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Audience
(with Audio)

August 5, 1973 *MAR-53*
620 Canepa Drive *EC346*
Santa Cruz, California
95066

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RMN MESSAGE
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OTHER

Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In April of 1972 you appointed me a Member of your Advisory Committee on the Environmental Merit Award Program which is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Since my appointment to this Advisory Committee, I have sought to keep informed about the operation of the Award Program. On several occasions I have met with Program staff members in Washington and here in California.

I have been particularly concerned that the program maintain credibility among the student community. It is my belief that high school students deserving of recognition through this program are, on the whole, a sophisticated group of individuals. They are accustomed to meeting high standards. The Awards Program must therefore establish meaningful standards and not permit continued wholesale distribution of awards. Without such standards the program will be compromised in the eyes of both students and their teachers. I do not want to see that happen.

To date the Advisory Committee has never met. No one has ever sought my advise about the program. All contact with the program has been initiated by me. I am not convinced that the talents available among the Members of the Advisory Committee are being utilized by the staff of the program. This is only important insofar as the program fails now to set any sort of meaningful criteria for the awards. Either the Committee should be meaningfully involved in the operation of the Environmental Merit Award Program or the Committee should be abolished.

I will be in Washington later this month. I would be pleased to discuss this matter with a member of your staff at that time. Until then I may be reached at my office in San Francisco. The phone number is (415) 989-8806. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lance M. King

Lance M. King, Member
President's Advisory Committee
on the
Environmental Merit Award Program