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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1976

Dear Mr. Cohn:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, and I am pleased to enclose back an autographed invitation from the March 5, 1976 reception in Springfield, Illinois, which I enjoyed so much.

I look forward to seeing you and the other members of the Illinois delegation in Kansas City this August.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ford

Mr. Gerald Cohn
No. 3 Airport Plaza
Post Office Box 6
Bethalto, Illinois 62010

P.S. I appreciate your frank analysis of the appointment which I will bear in mind in the future. I am grateful for your fine support. J.

33 support in Ill.

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1976
GENERAL FILES

*You and your family are cordially invited
to a Reception with*

The President of the United States

GERALD R. FORD

Gary Ford
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1976, 3:00 P.M.

Lounge on 30

Forum 30 Hotel

Springfield, Illinois



Gerald R. Cohn
Attorney at Law

-noted in Del. BK.
-make copy of bio +
corres. for book

No. 3 Airport Plaza
P. O. Box 6
Bethalto, Illinois 62010
Telephone: (618) 377-8257

-forward to
Wt for
fol/up -
Janet

May 24, 1976

15
Jim Field

Mr. Gerald R. Ford
Post Office Box 19760
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your letter of April 26, and look forward to serving you at the Republican National Convention as a delegate from Illinois. I also look forward to directing your campaign in this part of Illinois in the fall. I am enclosing an invitation for the reception in Springfield, which apparently you told my niece you would sign if I mailed it to you.

In relation to the District Court appointment in this area, I received a letter from Senator Percy on March 30, in which he states that he has chosen another candidate. This came as a great disappointment to me, as I was recommended by the State Central Committee-men and the County Chairman in this area. I also received recommendations from all of the Circuit Judges and all Bar Association personnel in the area. Of course, since I am President of the County Bar Association, this was no surprise. I also received Congressman Paul Findley's endorsement. I believe that the reason that I did not receive Senator Percy's endorsement is because I am not a member of the American Bar Association, but a member of the rival, American Trial Lawyer's Association. Senator Percy, I am told, relies very strongly on the American Bar Association. The reason that I have always stayed from the American Bar Association and have endorsed the American Trial Lawyer's Association is because I believe very strongly in the latter's emphasis on the individual and upon the belief that the current problems can be solved through the use of the existing institutions. The American Bar Association can be a bit liberal for my tastes.


I am also enclosing the resume' that I sent to Senator Percy. I think you will be able to see from its content that I was the best qualified candidate. It may be that Senator Percy thinks that

President Gerald R. Ford
Page 2
May 24, 1976

I am too politically oriented to be a District Judge in that, besides being your elected delegate, I am also the finance chairman for the Ford Committee in this area. I strongly disagree with this position as I believe it is necessary for all persons of integrity and responsibility to take aggressive action to obtain strong governmental leadership.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours truly,



Gerald B. Cohn

GBC/kw

Enclosures

cc: Timothy J. Austin

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 30, 1976

Mr. Gerald Cohn
No. 3 Airport Plaza
Post Office Box 6
Bethalto, Illinois 62010

Dear Mr. Cohn:

I want to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to consider you for the Federal District Court.

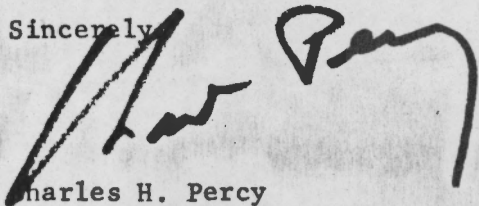
I have reached a decision and I wanted to let you know personally that I have chosen another candidate.

I am greatly impressed by what people had to say about you. You should be very proud of the reputation that you enjoy.

I must say, one cannot help but have some conflicting feelings in having responsibility for these recommendations. I'm heartened by the dedication and commitment to service by people as fine as you are. It is that spirit, held by so many, that has enabled us to make a contribution to the federal judiciary. Yet, knowing that there may be some personal disappointment, I approach the decision with some reluctance.

Thank you, again, for allowing me to consider you.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

CHP:jhb

JUDICIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: GERALD B. COHN

ADDRESS: Home 516 Park
Bethalto, IL 62010

Business #3 Airport Plaza
P.O. Box 6
Bethalto, IL 62010

TELEPHONE: Home (618) 377-5163
Business (618) 377-8257

BIOGRAPHICAL:

Born: (date and place) December 28, 1939, Springfield, IL

Personal:

Marital Status Married, Wife, Judy
Children Hope, age 3, and Aaron, age 1

Health: (any serious illnesses in last 5 years?) excellent

Education: (include year and degree)

High School Springfield High School (1957)
Undergraduate Illinois College, Jacksonville (1961) B.A.
Law School(s) University of Chicago (1964)
Doctor of Law

Other _____

Activities, honors, associations during undergraduate years
and legal training: Pi Kappa Delta, National Debate Fraternity
Vice President. Honor roll for scholastic achievement.
Moot Court

Military Service: Honorable Discharge (December, 1971)
Two years active duty, regular army (1966 & 1967) 4 years
reserve, First Army Certificate of Achievement, Special
Troop Citation, Good Conduct Ribbon; Vietnam Service
Ribbon.

Civic, community and fraternal activities and organizations: Rotary International, Board of Directors (Bethalto); Temple Israel, Board of Directors; Bethalto School System Office Occupations, Board of Directors; Bnai Brith

LEGAL:

1. List in reverse chronological order, all professional employment.

Senior partner, COHN & CAMPBELL, law offices, 1970 to present

Partnership, PRATT, MOSELE, COHN & DAY, law offices 1968-1970

Special Assistant Attorney General, part time, 1970-1975

U.S. ARMY, 1966-1967

CHICAGO TITLE AND TRUST, 1965

CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD, 1964

2. When were you admitted to the Illinois Bar?

May 18, 1965

3. In what other jurisdictions have you been admitted to practice, and when?

Southern District of Illinois, Federal Courts
1965

United States Supreme Court
1976

4. Characterize the type of practice in which you have engaged. General practice with an emphasis on trial work, which includes representation of two school districts, municipal water works, a National Bank, a heavy volume of criminal trial work which has included many major felonies, criminal procedures for the Attorney General's Office, and civil trial practice, Plaintiff and Defendant.
5. Have you ever taught any courses in a law school?
If so, what, when, and where?

Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey, Illinois
Criminology and Constitutional Law (1974-1975)

6. List all legal organizations with which you have been or are now associated, any positions held, or any work done in connection with such organizations.

Alton-Wood River Bar Association, Vice President-1973,
President-1974;
Madison County Bar Association, Vice President-1975
President-1976;
Illinois State Bar Association;
Committee on local Bar Association;
American Judicature (since 1970);
American Trial Lawyers Association (since 1970);
Madison County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association;
(executive committee).

7. List all legal articles you have authored or co-authored, with appropriate citations.

8. Do you feel you are qualified for the Federal District Court? Why? Yes. I have vast experience in criminal prosecution and defense, state and federal. This is unusual as most lawyers are specialized in one field or the other. I am recommended by all segments of the Bar Association and by all political facets.

Do you feel you are qualified for the Court of Appeals?
Why?

N/A

Which would you prefer?

N/A

Please make any other comments you feel would be relevant to your potential nomination to the federal bench.

I am 36 years old but have over 10 years of experience. The days when an attorney has to be over 50 to get a judgeship are numbered as I believe the needs of the public require a person more in touch with the practice of law and with the needs of society. I have been endorsed by the Alton-Wood River Bar Association and the Madison County Bar Association. It should be pointed out that the 300 member Madison County Bar Association is predominantly Democrats. It is well known that I am the area Financial Chairman for the President Ford Committee. Despite my Republican affiliations, I am, nevertheless, the President of the Madison County Bar Association. I owe this office completely to the high esteem which I am held by my fellow attorneys. Letters of recommendation have been forwarded by several Circuit Judges, and all Circuit Judges (seven of whom are Democrats) have recommended me for the appointment. The upshot of this situation is that I am the consensus choice of all segments of the legal fraternity and would be a very popular choice for this position in the eye of the public.

(Please feel free to use additional pages if necessary)