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PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY BOARD
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 28, 1975

NOTE FOR RON NESSON

The attached is my strong recommendation for the President's statement on the clemency extension today. The changes in the other draft may appear to be minor, but they are not.

We have spent almost six months trying to clarify in people's minds the differences between the three phases of the clemency program and the fact the Clemency Board applicants are also eligible (those who have already been punished).

The President should not be embarrassed by a statement which appears to say that those who went to Canada or otherwise avoided being picked up don't know about the program. People just don't believe that. I don't either. The relatively small changes I suggest clarify this point.



CHARLES E. GOODELL

cc.: DON RUMSFELD
PHIL BUCHEN



PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

On January 30, 1975, I extended until March 1 the termination date for applications to the three different phases of the clemency program-- draft evaders and military absentees who have charges still pending against them, and those who already have been punished for such offenses.

Based on a further review of the progress of this program, I believe that many of those who have already been punished are only now learning they are eligible. This is confirmed by the large number of applications-- already exceeding 10,000--which continue to be filed with the Presidential Clemency Board.

Therefore, I am today granting a final extension of the termination date for applications under the clemency program from March 1 until March 31, 1975.

