

**The original documents are located in Box C7, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 12/3/1974” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *A. J.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 3, 1974

MEETING WITH CATHERINE CLEARY

Wednesday, December 4, 1974

2:00 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: William N. Walker *Walker*

I. PURPOSE

To consider her for a position in the Administration.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPATION & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: Miss Catherine Cleary, President and Director of the First Wisconsin Trust Company. (See Biography at Tab A.)
- B. Participants: Catherine Cleary and William N. Walker.
- C. Press Plan: No press and no photography. This meeting should not appear on the President's public schedule.

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. She is a member of the General Motors Board of Directors and I talked with Dick Gerstenberg about her. He said she is a good businesswoman who is well regarded in the financial community. She is an active Board member and does more than is required of the ordinary director. He characterizes her as alert and inquisitive. He told me that she sits on the Public Policy Committee of the Board and is a well-informed member. He considers her a "big league player." He says that she is poised and articulate and can "cuss like a man."

2. Don Murdoch met with her in Milwaukee on the day the Government's anti-trust suit against AT&T was announced (she also sits on that Board) and she was apparently very upset by the suit. Murdoch confirms that she can cuss like a man. He said that she is a good spokesman for business and strongly free enterprise in her orientation. Her work has been primarily in the commercial banking field and she has concentrated on trust work in that field. He reports that while she is interested in women's rights and articulate on that subject, she is not generally perceived as a "liberal." He also views her as poised and forthright.
3. Johnny Byrnes knows her from Wisconsin politics, where she has been a regular contributor to Republican political candidates. He gives her high marks and says that her character and reputation are of the very highest order in Wisconsin. He said that she is known as a good administrator and that she is tough-minded. He believes that she has good political sense. He confirms that her financial experience has been on the commercial side of banking rather than in home financing or real estate development. She has no known experience in the housing field in Wisconsin.
4. Ms. Cleary told both Murdoch and me that she is not interested in coming to Washington. She likes what she is doing; does not have a strong desire to be in Government. In addition, she is 58 years old, hopes to retire in four or five years, and feels she needs the income between now and then. She did, however, agree to come and meet. My sense is that her patriotic instincts can be appealed to should you wish to do so.



CATHERINE BLANCHARD CLEARY

Born: December 19, 1916

Education: University of Chicago, A. B. , 1937  
University of Wisconsin, LL. B. , 1943

Current Employment: President and a Director of the First  
Wisconsin Trust Company  
Trustee of the Northwestern Mutual Life  
Insurance Company  
A Director of: AT&T  
Kraftco  
General Motors  
First Wisconsin Bankshares

Government Service: Assistant Treasurer of the United States, 1953  
Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury,  
1953-4  
Chairman, Committee on Federal Legislation,  
Wisconsin House of Governors

Other Employment: Before joining the First Wisconsin Trust  
Company in 1947, she taught at the New Caanan,  
Connecticut Country School, worked in the  
legal department of Kohler Co. , and practiced  
law with Defrees, Fiske, O'Brien and Thomson  
(Chicago)

Associations: Milwaukee Bar Association  
University Club  
Women's Club of Wisconsin

Honorary Degrees: Ripon College, 1955  
Alverno College, 1970  
Marquette University, 1972  
Smith College, 1973