

**The original documents are located in Box 130, folder “Krolik, Richard” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 16

Ron Nessen -

In case you get a query on the White House garden, the decision has been made to skip it. Our official explanation, to those representatives of the gardening industry who met as a Task Force to advise us on a national program, is contained in the attached letter: in sum, the Citizens Action Committee voted to concentrate on a national program of energy conservation, to the exclusion of the other inflation-fighting programs that were being considered.

The man who put out publicity to the effect that there would be a White House garden simply jumped the gun while the question was still under consideration. Home & community vegetable gardening is doing just fine without gimmicks.

Dick Krook

CITIZENS' ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

P. O. Box 19188  
Washington, D. C. 20036  
202/456-6466

Dear (member of Gardens Task Force):

I'm sorry to say that a change in priorities, both the Committee's and the nation's, has made it impossible for the Citizens Action Committee to implement the excellent plans and programs that were formulated by you and your colleagues on the Gardens Task Force.

As the Committee realistically faced up to the great number of programs it had hoped to initiate to fight inflation, the members realized that neither the staff nor the funds existed to do a good job on all of them.

At their last meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to concentrate on a single program --- energy conservation --- and put aside for the time being the proposed programs in gardening, productivity, consumer education, food waste reduction and several others.

I was personally reluctant to give up the campaign for community and family gardening, including the proposed garden at the White House, but I am heartened to learn that gardening activity is increasing so significantly in the nation that the immediate problem is satisfying the demand for seeds, chemicals and canning and bottling material. I know that your efforts contributed to this widespread gardening activity.

We are grateful to you for the time and effort you put into meeting with us in Washington and into the gardening program. If our mandate is expanded in the future, I hope that we can once again call on your expert and freely-given advice and cooperation.

You have our deep gratitude for responding so willingly to the President's call for voluntary action.

Sincerely,

Richard Krolik  
White House Liaison to the  
Citizens Action Committee