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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 20, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DOUGLAS BENNETT

FROM:

JIM CONNOR

The attached resignation letter from John W. Warner was received in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Jack Marsh hand-delivered this per John Warner's request. Note of gratitude, etc. Outstanding job."

Please prepare appropriate letter and return it to this office for signature.

cc: Dick Cheney

9/18/63

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney

Jack Marsh hand
delivered this per John
Warren's request.

Note of gratitude etc
Outstanding jobs.



~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN~~

The Administrator

September 15, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

With considerable pride of accomplishment, I advise you that the staff of this Agency has completed the principal objectives of Public Law 93-179. The pledges made to you on the occasion of the administration of my oath of office on the steps of the Capitol have been met; namely, that the Federal role of leadership under the new law would be conducted on a strictly non-partisan basis, with an all-out effort to encourage the maximum number of Americans to actively participate in their Bicentennial.

With the support of Members of Congress, Governors, state legislatures, Mayors and state Bicentennial commissions, a nationwide structure of over 13,000 Bicentennial communities was formed. Communities then directed the most massive volunteer cooperative effort in peacetime America achieving a Bicentennial commemoration which befits the dignity and greatness of this Nation. One unforgettable chapter was witnessed by the Nation on the week-end of July 4, 1976, when the Bicentennial drew back the curtains and showed the whole world the true character of America - a people more good-hearted, more resilient, more united than ever before.

With the basic responsibilities of this Agency now met, I have commenced the phasing down of functions and the relocation of personnel. By mid-October this reduction will be approximately 50% and by December 31, all ten Regional offices will be closed and the staff total reduced to that minimum number required to finish the grants program and prepare the final report to the Congress. Early in 1977 I project that the Agency can be legally disestablished, with the transfer of minimum residual responsibility to the Secretary of Interior.

With our national leadership role now fulfilled, and with a sense of fairness towards the Agency staff who, likewise, must reluctantly take leave of their positions, I respectfully submit my resignation and request an effective date of September 30, 1976. The Deputy Administrator, Miss Jean McKee, is ably qualified to assume the responsibilities of my position.

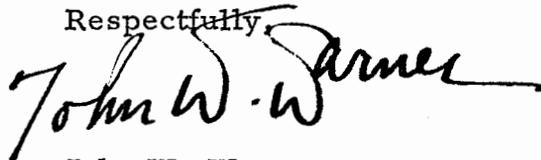
My staff and I will be everlastingly grateful for this unique opportunity of public service - helping America renew its spirit and rediscover that her people have the wisdom and the power to do greatness on their own. To use a popular editorial phrase, the Nation was "born again" as we began our third century.

As a final step, during August I conducted regional meetings attended by the chairpersons and executive directors of each of the 55 state and territorial Bicentennial commissions. They gratefully acknowledged the guidance and support provided by the ARBA staff and by the ARBA Board and Council. Your appointments to these policy and advisory bodies made invaluable contributions to this great national achievement. Likewise, the state leaders expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the other departments and agencies of the Executive branch, participating under the guidance of your very dedicated staff.

It has been my privilege over the years to have served my country in a wide variety of positions and I hope again one day to return to public service; however, no opportunity has been or ever will be more challenging or rewarding than this one.

Lastly, may I commend you and Mrs. Ford for the lifting of national self-confidence brought about by your many Bicentennial appearances.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John W. Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John W. Warner

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501