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EXECUTIVE

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SWINE FLU

FREY, Loug (Cong)

May 18, 1976

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your letter of April 15 in which you expressed your gratitude to him for launching a program to protect Americans against a possible swine influenza epidemic. The President appreciates your kind remarks and good wishes.

The decision to initiate an unprecedented immunization campaign was based on the advice of the most noted health authorities in the field of influenza. The possibility of an epidemic this fall, based on available scientific evidence, is too real to ignore. A virus similar to that of the swine-like virus is believed to be the cause of the 1918-19 worldwide epidemic which resulted in over a half-million deaths in the United States alone.

The effort to immunize almost all Americans this fall will require the marshalling of many resources, both public and private. The involvement of concerned citizens, such as yourself, will also be crucial to the success of this program.

Again, on behalf of the President I would like to thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence

Mr. Richard S. M. Mitchell, Jr.
6476 Colony Park Drive
Merritt Island, Florida 32952

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RLE:HEW:JH:mgs



RECEIVED
MAY 19 1976
CENTRAL FILES

Lou Frey, Jr.
M.C.

My constituent requested that his letter to President Ford be delivered to him personally.

Lou Frey, Jr.

APR 27 1976

FLORIDA.

April 15, 1976

President Gerald R. Ford

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to say "Thank You" for your efforts to preserve and protect the lives of my family and myself from the horrible ravaging effects of the "SWINE FLU".

Those persons who attempt to make a political football of your efforts, should all be made to stand last in line for their shots.

I had a personal experience at the age of eleven. I laid next to my mother, in bed, in 1918, with this horrible disease. Both of us nearly choked to death. God in his mercy, helped us to survive. However, my wife's mother was not so fortunate. She died and left my wife motherless, at six months of age, to be raised by Grandparents.

Again, I say "MANY THANKS" and may God protect and bless you, and all your family.

Your grateful constituent

Richard S.M. Mitchell Jr.
Richard S.M. Mitchell jr.

C.Mfg.E.

6476 Colony Park Dr.
Merritt Island, Florida 32952





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

MAY 14 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

In response to your request of May 5, 1976 enclosed is a suggested reply from you to Richard S.M. Mitchell, Jr., who wrote the President expressing gratitude for his decision to immunize the country against swine influenza.

Michael J. Linta
Executive Secretary
to the Department

Enclosure





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

Final

Mr. Richard S. M. Mitchell, Jr.
6476 Colony Park Drive
Merritt Island, Florida 32952

D R A F T

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your letter of April 15, ~~1970~~
in which you expressed your gratitude to him for launching a program to
protect Americans against a possible swine influenza epidemic.

The President appreciates your kind remarks and good wishes. The deci-
sion to initiate an unprecedented immunization campaign was based on
the advice of the most noted health authorities in the field of influenza.
The possibility of an epidemic this fall, based on available scientific
evidence, is too real to ignore. A virus similar to that of the swine-
like virus is believed to be the cause of the 1918-19 world-wide epidemic
which resulted in over a half-million deaths in the United States alone.

The effort to immunize almost all Americans this fall will require the
marshalling of many resources, both public and private. The involvement
of concerned citizens, such as yourself, will also be crucial to the
success of this program.

Again, on behalf of the President I would like to thank you for your
support and understanding.

Sincerely,

R L E

R L E / H E W / ~~H E W~~ - J A



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Date: May 5, 1976

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:
____ President's signature.
☒ Undersigned's signature.
____ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
____ Direct reply.
____ Furnish information copy.
____ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
____ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
____ For your information.
____ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.
If more than ~~2~~ ^{2 week's} delay is encountered, please telephone ~~the undersigned~~ immediately, ~~Code 1450~~ Miss Pat Byrne, 456-6688.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Copy of letter forwarded by Congressman Lou Frey, Jr.

Description:

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: The President

From: Richard S.M. Mitchell, Jr., 6476 Colony Park Drive, Merritt Island, Fla.

Date: 4/15/76

32952

Subject: Thank you to the President regarding the "swine flu" vaccine.

By direction of the President:

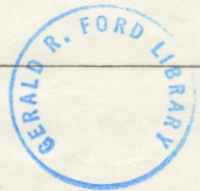
7605060059

Roland L. Elliott
Director of Correspondence

RLE:JHH:PB:blh

TRACER 43097

(Copy to remain with correspondence)



EXECUTIVE

HEI

April 30, 1976

Dear Lou:

Thank you for your recent note forwarding the letter which Mr. Richard S. M. Mitchell, Jr. directed to the President thanking him for signing the "swine flu" act.

I shall be happy to pass this message along to the appropriate officials for further handling.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Charles Leppert, Jr.
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Lou Frey, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

CL/jm

✓ bcc: w/incoming to Roland Elliott for direct reply to Mr. Mitchell,
with copy to our office.

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