

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “Nixon Pardon – Correspondence” of the Benton L. Becker Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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420 East 64th Street
New York, New York 10021
September 9, 1974

Benton L. Becker, Esq.
Cramer Haber & Becker
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Benton,

I thought that you would enjoy this clipping from today's New York Times. Congratulations on your accomplishments to date. After seven years, my name may not ring a bell, but we worked together at the Justice Dept. in the Frauds Section.

Very truly yours,

Alan Rothenberg

folder and began reading his decision, looking occasionally into the cameras, which were filming the event for later showing. He speaks of the difficulty of the decision.

"To procrastinate, to agonize and to wait for a more favorable turn of events that may never come," he said, "or more compelling external pressures that may as well be wrong as right, is itself a decision of sorts and a weak and potentially dangerous course for a President to follow."

Of President Nixon and his family, Mr. Ford said: "This is an American tragedy in which we all have played a part. It could go on and on and on, or someone must write 'The End' to it. I have concluded that only I can do that."

He pointed out that there was no historical or legal prece-

dent Richard Nixon for all offenses against the United States which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or taken part in during the period from Jan. 20, 1969, through Aug. 9, 1974."

Mr. Buchen later briefed reporters on the events leading up to today's action. Sittin-

Benton L. Becker, to negotiate with Mr. Nixon and his lawyers. Mr. Becker, a friend of both the President and Mr. Buchen, went to San Clemente last week and advised Mr. Nixon that he probably would receive a pardon. Mr. Nixon told Mr. Becker, either personally or through an aide,

questions, said that during his study of the matter had Mr. Ford talked to Mr. Nixon and that the decision to go ahead with the pardon had been based on the belief that "it was very likely" Mr. Nixon would have been indicted and ordered to stand trial.

Lawyer, 36, Is Liaison for 2 Presidents

By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Benton L. Becker, the young lawyer who acted as intermediary between President Ford and former President Richard M. Nixon in the negotiations that led to today's pardon announcement, was described by a for-



Mr. Becker, while serving in the Justice Department as an Assistant Attorney General, worked on a criminal case against the late Adam Clayton Powell.

Mr. Becker, in private practice, represented Joel Kline and Eric Baer, defendants in a recent stock manipulation case. Both men were convicted. Mr.

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

E. Blanche Pritchett, Ph.D.
Route 4
Arlington, Washington 98223
(206) 435-3264

September 9, 1974

Benton Becker
Cramer, Haber, and Becker
485 L'Enfante, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Benton Becker:

Our telephone conversation, of this date, has tended to add enormous support to my personal considerations about your great service to our President, and to the citizens of our country. Regrettably, most people do not know - and do not know that they do not know! The outburst of emotional reaction, at this time, tends to validate the ignorance of the masses. They do not know what a tremendous service has been performed for them by President Ford, and by you. As a voice crying out in the wilderness, I want you to know that your character, your comprehensibility, your integrity, and your devotion to your spiritual guidance are without flaw and are to be commended. I must ask you to be sensitive to the degree of gratitude being expressed herein, because in the face of such a magnitude of appreciation words, being weak things, cannot reach the height of expression.

As spokeswoman for 533 registered voters in 25 states, I reiterate my message to the President, and wish him to know that we commend him for his great courage and support his action in taking the initiative, under spiritual guidance and direction, to pardon President Nixon, one of the greatest statesman this nation has ever had!

Benton Becker, I will be disseminating my opinions and philosophy very broadly over radio-talk-shows and in writing, and I will comply with your request to keep you informed.

As I stated to you on the phone this morning, you are, indeed, an angel of mercy! I offer any service which you may request of me, at any time. I base this offer on what I consider to be my recognition of a Fraternity Brother.



Page 2

God bless you, beloved Benton Becker, With high esteem, I am,

Faithfully yours,

E. Blanche Pritchett

E. Blanche Pritchett

EBP:d



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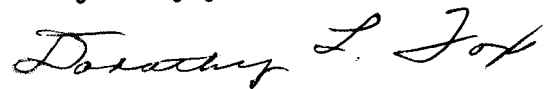
September 9, 1974

Benton,

I just had to take a minute to tell you how thrilled I was when I saw you on the newscast last evening. I am happy to know you had a part in this. I, for one, am proud of your friend and our president.

Good luck!

Very truly yours,



Dorothy L. Fox



10 LIGHT STREET
(17TH FLOOR)
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

September 9, 1974

Benton L. Becker, Esquire
Cramer, Habber & Becker
Suite 4100
485 L'Fant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Benton:

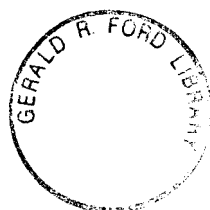
I was painting my house on Sunday and listening to the radio and heard your name as being the intermediary between the White House and San Clemente on the Nixon pardon. My congratulations. I hope that this means that your difficulties in D.C. are over, although someone showed me an article today from the Washington Post talking about a potential investigation by the reprobates here in Baltimore. I hope that this is not true and that your future is free from such difficulties.

Again congratulations and my best to both you and Joanne.

Very truly yours,

Jay Schwartz

JAS/las





September 9, 1974

Mr. Benton Becker
475 L'Enfant Plaza Southwest
Suite 4100
Washington D.C. 20024

Dear Benton:

I was aroused from a blissful reverie late last night by my former wife, (you do remember Lois I'm sure), asking if I had my T.V. set on. It seems as though you made the late T.V. news.

While reading the Los Angeles Times this morning I came across the enclosed story and obviously you have been quite busy.

Perhaps, on one of your next trips to Southern California, if time permits, give me a call and let's get together....I'll buy.

The best,


Joel Rubenstein
Director, Marketing Public Relations

JR/cb

Enclosure: One newspaper clip



YOUNG, TURNBULL & LINS COTT, P. A.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
Post Office Box 112
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801
TELEPHONE (305) 841-1111

V. KEITH YOUNG
WILLIAM S. TURNBULL
JERRY R. LINS COTT

YOUR REFERENCE:

JEFFRY R. JONTZ
ARTHUR R. LOUV
STEPHEN A. WEINSTEIN
JAMES R. MONROE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

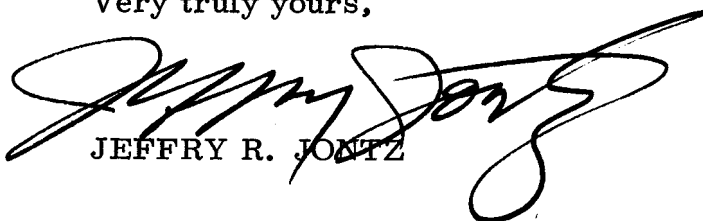
September 10, 1974

Benton Becker, Esquire
Cramer, Haber & Becker
485 L'Enfant Plaza, West, S.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Benton:

Although I have not heard anything from you since the Insko reversal, I see that you have not been idle. I was interested to hear on CBS News on Sunday night that you had made the trip to San Clemente to make the arrangements for the Nixon pardon. It appears that our new President continues to rely heavily on the good counsel of your offices.

Very truly yours,



JEFFRY R. JONTZ

JRJ/lmh



Martin Itzler, P.C.
Law Offices

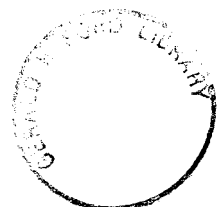
110 EAST 59TH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
TEL. (212) PL 2-8855 • CABLE: "MARITZLAW"

Sept 10th

Benton-

a forgotten name from the past on the
news — and I thought you were destined
to be the lead singer in a rock & roll band
or something of equal dignity - fallen idols
so many years - twenty I guess

Marty





AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS

4630 Montgomery Avenue / Washington, D. C. 20014

AREA CODE 301 (Bethesda, Maryland)
TELEPHONE 657-3000

September 10, 1974

Benton L. Becker, Esq.
485 L'Enfant Plaza W. S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Benton:

I have been following closely your participation in these historic and unprecedented events as they have unfolded over the past several days, and feel profoundly proud of your mission. I must say I have a feeling of high pride in being able to identify with you because of our relationship of some years ago. My family had always expected you to do something special and indeed you have not let us down.

I only hope that in your intimate involvement with the President of the United States you can serve him well for the benefit of all the people in this country. The pressures and challenges of your responsibility are great, but I know that you can handle them well.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,



Norman M. Hochman
Controller

NMH:cb



Robert H. Glazier

3401 SCHOOL LANE

REAL ESTATE MAINTENANCE

DREXEL HILL, PA.

September 11, 1974

Mr. Benton L. Becker
c/o Cramer, Haber, & Becker
Attorneys At Law
485 L'Enfant Plaza, S. W.
Suite 4100
Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Mr. Becker:

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations on your success in the recent matter between Ex-President Nixon and President Ford. As you know from my previous letters, I have always had a very high regard for your ability.

Enclosed are some newspaper clippings that you may want to use in the event Mrs. Becker is making a scrap book based on the accomplishments of her famous husband. I hope that you have the very best of luck in the future.

Very sincerely yours,



Robert H. Glazier

RHG/e
Encl:



AN EFFORT TO ASSIST UNDERSTANDING!

by

E. Blanche Pritchett, Ph.D.
Arlington, Washington 98223

(Written September 12, 1974)

On Sunday, September 8, 1974, Gerald R. Ford, the President of the United States, "took the bit between his teeth" and did what he had to do! There was no way that President Ford could have not done what he had to do! He went before the nation on television and he pronounced a pardon for former President Richard Nixon. He stated, as clearly as he could, the basis for and the conditions of that Presidential pardon. He was the only person who could have exercised that Presidential right! He was the only person who comprehends the circumstances that caused President Nixon to resign, even though you may have heard numbers of theories and opinions. President Ford knew what his liabilities were, and he knew that self-serving motives would have caused him not to do what he knew was the right thing to do! Yes, he knew! And he went forth, courageously, to bring some measure of balance to a situation that was badly tilted out of perspective. For his sheer courage alone, he is to be respected and honored. The future will guarantee that the wisdom of his judgement was superb and timely! Of that, I am absolutely certain!

Perhaps I am carried away with my own ability to understand; it is surely not conceit on my part when I can view the situation and evaluate the possibilities. I can offer a view of my own, which you may caption as "theory" but I will feel better for having said it publicly.

For over two years now, I have been aware of the possibility that important state secrets were in danger by persons in position of trust in the Executive branch of our government. I seemed to know from the start that President Nixon could have done many things differently if it were not for his own built-in respect for national security. A President has to be aware of national security and has to guard and defend it if he is to live up to his oath of office. My view tells me that Richard Nixon withheld things to his own detriment, and ultimately to his own downfall. He did what he did because he believed it was what he should do. The extreme loyalty of his own subordinates shows a tremendous sense of loyalty and respect for confidences, and this example was set by the "Chief" himself! In being true to his own ideals, President Nixon withheld things that could have explained many things that would have caused members of the Congress to side with him. But ... he didn't take the risk.

My view tells me that Dan Ellsberg, having once been a staff member of the National Security Council, had stolen "Top Secret" documents and disseminated them to the press, and that this one act alone by a person in a "security position" would have been enough to give any truly responsible Chief Executive nightmares! President Nixon had to make decisions. His decisions had to be made in strict accordance with his own concepts of the national interest. He had to find the leaks in the White House and he had to use any method that he could use. That should be an indisputable statement! He had to do what he could, and, as Chief Executive, he could do almost anything. He chose to keep his investigations confined to as few people as possible, and only highly trusted and proven people at that! He believed within his heart that he could defend his people and handle any contingency that may have arisen. His mistake was in not realizing that any little thing would be blown all out of proportion due to the avowed Nixon-haters. In other words, he underestimated his enemy. That was a mistake, and it is a mistake to which he has referred several times. He has never claimed infallibility!

As to the pardon ... President Ford had almost one full month to view things from the exclusive position of the Chief Executive, and

[please turn page]



[thank you]

then he knew! He knew that President Nixon was truly a pariah! He knew that President Nixon was defending this country's internal peace of mind by not talking about matters that he should not talk about. In seeing this whole thing so clearly, from the one place it could be viewed (the Presidency), Gerald R. Ford made the only just and righteous decision that could have been made. But, like President Nixon, he cannot tell all of the reasons for his decision either!

Any truly objective person can look at the facts of the whole situation that has been labeled "Watergate" and see that the efforts made by President Nixon had truly noble intents and purposes. Truly!

If President Ford had not pardoned Richard Nixon, there was a possibility of an indictment by the Special Prosecutor! If Mr. Nixon took the stand under oath, he would have to tell things that could panic the citizens of the U.S. President Ford was keen enough to see all of these potential liabilities, and he made sure such a thing could not happen. He made sure that President Nixon would never be liable for perjury for withholding state secrets, etc.!

Just imagine what damage an embittered President could do if he chose to, under the same circumstances in which Richard Nixon has found himself! Just imagine if his own top aides chose to talk!

Richard Nixon had the same authority to grant pardons as President Ford now has. He did not pardon his top aides even though he would dearly have loved to do so. He did not take unfair advantage of his position. He knew that if he did, his accusers would also use that against him.

Richard Nixon was in an impossible position: no matter what he did, it would not turn out right! He chose the way he has gone so that he could live with his own conscience, but for that he has taken on the hatred and distrust of millions of people! He had to consciously make the decision to take on the apparence of villain, when in truth he is one of this nation's greatest-ever national heroes!

Now, Richard Nixon is a man who is hurting, esthetically, emotionally, and physically! He is bearing his burden while he knows just how he could relieve himself of it, but that would mean that he would have to talk about untalkable things and his attitude is that he "would rather die first"!

Now, President Ford, perhaps the only man who knows the great sacrifice made by Richard Nixon, is also bound not to talk and is being pelted by the actual enemies of this land -- enemies who exist under the cover of citizenship while trying to overthrow the government. This is the biggest of all national enigmas!

Where emotions rule, there is no charity in the hearts of the beasts who seek blood! There is only sadism and cruelty! And this is what is known as a "Christian Nation"!

Let your heart tell you the truth! Never mind the scandalmongers! Without your ears, they starve!

I have made a pledge to myself to speak of my own understanding, with a plea for others to look and understand as well. Won't you put yourself in the same position as these two topflight human beings of high caliber, and see the way it is?

* * * * *



September 13, 1974

Jay Schwartz, Esquire
10 Light Street
Seventeenth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Jay:

It was thoughtful of you to take the time to write me this week. Hearing from old friends, particularly at times when everyone else seems to want to talk to you, is a very pleasant experience. I hope that you will give me a call some time so that we can get together in person.

Sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



September 13, 1974

Alan Rothenberg, Esquire
420 East 64th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alan:

I surely do recall working closely with you during our tenure at Justice and it was indeed thoughtful of you to write me at this time.

Sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



September 13, 1974

Martin Itzler, Esquire
110 East 59th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marty:

A voice from the past indeed. Others may be motivated in actions like this for personal self-gloxy or monetary interest. Let the record show that I did it for one purpose and one purpose alone: TO IMPRESS JACKIE LAHN.

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



September 13, 1974

Mr. Norman M. Hochman
Controller
American Society of Hospital Pharmacists
4630 Montgomery Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20014

Dear Norman:

It was thoughtful of you to take the time to write me this week. Hearing from old friends, particularly at times when everyone else seems to want to talk to you, is a very pleasant experience. I hope that you will give me a call some time so that we can get together in person.

Sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



September 13, 1974

Jeffry R. Jontz, Esquire
Young, Turnbull & Linscott, P.A.
Post Office Box 112
Orlando, Florida 32801

Dear Jeff:

It was thoughtful of you to take time to write me this week. Hearing from old friends, particularly at times when everyone else seems to want to talk to you, is a very pleasant experience. I hope that if you are in Washington in the near future, you will find time to call so that we might get together in person.

Sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



September 13, 1974

Dorothy L. Fox
J. D. Barter Construction Co., Inc.
Route 34 - South, Rural Route 3
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

Dear Dorothy:

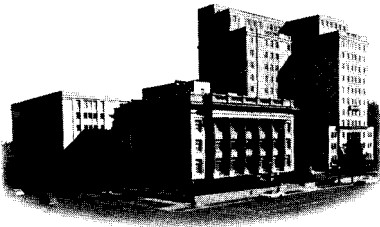
It was thoughtful of you to take time to write me this week. Hearing from old friends, particularly at times when everyone else seems to want to talk to you, is a very pleasant experience. I hope that if you are ever in Washington, you will find time to call so that we might get together in person.

Sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk





THE FRANKLIN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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JACK WATSON, CLU
VICE PRESIDENT - FIELD SERVICES

September 17, 1974

Mr. Benton Becker
485 L'enfant Plaza Southwest
Suite 4100
Washington, D. C. 20024

Congratulations, Benton . . .

on your key role in the Ford administration. As a good friend of your brother Wally, I have followed your assignment with keen interest and appreciate your personal importance. Wally long ago told me to watch out for his baby brother, and you certainly met his great expectations.

Sorry I was away when you stopped by Springfield but hopefully we will meet some day. The Becker family is well supplied with talent because your father and Wally have distinguished themselves as exceptional life insurance professionals with Franklin Life. Wally sets new records in Sales Management.

We are mighty proud of the Beckers.

Sincerely,

Jack Watson
Vice President

JW . lgf



September 18, 1974

Mr. Robert Glazier
3401 School Lane
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Glazier:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the pardoning of Former President Nixon. My secretary has dutifully maintained a clipping and correspondence file where your thoughtful communique will be housed. Someday, when I am old and gray, I imagine I will enjoy rereading and recapturing thoughts of the past weeks.

Very sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



September 18, 1974

Mr. Joel Rubenstein
Mattel, Inc.
5150 Rosecrans Avenue
Hawthorne, California 90250

Dear Joel:

I am embarrassed and disturbed for having been responsible for an act which caused disturbance to your slumber. Yet, it was thoughtful of you to take the time to write me and renew an old and valued friendship.

I was particularly intrigued with your invitation to buy drinks upon my next trip to California and recalling your spendthrift nature, I reported your offer to Wide World of Sports.

If you plan to be in Washington any time in the future, please call as I would very much enjoy catching up on old times.

Very sincerely,

BENTON L. BECKER

BLB:cdk



WKBD TV

ch50

Detroit
P O Box 359
Southfield Mi 48075
313/444 8500

September 19, 1974

Dear Mr. Becker:

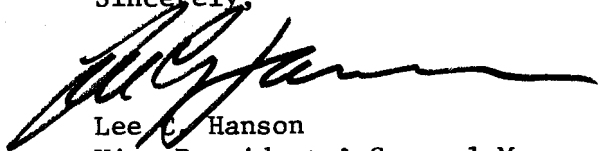
"The Lou Gordon Program" is a 90-minute program devoted to interviews and discussions of public interest. The program is seen on Kaiser stations serving Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco and on other stations according to the attached schedule.

On a recent program, the date and time of which is shown below, Mr. Gordon responded to a question submitted by a viewer. In his response, reference was made to you, and I am attaching a copy of that reference for your information.

The Lou Gordon Program
Broadcast date and time: Weekend of September 14-15, 1974

If you would like the opportunity to respond to these comments, please let me know so that we may make necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,



Lee C. Hanson
Vice President & General Manager

LCH:jf
Attach.

Mr. Benton Becker
Attorney at Law
485 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.
Washington, DC 20024



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"THE LOU GORDON PROGRAM"

AIR DATES

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CREATOR'S NAME John Futch
RECEIVER'S NAME Benton Becker
DESCRIPTION Personal matter.
CREATION DATE 1974

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 023800018
COLLECTION TITLE Benton L. Becker Papers
BOX NUMBER 2
FOLDER TITLE Nixon Pardon - Correspondence

NEW LOCATION Donor Restriction Closed File
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Ford Denies Post Story On Pardon

By Bob Woodward

and Carl Bernstein

Washington Post Staff Writers

President Ford stands by his public statements and testimony about the events leading up to the pardon of former President Nixon, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

William I. Greener said "the President has dealt with candor and truthfulness at all times on this matter."

Greener denied a story in yesterday's Washington Post that President Ford assured former Nixon chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. on Aug. 28, 1974, that a pardon for Nixon would be forthcoming.

This was 10 days before President Ford announced the pardon.

It was learned from other White House sources, meanwhile, that President Ford failed to tell his own staff about his discussions with Haig regarding a pardon, and that — until questioned by reporters this week — Mr. Ford's top advisers were unaware that such conversations took place.

Had they known of the existence of such conversations, these sources said, they would have advised Mr. Ford to disclose them when he testified before a congressional subcommittee last year.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. of the House Judiciary Committee directed a review of President Ford's testimony about the pardon, to determine if a subcommittee should reopen hearings into the matter.

According to Greener, Mr. Ford and Haig did discuss the pardon question on Aug. 28, 1974, but only in the context of answers to questions about a possible pardon that Mr. Ford gave at his press conference that day.

Three reliable sources have told The Washington Post that the President and Haig had a substantive discussion that day about pardoning Nixon, and that Haig received assurances from Mr. Ford that a pardon would be granted.

In addition, both Haig and

See PRESIDENT, A4, Col. 5



Washington Post

12/19/75

President Denies Story on Pardon

PRESIDENT, From A1

White House Counsel Philip W. Buchen said earlier this week that the general and the President had such a substantive discussion that day.

Chairman William Hungate (D-Mo.), Holtzman raised "the possibility that President Ford concealed important information" when he

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Transfer/Disposal Sheet

ITEM ID 00193

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COLLECTION TITLE Benton L. Becker Papers
BOX NUMBER 2
FOLDER TITLE Nixon Pardon - Correspondence
ACCESSION NUMBER 91-NLF-024
MOVEMENT DATE 05/15/1991
TYPE OF MATERIAL Photographs
NEW LOCATION Audiovisual Collection
ARCHIVIST'S Kellee Green