

EXECUTIVE
GENERAL
JLI/NIXON

September 27, 1974

Dear Mr. McNeely:

Thank you for your comments concerning the pardon of former President Nixon. I appreciate receiving your views.

This was not an easy decision to reach, as I am sure you are aware. Before making it, I undertook a thorough examination of the entire matter. This included my right to grant pardons under the Constitution, the legal actions contemplated by the Special Prosecutor, the probable duration of the criminal proceedings and a number of other factors. Throughout this evaluation process, my main concern was to heal the wounds to the Nation. That was the top priority. I know there are deep and genuine differences among good people over the decision I made. But I felt then, and I feel now, that I made the right decision in an honest, conscientious effort to end the divisions in this country.

I am grateful that you support my decision and I appreciate your taking the time to let me know about it.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD
Mr. Robert W. McNeely
Pizza Corporation of America
Post Office Box 2817
Wichita, Kansas 67201

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RE

September 9, 1974

President Gerald Ford
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20570

Dear Mr. President:

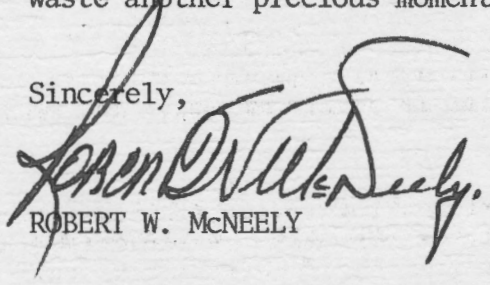
Your Sunday announcement granting Presidential Amnesty to Richard Nixon, while not a politically expedient move, was a decision representing compassion, understanding and sympathy. It further demonstrated your courage in doing what you believed to be right and proper. Many Kansans applaud your decisions.

America is nearly sick to death of Watergate. Our need to act upon the challenges of today far outweigh any need to wreck revenge on those who may have contributed to yesterday's problems.

Do not allow our press or your liberal opposition to dwell too long on their argument of "double-standards." Too many examples of these double-standards exist in our recent history in which past Presidents, Presidential candidates and prospective Presidential candidates have played a leading role.

Let us join together in the business of protecting our tomorrows and not waste another precious moment in dwelling on yesterday's errors.

Sincerely,


ROBERT W. McNEELY



RWMcN:dp



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