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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DOROTHY DOWNTON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The attached editorial was returned in the President's outbox with the request that it be given to you.

It was sent to the President by Representative James C. Cleveland of New Hampshire.

Attachment:

Article from Nashua Telegraph
12-3-76 entitled FORD'S A PROFESSIONAL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached is for your information.
It will be handled in a routine manner
unless you indicate otherwise.

Jim Connor

*Please give Editorial
to Dorothy Downter*

JAMES C. CLEVELAND
2d DIST., NEW HAMPSHIRE

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12-23
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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

December 20, 1976

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mf
copying
The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Jerry:

Here is a nice article from the Nashua Telegraph, reprinted from the Portsmouth Herald, and I hope it gets through to you.

I hope you do not do anything about the pay increase. I would let the Carter Administration handle it as God knows you took enough heat on the last one.

Thanks for the nice Christmas card and the party at the White House for Congressmen.

Best wishes to you and the family for Christmas and the New Year.

Warm regards,



James C. Cleveland
Member of Congress

JCC:grp

A Sampler of Opinion

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

Ford's a Professional

The very fact that President-elect James Earl Carter could have occasion to express surprise that President Gerald R. Ford is going that "extra mile" for him is one of the more frightening aspects of the new administration.

Frightening because it shows Carter's complete misunderstanding of the professionalism of men like President Ford.

Did Carter expect that Ford, like the second president, John Adams, would sneak out of town without bothering to shake the hand of his successor? Surely he knew better than that.

Yet that Carter would have occasion to comment publicly on the President's efforts to keep the Ship of State floating serenely in a trying period suggests a naivete beyond belief.

If you're a "class person," and Jerry Ford is, you're a professional, and that means you put yourself secondary and the good of others to the fore. We suspect that this is a lesson that James Earl Carter will have to learn in the months that we suffer his on-the-job-training.

Years ago, back when some club defeated the New York Giants for the title, the winning play went over defensive tackle Jim Katcavage. A few days later, Katcavage was in Boston with a touring gaggle of pros playing basketball. A sports reporter told of his anxiety in approaching Katcavage to question him as to what happened.

"Go ahead," said the coach, "Ask him about it. He's a professional."

So is Jerry Ford.

His country comes long before personal pique. So, to the utmost of his endeavors, the transition will be smooth; and undisturbing to the electorate. His real thoughts will be subordinated — because he, almost alone, knows the terrible burden that Carter is assuming.

More terrible still is the fact that Jerry Ford knows how bloody it can be to come to the presidency with no prior training; with no feeling of empathy for your predecessor who probably didn't even bother to pass on the key to the men's room.

Surely, if nothing else, from this must have come Ford's resolution that the transition would be more smooth than that teary, bleary helicopter liftoff in which he had to participate in August 1974.

Really, when you think about it, what in the name of the Lincoln Memorial did Gerald R. Ford, Republican minority leader, know about the presidency when he ascended to it?

Damn all, as our British cousins would say.

And Jerry Ford, a football player's football player, is going by the rules as he goes out. You don't kick the winner in the shins, although you may feel like it.

You cheer him, and if his victory means moving onward you give him a lift.

Is there anything simpler under simplistic American rules of life?

The Portsmouth Herald