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MARIA VON TRAPP
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Responded 9/20

August 12, 1975.

Dear Mr. President:

I don't know whether you ever will see this letter, but just in case, I want to say by way of introduction that I am "the real Maria from 'The Sound of Music.'"

MRS

As you can imagine I am meeting an enormous crowd of people all the time, and in this letter I want to be the speaker for a crowd of people who have come my way in the last two days:

"We are deeply disappointed by our President who did not take a firm stand when asked what he thought about his wife's remarks made recently." I wonder whether you have any idea how deeply this disturbs the country. You simply cannot brush it off by saying "I gave up long ago watching what she was saying." You shouldn't even do that as her husband, because if she makes a mistake you would be the normal person to tell her so. You most certainly cannot afford to as President of the United States.

As you may well realize by now, this has gone not only over the whole country but all over the world. I wish you would give it a second thought and say so openly on television. I know many people are reconsidering whether they want to vote for you or not.

We cannot afford to have a President who is wishy-washy about such an important issue, which will harm the family and the youth of this country. You simply must tell your wife to shut up and keep shut up in public and not volunteer again such dangerous remarks.

All this I say to you because I mean well.

Sincerely yours,

Maria von Trapp