

# President Ford Committee

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November 12, 1976

Dear Vic:

Congratulations on your victory. We were never worried for a moment about your reelection. There's no way Oregonians would turn you out. Obviously, it's because of you we did so well in Washington County, and---Thank God for you!

Vic, I appreciate your kind compliments very much. Receiving them from someone whom I admire so much makes them all the more treasured. But, if I may return a few, one of the nicest things that has happened to me in this past year is meeting you. Paul and I had heard much about you before ever having the opportunity to meet you. I learned that all the marvelous things we had heard about Vic Atiyeh were certainly true.

I suppose one of the good things about campaigns, even when lost, are the friendships which form and turn out to be everlasting. I trust this will be the case in this instance.

This has been the saddest election to ever lose! President Ford deserved to be elected and to lose in such a close contest is difficult to take. As you said, it's the Nation that is the real loser.

Paul and I had the privilege of having dinner with him in Palm Springs on Wednesday evening. We were invited down as a part of a small dinner party. Frankly, both he and Betty Ford are an inspiration to us all. While there were many times that tears welled in their eyes as well as ours, they kept their composure, visited with friends, danced and seemed to have a marvelous time. They both seem to have an inner strength that is almost enviable.

I do hope you and Delores can join us next Saturday. While it's a long trip and perhaps presumptuous of us to expect you, we still hope very much you can make it.

To a dear and special friend, from a good friend always,