

The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “Parks Proposal” of the Richard B. Cheney Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: The President

FROM: MILDRED LEONARD

FOR: Information _____

Appropriate Handling _____

I have a copy of Mr. John B. Thune's letter. This is the original that you asked for and it hasn't been acknowledged.

GOOD PERSON - IS
RESPECTED NATIONALLY
JRL

DATE: _____



METROPOLITAN YMCA OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
2101 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, California 94612
Telephone 415/ 451-8033

August 31, 1976

ML
Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jerry:

It was so good to see and have lunch with you at Canyon on Sunday. That you would meet with your former Ranger partners from Yellowstone days was a very wonderful thing.

I have a suggestion that I feel has some merit, but has an element of time value with respect to the forthcoming election. William Penn Mott, Jr. has just become the President of our YMCA Board. Bill is one of the outstanding authorities on parks in the world. For eight years he served as Director of Parks and Recreation for the State of California during Governor Reagan's administration. In addition he is a strong Republican.

It would be my hope that you might invite Mott to Washington in the near future to meet with you and Secretary Kleppe to get Mott's thinking on the implementation of the program you outlined at Old Faithful this last weekend. Perhaps after an initial exploration with you and Secretary Kleppe, Mott could then meet with Gary Everhardt and other selected Interior staff members to express his ideas in more detail. He has already shared some stimulating thoughts on the subject with me.

To allow Bill Mott to impact the plan at this time would seem to be very strategic. I make this statement for the following reasons. Bill Mott is one of California's great citizens with a tremendous number of contacts. He speaks to more groups up and down this state each week than any other person I know.

The confidence developed through meeting with you could be very helpful in bringing some of the reconciliation that is needed within the Republican ranks of California as well as swinging votes to Ford in November. Mott is deeply respected and has great influence.

You indicated to me that California was going to be a "tough one". The foregoing is an idea that could help to make a difference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John B. Thune".

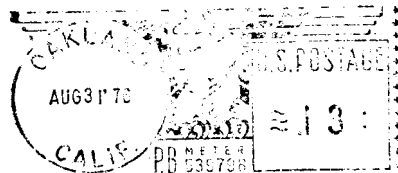
John B. Thune
General Executive

JBT/lb





JOHN B. THUNE
METROPOLITAN YMCA OF ALAMEDA COUNTY
2101 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, California 94612



Mr. Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500