



Oct 19

Norm but must leave to get to
1740 Houston Club Building
Houston, Texas 77002

John F. Ford

July 6, 1966

Dear Gerry,

At the candidates school, you mentioned to me that you would be in Houston on October 19th. We have been thinking about this a great deal and, frankly, if you have the time we would like to have both a fund-raising effort and a public-type function. Our preference would be that your appearance be on behalf of "Bush for Congress" and "Bush for Congress" alone.

We are running a separate campaign with the blessing of the state Republican Party and the Tower for Senate campaign. We are not scheduling joint appearances with Tower or any other candidates. All top candidates have adopted this policy here in Texas. In addition, there is no Republican opposition in the other two congressional districts of Harris County, namely the 8th and 22nd. So, this is the only congressional race in the Houston area.

Frankly, Gerry, we are not emphasizing the word "Republican." We are outnumbered about ten to one and everybody knows my Republican identification since I was county chairman here three years ago and ran for the Senate two years ago on the Republican ticket, but we are not "flogging the elephant."

An appearance here by you would be a popular one and you could say some of the things about the need for a Republican in the House as opposed to a conservative Democrat. My opponent is a respected conservative Democrat but he will, of course, have to go along on that first vote with the Democrat side.

By this letter, we are certainly not dictating terms. I am merely suggesting what would be best for us. I am anxious to hear from you as to what your thinking on this matter is and to know in some detail what your schedule might be. My thought would be in the evening to get a group of the bigger givers together for a last-minute financial push and a hard pitch by you. This would then be followed by a larger public meeting to which all workers and, hopefully, undecided voters would be encouraged to attend.

We are flexible on all of this so please let me know what your wishes are.

You were great to give so much time to the candidates' conference. It was a wonderfully cheering experience and I came away full of optimism and full of great respect for the Republican leadership in the House---a most impressive performance by all.

Best regards.

Yours very truly,

George Bush
George Bush

Congressman Gerald Ford
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

