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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DONALD RUMSFELD

FROM: RODERICK HILLS

Helen Bentley, Chairman, Federal Maritime Administration, has submitted her resignation, which is attached hereto. I feel confident that she is of the opinion that she was treated quite well by our office, but feels that the pressures created by the stories being circulated by her former Executive Assistant, and by other staff members, make it imperative that she resign. In particular, she is concerned by a current investigation of Jack Anderson.

Senator Inouye, whom she considers to be a friend, has specifically advised her to resign.

She did concede this morning that she has acted foolishly in a couple of matters over the years that could prove particularly damaging to her. She has a good executive job in the maritime industry which she will take as of July 1st.

She has, of course, asked that we protect her against any rumors that circulate following the announcement of her resignation. Since the FBI check has recently cleared her of any criminal wrongdoing, and since she has no active file in the Special Prosecutor's office, I see no reason why we cannot strongly state that the resignation is of her own volition and is regretted by the President.

I do believe that it would be wise for us to act quickly in accepting her recommendation, effective as of July 1st.

Doug Bennett is staffing the matter now as to who should be appointed Acting Chairman. Presumably he will suggest that Vice Chairman Day be so designated.

Mrs. Bentley has suggested that Day be made permanent Chairman, but I think it apparent that the Personnel Office will not recommend such action.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Helen:

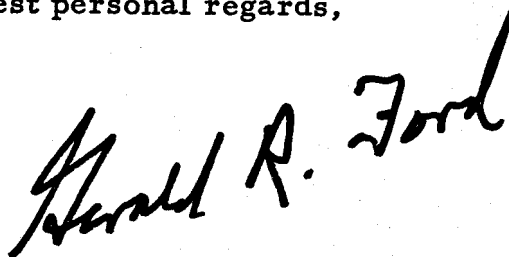
I have your letter of June 13, and it is with deep regret, but also with my sincere gratitude for your dedicated service to our Nation, that I have learned of your decision to return to private life at the completion of your term of service on June 30.

For more than five years, you have served as Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission with great energy, intelligence and firm, confident leadership. You have stimulated the Commission to new life and effectiveness, both as a regulatory agency and as a skillful, active, policy-making organization. Your outstanding reputation as a knowledgeable and respected authority in maritime affairs, your sound sense of purpose and forthright, fair manner in dealing with those throughout the maritime industry have earned the admiration of your colleagues and the gratitude of all your fellow citizens.

Now, as you resume your private life, I welcome this opportunity to express my thanks for your work on behalf of the Republican Party and my personal appreciation for your friendship, support

and assistance. I am grateful for your willingness to help the Administration in the future and hope you will always reflect upon these years of public service with pride in what you have already achieved. Betty joins me in extending to you and Bill our very best wishes for every continued success and happiness in the years ahead.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "R".

The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley
Chairman
Federal Maritime Commission
Washington, D. C. 20573



Federal Maritime Commission

Washington, D. C. 20573

Office of the Chairman

June 13, 1975

The President
of the United States
The White House

Dear Mr. President,

As my term as Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission draws to an end on June 30, I want to thank you for having had the opportunity to be part of your Administration during these past ten months.

With that deadline approaching, my husband and I have had many discussions, finally reaching the decision that I should return to the private sector.

As I am sure you are well aware, this last five and three-quarters years, while enjoyable, have kept me almost in constant motion.

After a brief vacation, I will assume new duties and will be available to help you in an advisory capacity if you desire.

Thank you once more for having the opportunity to serve you. I wish you much success as you continue to carry this country of ours forward.

Sincerely,

Helen Delich Bentley

Helen Delich Bentley
Chairman