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United States Senate

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(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 287, 93D CONGRESS)

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March 3, 1975

Mr. Ben Plastino
Idaho Falls Post-Register
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

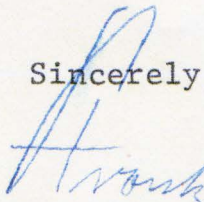
Dear Ben:

As you know, my appointment as Chairman of the Senate investigation into intelligence agencies has pushed aside any consideration of a presidential candidacy. The committee work is too important to be mixed with presidential politics.

However, I did want to drop you a line of thanks on your recent column discussing my presidential possibilities in relation to Senator Jackson's announcement. As usual, you have not spared me the truth where you detect inadequacies. But forgive me if I choose to dwell on your mostly kind words. You know me better than most, so I value generous comments from you very much indeed. And I can't resist mentioning, because of one comment in your column, an affliction common to political analysts and Senators alike. For both, it is normal for the public to notice when we were wrong and to overlook the instances in which we were proven correct. So I took special pleasure, perhaps for selfish reasons, in your comment that you predicted that I would be proved correct in my early opposition to the war. Perhaps unlike some readers, I remember - gratefully when you made that prediction. And I thank you for remembering, unlike many, that I saw the folly of that misfortune a bit ahead of the pack. The knowledge that people like you do pay attention will help on the next cause in which I find myself, at least in the beginning, on the lonely side of the fence.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Frank Church