

*Presidential
Seal*

February 9, 1965

Miss Sandra L. Markham
Route 3
Rockford, Michigan

Dear Miss Markham,

I have your letter of February 1st concerning the Presidency succession act recommended by President Johnson.

Enclosed is a copy of H.J.Res. 1 introduced by Chairman Celler of the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill is similar to Senator Bayh's (Indiana) in the Senate. These bills have the support of Mr. Johnson and his administration.

You will note that when there is a vacancy in the Vice Presidency because of death or resignation that the President is empowered to nominate a new Vice President who shall take over that office provided he is confirmed by the majority vote of both houses of the Congress.

This is one of the ways which has been proposed to provide the country with a Vice President in event of the death of the President. While other methods may be as good, it seems to me that I can support this proposal. Someone must make the initial choice and the new President who has been the Vice President is one of the logical persons to make the choice. However, he does not have complete authority in that his choice must be confirmed by a majority vote of both houses of Congress.

I think this would generally insure the appointment of a well qualified persons.

While eight Vice Presidents have succeeded to the Presidency because of the death of a President, there has never in our history to date been a situation in which both the elected President and Vice President died during their term of office.



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However, it does seem to me that we should have some sort of an arrangement to specifically provide for a new Vice President when that officer takes over the Presidency following the death or resignation of the President.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:mr

Encl.



February 1, 1965

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
House of Representatives
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

There has been a lot of discussion on the subject of the presidential succession act that President Johnson is trying to put through. Could I have your views on this? Do you think this is a good idea?

I would like your views on it because of a discussion on that subject in our government class.

Sincerely,

Sandra Lou Markham

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