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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE

PP10-3

PR5-2

November 24, 1976

Dear Tom,

Betty and I appreciate your thoughtful message and the kindness which prompted you to write so warmly.

We gave it our best and it helps to know that the disappointment is shared by others. We will always be grateful for the generous encouragement and goodwill extended by so many of our fellow Americans.

It has been a great honor to serve the people of our Nation and I will never forget this wonderful privilege that has been mine.

Betty and I thank you and Alicia for your friendship and send our warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ford

Mr. Tom Landry
X Dallas Cowboys Football Club
6116 North Central Expressway
Dallas, Texas 75206

P.S. Betty & I know
you will keep those
Cowboys rolling. They
are a fine team with a
great coach.



LANDRY, TOM

November 24, 1976

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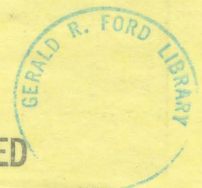
JERRY FORD

Mr. Tom Landry
Dallas Cowboys Football Club
6116 North Central Expressway
Dallas, Texas 75206

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CENTRAL FILES



dallas cowboys football club

ML
November 8, 1976

CLP
The Honorable Gerald Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When morning rolled around on Wednesday, November 3, millions of Americans felt as I did. We knew we had lost a man from the presidency that we could trust our country with.

As a former athlete and coach, you have felt the "sting" of defeat many times. I am sure that only someone like yourself who has lost a presidential race could really know the agony of that kind of setback.

Alicia and I wanted you to know that we are thinking of you and Mrs. Ford during these sad moments. You will always have a special place in our hearts for the kindness you showed to us when we had the privilege of being in your home.

I am enclosing several clippings from our local papers that express our sentiments better than I can.

You may be sure that our prayers are with you as you complete your term of office and return to private life.

Your friend,

Tom Landry
Head Coach

Dear Mr. Ford, Thanks from all

BY BOB GREENE

Dear Mr. Ford:

These must be among the most trying hours of your life, and I hope this letter is not an intrusion. Losing the presidency is a hurt that only a handful of men will ever know, and no one besides yourself can understand the personal sorrow that you are feeling now.

But I want to write — as one of many Americans who are not very interested in politics, and who are not registered members of either political party — to say thanks. Thanks for being there when we all needed you.

You did not seek the presidency when it was handed to you. You were the middleman in a crisis the likes of which we may never see again. The rest of us could feel relief when your predecessor left office; while we talked about how the bad times were over, you alone faced the burden of trying to put us all back together again.

Before you came to office, you said that you would never run for the presidency on your own. You changed your mind soon after entering the White House, but it would be hard to blame

you for that. Only 36 other persons in the history of this nation shared with you the experience of being President; it is not hard to imagine that the lure of wanting it some more is an enticement hardly any man could resist.

In the first minutes of your presidency, you said that you realized that you had not been elected by our votes. You asked that, in the absence of our ballots, you could have our prayers. You wished aloud that your predecessor and his family could find personal peace; you said that the long national nightmare was over.

We out here in the country were moved by your speech that day. But we all have short memories; within months we were treating you the same way we have treated all of our modern Presidents. It is probably good, this intense scrutiny and easy criticism, for it helps make a President realize that his constituency is, indeed, paying close attention. But in your case we went out of our way to let you know that we did not regard you as an unflawed man.

So we made the jokes, and the nasty cracks and the innuendos. It wasn't just the editorial cartoonists and the political

columnists; so many of us joined in the glee at laughing every time you displayed a physical clumsiness, and making jokes about your uneasy way with words, and snickering over what we were led to believe was your lack of intellect. That you were an athlete, that you were a discerning survivor of the political infighting of the Congress, that you were an attorney graduating near the top of your law school class at Yale University, those things did not impress us. Now you were the President, and Presidents are the biggest targets we have.

By the time this election season came around, it was fashionable to portray you as a bumbling clown. How this may have affected you as a human, we didn't much care. You were the President, and that is how we have been conditioned to treat our Presidents in the second half of the 20th Century.

So you must be nursing hurts that you never expected. You will be leaving the White House soon, perhaps leaving Washington. And now perhaps it is the right time to say the words to you that we didn't ever say before.

You were a victim of circumstances.

We all were victims of circumstances, of the national crushing of the spirit that was brought about by your predecessor. It was a little easier for us to be victims, though; we could merely complain and not be forced to do anything about it.

You, though — you had the job of beginning the healing. And you did it.

Two years ago, it seemed at times impossible that we could ever be a nation that could smile again. That we could ever be a people who felt good about ourselves. But somehow it began to turn around. And you, more than anyone else, did it. In a quiet, low-key way, you made sure we knew that the White House was not a place of uncleanness anymore. You made sure that we knew that a President could, indeed, still be a caring man worthy of our trust. You helped get us out.

I don't want to talk about the results of Tuesday night's balloting. As I said at the beginning of this letter, there are many of us who do not spend very much time thinking about political matters, and it is best to leave the political

See DEAR MR. FORD on Page 6



— AP Wirephoto

A poignant moment for President and Mrs. Ford

★ DEAR MR. FORD

Continued from Page 1

analysis to those who make a career of that.

This is just a note of gratitude for helping all of us find a peace that, for awhile, seemed destined never to be ours again. May you and your own family find peace, too. We can never repay you for the service you gave to your countrymen when we needed it most. It is difficult to put our feelings into words, but please know that the feelings are there, and that we will not forget.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

EDITORIALS

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Thursday, November 4, 1976. DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Jerry Ford departs

IT WAS a strange climate around the country in Wednesday's early hours when it was finally determined that Gerald R. Ford would be leaving the presidency.

It reminded of a crowd-favorite pitcher being relieved in the top of the ninth inning after a good and honest effort — but still a single run behind.

He got a big hand. No boos, no "throw the bum out," no "good riddance" heckling. The man deserves plaudits of the crowd.

No man of recent American political history has departed the scene with more profound public respect and with less simmering rancor than Jerry Ford.

He is decent, he is honest and he works hard. He not only did not abuse the office of the presidency but he restored it to the level of authority respected by his own nation and world leaders.

Gerald Ford repaired, by his own hand, a catastrophic break in the dike. He came to the presidency that had been scarred by official misconduct as the first vice president to succeed to the presidency without previously being elected by the American people to the second highest office.

He was not just an interim caretaker. He performed with skill, undiluted dedication and courage. He put steel back into the American spine and served notice to world marauders that the United States was back in command.

It did not come easily for the

homey man of Michigan. There were those who chided and were openly skeptical of his ability to cope with summit decisions of his office. They suggested he was just a bumbling, awkward man who could bump his head with greater ease than making a critical decision.

But they were wrong.

Jerry Ford came on as an ordinary human being and served his nation, and the world, with distinction. He challenged the Congress from the roots of his Midwestern convictions and he prefaced each veto with the assertion that he was working in the interest of the people. He made mistakes, as all Presidents before him, but he admitted to them, made repairs and followed his course.

He was compassionate and understanding — so much so that his oft-challenged pardon of Richard M. Nixon might have eventually cost him extension into the full-time presidency.

But that was Jerry Ford — the same man who conceded to Gov. James Earl Carter Jr. in a conciliatory "Dear Jimmy" telegram. He pledged his full support to the President-elect and he wished him well in his own believable words.

Now, Jerry Ford has about two more innings to pitch. The period between now and January 20th's inauguration day will find President Gerald Rudolph Ford doing what he has always done — working arduously in behalf of the United States of America and for free people the world over.