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ROBERT McMASTERS

2835 EAST 39TH STREET
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74105

SEP 27 1974

JAMES R. JONES, M.C.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
September 23, 1974

The Honorable James R. Jones
United States Representative
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Jones:

As taxpayers who are fed up with Watergate, we are enclosing a copy of an editorial that was printed in the Tulsa World September 15, 1974.

This expresses our feelings perfectly. We are Americans very interested in the welfare of our country. As our representative in government, we will expect you to move forward in this direction.

We also do not approve the high raise you voted for yourself for expenses.

Everyone has been asked to cut down our spending while you continue to waste our money. We feel economizing includes every person in Congress.

Sincerely,

Robert McMasters
Mrs Robert McMasters
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McMasters

RMCM/rn
Encl.

Ford More Than 'Nice Guy'

By NICK THIMMESCH

PRESIDENT FORD MADE A TOUGH but correct decision in pardoning Richard M. Nixon. Mr. Ford now knows that "nice guy" stuff doesn't last because he's started a political ruckus. But the surprise move was necessary in the President's effort to stabilize the Republic and put the Watergate horror behind us.

No question that his controversial action leaves jagged incongruities. Mr. Ford pardoned a man who hasn't officially been charged with any offense, and thus the legal process hasn't worked. And what about the Nixonmen already jailed and the others facing trial?

But the law, the judicial system, doesn't always produce justice. Thus, President Ford provided Nixon with justice outside the Courts but in an entirely legal manner. Mr. Ford weighed the incongruities against the needs of the country and used his office to provide Nixon with shortcut justice.

* * *

PRESIDENT FORD WEIGHED ALL this and figured he had achieved balance. Moreover, his political instincts told him now was the time to act.

In the past month, he has succeeded in extracting much of the venom from Nixon's enemies. Mr. Ford has been seen in affectionate vignettes with the most unlikely people, from Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) to Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), that high-decibel Manhattan noise.

Moreover, President Ford has stood very high in the polls with only a tiny per cent disapproving his Presidency. Congress and his fellow Republicans, yea, even The Washington Post, have loved him much. So he could afford to spend some of his considerable goodwill on the Nixon decision.

In return, Mr. Ford hopes to get the American people to turn their heads from Watergate and Nixon to other issues, such as the economy. The caldron has only simmered down in the Capital, and a prosecution and trial of Nixon would have caused it to boil furiously again.

Congress, the bureaucratic apparatus

and, most importantly, the press would become obsessed with any such spectacular drama involving the former President, and Mr. Ford would see his own Presidency as a succession of frustrating months where he couldn't deal with the nation's vital problems.

If Nixon and his supporters mustered a tough defense campaign, ugly passions would again be aroused. Charges that Democrats and labor unions were exempted from Watergate's laser beams: new probes into the possible Watergate involvement, say, of Alexander Haig, Ronald Ziegler and State Secretary Henry Kissinger might be demanded.

* * *

PRESIDENT FORD DECIDED THE American people just don't need any more of this, and that Nixon and his family have suffered purgatory enough. In recent weeks, people who have talked with Nixon left San Clemente disturbed over the former President's anxious, distracted condition.

Nixon has a compulsion to think and work, and his mind has been tortured over the whole bloody Watergate episode, one which left him with a shamed Presidency.

Only now does Nixon finally see that he is guilty of terribly bad judgments, in the least. That imperial feeling drains quickly when a President leaves office.

There is sniping now at Mr. Ford. One legal authority, Prof. Philip Kurland, doubts the constitutionality of Mr. Ford's pardon of Nixon. In Pittsburgh this week, Mr. Ford was booed, and demonstrators chanted, "Jail Ford, Jail Nixon." The honeymoon is over, many in the Capital dolefully proclaim, but this has been a dank, dour place for months.

The pardon really shows some steel in Mr. Ford and makes him an authentic Chief Executive, not just a "nice guy" President. Mr. Ford is the same man today he was when he was being gushed over here last week. He is the man who decided that a Nixon pardon was best for the majority of Americans who are fed up with Watergate and the foul happenings in this City.

TULSA WORLD - Sept. 15, 1974

Gen Misc. Mc
McMasters, Mr. and Mrs. Robert

October 2, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMasters
2835 East 39th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106

Dear Mr. and Mrs. McMasters:

Thank you very much for your letter concerning Watergate. I too believe that our country must move on to other crucial issues, especially ways to deal with the economy.

Since my only time spent on Watergate was the few days when I was reading the reports and listening to the tapes as I was bound to do as a responsible Member of Congress, I don't feel that my service on issues important to my district and to the nation was impaired by the various investigations.

My concern has been to reduce Federal expenditures and to cut waste out of the budget. I am pleased that I voted for a balanced budget and voted further to reduce the President's budget request by nearly \$10 billion.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES
Member of Congress

JRJ/LK

Oct. 2, 1974

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WBW, SY