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September 27, 1974

EXECUTIVE
OFFICE
JLL/NIXON

Dear Miss Gannett:

Thank you for your comments concerning the pardon of former President Nixon. I appreciate receiving your views.

This was not an easy decision to reach, as I am sure you are aware. Before making it, I undertook a thorough examination of the entire matter. This included my right to grant pardons under the Constitution, the legal actions contemplated by the Special Prosecutor, the probable duration of the criminal proceedings and a number of other factors. Throughout this evaluation process, my main concern was to heal the wounds to the Nation. That was the top priority. I know there are deep and genuine differences among good people over the decision I made. But I felt then, and I feel now, that I made the right decision in an honest, conscientious effort to end the divisions in this country.

Needless to say, I am sorry that you feel you are unable to support my decision on this. But I hope you will respect my reasons for making it as much as I respect your right to differ with me about it. Thank you for taking the time to let me know how you feel about this.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

The Honorable Ann C. Gannett
Member of the House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
85 Old Connecticut Path
Wayland, Massachusetts 01778

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston

ANN C. GANNETT
38TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
85 OLD CONNECTICUT PATH
WAYLAND - 01778

Member
Committee on Education
Committee on Transportation

September 9, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

Your pardon of Mr. Nixon has shattered the renewal of hope created by the beginning weeks of your administration. The action casts doubt on the credibility of the new openness and integrity which was beginning to be restored at the White House.

As a person, I feel betrayed; it sickens me to even think that this was the plan all along.

As a Republican, I am afraid you have destroyed the chances for re-election of many of us throughout this nation. In this state, you may have dealt us a mortal blow. Our party is in a sorry condition here anyway; now we shall have to spend the rest of the campaign explaining the issue we hoped had been laid to rest.

As an American, I can never explain to myself or to anyone else how it can be honorable to subvert "equal justice for all".

Sincerely,

Ann C. Gannett
ANN C. GANNETT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ACG:pa



*Con Nixon
Political*

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