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March 25, 1975

Dear Kit:

Thank you very much for your kind words of support in your remarks to the Republican National Leadership Conference.

No one can deny that our Nation faces serious problems, and it is time to put our domestic house in order. As I carry out the duties of my office, knowing that I have your support is a source of great strength.

I am looking forward to working with you in your capacity as Chairman of the Republican Governors Association and continuing to work with you in your duties as Governor of Missouri. Your address to the Leadership Conference marks you as an important Party leader, and I know that you will work diligently to revitalize our Party and elect good and responsible Republican public officials.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Governor of Missouri
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

GRF:JTC:GAA:DVM:rks

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RECEIVED

MAR 27 1975

CENTRAL FILES

60 re remarks to Rep. Natl Leadership Conf.

CLEARANCE FOR PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE

Date: March 20, 1975

TO: ELISKA HASEK
Room 121, OEOB


FROM: DIANE MOORE

SUBJECT: Letter of appreciation to Gov. Bond

Requested by: _____

Research material,
if any, supplied by: _____

Cleared by: Jack Calkins 

Gwen Anderson 

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Date needed (if for special occasion): _____

2. Suggested signature (check one): () Gerald R. Ford

(~~XX~~) Jerry Ford

3. After signature, please:

(~~XX~~) Send to Stripping Desk for mailing.

() Return to me for handling.

() Other _____

(GDP)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- REPUBLICAN POLLSTERS TOLD PARTY LEADERS TODAY THE GOP HAS REACHED ITS LOWEST EBB IN HISTORY, BUT IT CAN COME BACK STRONG BY DECIDING TO TRANSLATE ITS PRINCIPLES INTO SOLUTIONS.

ROBERT TEETER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY FIRM THAT FOUND ONLY 48 PER CENT OF AMERICANS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS REPUBLICANS, TOLD A PARTY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE "WE CANNOT BE THE VOTE AND PARTY."

HE SAID AMERICANS "ARE NOT INTERESTED IN HEARING DEBATE ABOUT PRINCIPLES" AND WANT "PEOPLE WHO CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT FACE THEM." HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PARTY "TRANSLATE ITS PRINCIPLES INTO SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PROBLEMS."

THE GOP-FINANCED NATIONAL POLL SHOWED THAT ONLY 7 OUT OF 100 AMERICANS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS "STRONG REPUBLICANS" AND ANOTHER 11 OF THEM ADMIT TO BEING "WEAK REPUBLICANS." IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE OF MORE THAN 2,000 PARTY OFFICIALS AND ACTIVISTS.

THE AUDIENCE LISTENED SOBERLY TO THE REPORT OF TEETER AND TWO OTHER PUBLIC OPINION EXPERTS, BUT CHEERED WILDLY WHEN MISSOURI GOV. CHRISTOPHER BOND PRAISED PRESIDENT FORD AND ATTACKED RECENT TALK OF A CONSERVATIVE THIRD PARTY MOVEMENT.

"I AM A LITTLE TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT REPUBLICANS MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SO-CALLED THIRD PARTY OPTION OR ORGANIZING COMMITTEES TO WATCH THE PRESIDENT," BOND SAID.

"THIS GOOD AND DECENT MAN DOESN'T NEED WATCHING. I THINK WE OUGHT TO BE APPLAUDING PRESIDENT FORD FOR THE SPIRIT OF HIS OPENNESS, CONCILIATION, COOPERATION AND RESPONSIBLE COMPROMISE."

POLLSTERS LANCE TARRANCE AND PAUL NEWMAN JOINED TEETER IN THE EXPLANATION OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT. NEWMAN SAID THE PARTY SHOULD GO "BEYOND POLITICS" AND CONSIDER NONPOLITICAL CIVIC AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS AS A WAY OF REBUILDING THE GOP IMAGE.

Handwritten signature/initials

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