



United States Department of the Interior

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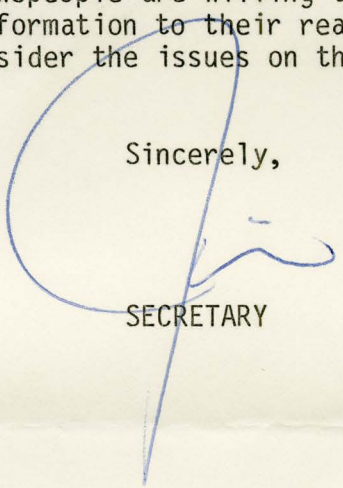
Mr. Ben J. Plastino
The Idaho Post Register
333 Northgate Mile
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Mr. Plastino:

It took a long time for your column of December 2 to reach me here in Washington, but it certainly was worth waiting for.

It is good to know that some newspeople are willing to look at all sides of an issue and try to convey that information to their readers. We need that kind of public service if we are to consider the issues on their merits and make decisions accordingly.

Sincerely,



SECRETARY