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FROM: JACK MARSH

TO: DICK CHENEY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

FROM: JACK MARSH 

Jeno Paulucci requests that the attached be passed personally to the President. He has sent a personal message conveying his warm views on behalf of the President and regrets which are expressed.

He advises that he will be working quietly on his behalf but not publicly for the reasons assigned in the letter.



Jeno F. Paulucci

October 22, 1976

Hon. Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C.

I write this Friday morning,
the 22nd, Mr. President.

. before your debate. I am sending it in care of Henry Cashen. I am also enclosing a check made out to the Republican National Committee. However, the purpose of this letter is not to say I am sending money. That's easy to do. What I want to bring to your attention is my very sincere regret that I could not in good conscience support you publically. Privately yes, but not publically.

In order to make arrangements to join your campaign publically I arranged a leave of absence from the Italian American Foundation. I got a lot of criticism from some of the Directors, in fact one staunch Republican sent me the following message:--

"I vote aye. However, I am concerned that your active campaigning and subsequent return to Board as Chairman may interfere with the non-political image which the Foundation should maintain."

Notwithstanding all the pressure, I was prepared to be in Washington last Wednesday, 20th.

However, Mr. President, I hope you will understand the situation I found myself in. I am an extreme loyalist, as I know you are. I just couldn't come out publically for Gerald Ford as much as I wanted to because it would have been a slap in the face to my good friend for some 20 years now, Fritz Mondale. You can't sit in a 14 foot boat for days on end fishing plus being a friend of many years and then publically denounce the ticket that your good friend is on.

For years I have told Fritz Mondale he is way too liberal, so I do not espouse his political philosophy, but he is a good personal friend.

JENO F. PAULUCCI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, P.O. BOX 6225, DULUTH, MINN. 55806, 218/727-8871



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Hon. Gerald R. Ford
October 22, 1976

There is no doubt in my mind you are going to be the victor on November 2nd. Therefore, my loyalty to a friend has made me sacrifice being in the winner's circle with you. I know what that means, for I am a political realist. You are going to be in the White House for another eight years. I will be on the outside looking in, but it was a decision I had to make from my heart - not from my head. I know I will regret it over the years to come. Had Jimmy Carter given me a reason to become totally angry where I would have had absolute justification for attacking him - not Mondale - the decision would have been easier ... and yet I still don't know whether or not I would have violated a friendship.

Therefore, regretfully I give you this explanation. You are a great man. You are going to make a great President during the next eight years. Privately we are all supporting you. Publically I could not.

Kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

JFP
Jeno F. Paulucci

JFP/gb
Encl.

