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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

11/6/76

Dear Edith:

First, Betty & I thank you for the thoughtful, beautiful and very generous letter! Your words meant so much to us at a tough and traumatic time.

Second, you will never know, because words are inadequate, how much I appreciated your wonderful support. Betty & I are most grateful.

You are stamp collectors, Dick & you, so I am sending each of you two of the enclosed with special signatures.

Thanks again - you are really a superior

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

person and a friend whose
many kindnesses I will never
forget.

You and your family have
our love and best wishes.

Most appreciatively,
J. F. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Nov. 3, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

The same Jerry Ford
I knew for 19 years --
so decent - so honest.

In 1956, Adlai said
"It hurts too much to
laugh and I'm too
old to cry". Yet, last
night I cried -- not
for me -- not really
for you -- but because
special interest groups
appealed to peoples emotions
not to their minds.

President has
original ---
Handwritten
response sent.

GBF

11/8/76

And this kind of
nonsense triumphed.
Jimmy Carter will
find that this is a
very mercenary kind
of support -- sufficient,
maybe, to win an
election -- but not
wise enough nor
strong enough to
help govern 215 million
people.

So - so close --- if
some of the rest of us
could have measured
up to your high standards.

You never sought
the Presidency back
in those days of personal
and national anguish,
but you took on
immense burdens,
and until my dying
day, I will always
believe you did just
a great, great job.

(Forgive my bitterness—
but damn the Joe Krafts
of the world—)

To come from 33 points
behind in August and
15 to 20 points behind

after Kansas City --
and almost -- almost
me in -- cannot be
interpreted in any way
except as a great
personal tribute to
you.

With Republicans
providing only 20 %
of the electorate, your
vote shows a broad
base of public support
among educated,
thinking Americans.
It's something you can
be very proud of. I am.

To get to know the members of your family has been a real privilege and only increases my respect and admiration for you.

How lucky they are to have had your love and devotion and how fortunate you are to have had "Betty" by your side and four wonderful children loving you and rooting for you all the way.

to have been associated
with you in this
campaign has been
a real privilege.

To have watched the
election returns with
you at the White House
is something Richard
and I will always
treasure.

Thank you.

To you and Mrs. Ford
my continuing respect,
admiration and love,
I think you're both great!

Edith

-- over mends.