very idea of you placing yourself in the position to be challenged by the likes of Bella Abzug and John Conyers is shocking to say the least. Notwithstanding the political considerations, I would favor your bold offer if I could believe that some good could be accomplished. But Mr. President, no good is going to be accomplished because those who sponsored the resolutions do not want to accomplish anything good. Their method is to destroy, and if they are successful the one thing we all fear the most may happen -- a veto-proof Congress.

In the interest of the nation, I urge you not to appear before this Committee. Whatever questions they have you can answer under oath if you choose. Please do not relegate the Presidency of the United States to the level of Abzug and Conyers. In the event that you feel you must personally appear before this Committee, may I humbly suggest that you invite the Committee to come to see you at the White House, holding the hearing to one meeting at the earliest possible date without television or the media present. If you do otherwise, the demand to have you before them for long hours and several appearances will continue from now until Election Day.

Very truly yours,



Charles W. Sandman, Jr.
Member of Congress

CWS:m

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 3, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS

FROM: JERRY H. IONES 

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

-- I hope this will be satisfactory
answer.

- Refers to the draft -

cc: Don Rumsfeld