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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1975

Dear Jimmy:

Thank you most sincerely for your letter of August 19 with your comments and observations on a number of important issues.

You know that I am glad to have the benefit of your views relating to matters in the Fifth Congressional District. It is always helpful to me to have your opinions.

I am glad to hear that Van is working again, but you must not let him work too hard. He must still take care of his health.

It is good to know that Paul Collins is still working on the mural for the airport. You also mentioned that the White House has sent him a collection of pictures for his use. I trust he has received the necessary cooperation.

Our trip to Vail was certainly a good "change of pace." However, as you can well imagine, I did manage to keep quite busy!

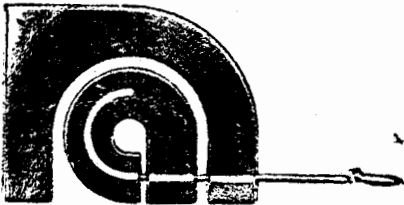
Thanks again, Jimmy, for your letter. I enjoyed hearing from you.

Warmest personal regards,

*Jimmy Ford*

Mrs. Jimmy Van Atta  
Northern Air  
Kent County Airport  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508

*P.S. I worked with Paul Collins in Vail - J.*



**NORTHERN AIR**

**GRAND RAPIDS - DETROIT**

August 19, 1975

The President,  
Jerry Ford  
Veil, Colorado

Dear Jerry:

Apparently, according to Bill Nickleson (Warren Rustand's Assistant), I pulled a big mistake in requesting that Warren advise me of the next time that Air Force One was coming to Grand Rapids; so that I could fly down commercially, stay overnite with Marba and fly back to Grand Rapids on the plane. My reason for the request was completely selfish - I wanted to be able to say that I had flown on Air Force One, but I didn't realize that a seat space was so critical or that there just isn't enough seats available, so please excuse my request. I don't want to put you on the spot by having to refuse me. Other people have told me that they have flown on it, and I really didn't know that I was out of line, because I've flown with you before, and never got in your hair.

Vanderveen has been doing pretty good in the people's mind here, but when will they ever realize that he is only mouthing the words they want to hear, not necessarily the truth. He sure fell short though, when he voted for a raise for himself. There was a Sunday morning WOOD Radio Program, regarding the question of their raise, and with only one exception, all said that they didn't deserve a raise, because they hadn't done anything all year; and it was a poor example to set for the present economy, especially Vanderveen, knowing the high rate of unemployment here.

Thank goodness Van is working again, but too darn hard. He's getting so tired it's dangerous. With the trucking business down like it is, he either does it or it is easy to find a replacement. I'm enclosing a government publication, which will show you that truckers can be forced to work any number of hours, without even being paid overtime. There is no union where Van works.

When do we open a Jerry Ford for 1976 Campaign office and where? I still like the idea of the shopping mall; you get husbands and wives, young people, senior citizens, and all with plenty of parking space. My offer to work nights still goes, but I cannot work for Peter. Peter has a heart of gold and I believe that he is honestly sincere, but he is coming on too strong, and is getting into the hair of the old party faithful - he wants to take over everything.

Bob Vanderlaan says he is going to run for Congress, I'll help him, but I must confess to you, that I never cared for Paul Goebel - he just wasn't sincere and didn't learn a thing from you on how to campaign. He didn't learn anything from his Dad either. We must teach Bob how to smile, he always comes across so sober faced. Bet if Bob wins, that Gordie VanTertil will move to the hill.



KENT COUNTY AIRPORT / GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49508  
DETROIT CITY AIRPORT / DETROIT MICHIGAN 48213



Paul will fill you in on the mural, but I'm really pleased with his work so far, and know you will be too. Ask Paul about one drawing of your mother.

Colonel Charlie Brown, one of your present advance men, that has become a good friend of mine, is retiring from the Air Force the first of the month. He'd like to be an advance man on the campaign tour and I know he'd be real good at it. He's completely sold on you, has advance man experience and shouldn't cost too much because he will be getting a military pension. He has PR coming out of his ears but is much more subtle than that Niedecker (however you spell it) that worked for Nixon.

I'm sure glad that Warren Rustand stayed on, he's sure one wonderful guy. When I talk to him, sometimes it's just like talking to you. You know, how you use to tell me to keep my cool - it's all part of the job etc. - whenever I would get mad and huffy about something nasty or wrong that someone said or printed about you.

Airport business is pretty slow, companies just don't have the extra money. You know that Centurion across the field went bankrupt and it was picked up by a Mr. Parrish of Kalamazoo (he's married to an Up John). It is a funny deal because they owed over five months in back rent and fuel taxes, and the new owner is being allowed to pay it off over a long term of years, but yet, we are forced to make our monthly equivalent payment on time. All our old customers that moved across there, such as Darling, Bissel, Daverman, V.W., Knapp & Vogt, Dennen Steel, etc. have moved back and that has been our salvation, Seidman's airplane is still over on the other side.

I have the only President's airport office in the USA. Paul can tell you about it, but numerous pictures are missing at the moment because Paul borrowed them. I have one of you and Betty taken in about 1959 right beside the one where you were sworn in as President - and believe it or not - Betty doesn't look one day older! It is truly amazing.

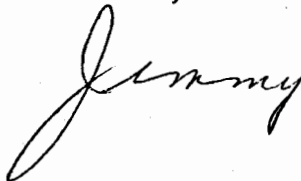
By the way, the White House sent Paul a collection of pictures to work from and a couple of them will turn up missing. They are of you with a pipe and sure bring back memories. Paul is not keeping them, I am!

Bill Post, the owner of North Star Bus Lines, died last Sunday at the age of 63. He was buried on Wednesday. He was quite a man, never really active in the party, but you could always count on him for at least 2 or 3 tickets to the \$100.00 plate dinners and more. I called Mildred and she said she would send his wife Jenny a telegram, so it's all been taken care of.

Have a wonderful holiday, remember shipping skis up on Interstate Motor Freight etc., and keep up the good work. In place of 62 or 68% of the Fifth District vote, we'll make it 62 or 68% of the entire USA in November 1976!

My best regards to the family,

As ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jimmy".