The original documents are located in Box 121, folder "Watson, Barbara" of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

BARBARA WATSON

Q: Has the President accepted the resignation of Barbara Watson?

A: Yes, he has. We have copies of the letters that we can make available to those who want them. The resignation is effective Dec. 31.

Q: Did the President review the case as he said he would?

A: Yes, he did.

Q: Didn't he promise not to just carry out the decision made by the previous Administration.

A: That is true, and He did study the matter and concluded that ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ Mrs. Watson, who was appointed by Lyndon Johnson in 1968, had served her country well, but that the President wanted to give someone else an opportunity to serve the country.

Q: Won't this decision ▮▮▮ Ford's relations with black leaders.

A: No, he has had a very open dialog with black leaders and that will continue. Acceptance of her resignation should not be viewed as a racial issue. The President is strongly committed to bringing more blacks and women into his Administration. It's

Q: When did Mrs. Watson receive her letter?

A: On Thursday, November 7.

Q: Is there a replacement for her?

A: As you know, Leonard Walentinowitz (WALL-IN-TIN-O-WITZ) was nominated by Nixon. That was one of the nominations returned to the W.H. during the recess. There is nothing I can say today about resubmitting his name.