

March 11, 1971

Dear Herman:

I am sorry that you did not understand the motivation behind my action Monday night. You seemed to imply in your remarks to the press that my actions were dictated by political motivations. This is far from the truth.

I hoped that you would understand that I could not quietly step aside and not deal intelligently with the insult to me personally and with what I considered a threat to good village government. There is an extremely important principle involved in this entire situation.

Responsible government cannot continue to be responsible if it allows political animosities to motivate its actions. The mayor did not reappoint me for one simple reason -- as you told me on Wednesday evening. The reason was my husband's candidacy and my support of that. I would think that you, who made this statement to me and then followed it by placing a condition on the proposed reappointment, would find it impossible not to agree that my action was justified. Had a simple call from the mayor come to me asking me to again join the Human Relations Commission, that would have been the end of an awkward situation.

You may recall, you and I discussed the idea of machine politics and broad independent support of the village government in relation to the previous local election. I cannot see the situation that I made public Monday in any other way but representing a flagrant exercise of machine politics by a political party structure that is not interested any longer in independence and broad representation from the community. This same party has long condemned the very type of action that they took.

2016.003.028

I would appreciate it immensely if you would convey to the Caucus party members who consistently underestimate me that they are dealing with an individual who cannot be influenced<sup>u</sup> by any group to take as important an action as I took Monday evening. I did it because I felt that I could not do any less and live with my convictions.

I hope that this letter has conveyed to you some of my personal thinking. I had hoped that after working with you for three years, you had learned to understand me. I had also hoped that this situation would have been substantiated by courageous action on your part.

Sincerely Yours,

*June Richardson*