

11/7/72

Dear Mr. Shriver,

More than a decade ago, when my "Geese for Peace" project had attracted the first favorable international attention to the Peace Corps, you introduced me to your division chiefs by saying, "This man has some of the best ideas I've heard. Pick his brains."

Prior to this we had chatted in your office. I then formed an impression of you the now-ended campaign has heightened.

Often when we are personally involved and very busy we can't see ourselves, our situation and our opportunities as clearly as those who are detached. So, I wonder if you know or have had any opinions offered of what you have accomplished in recent months.

You are now a man of enormous potential in your own right - not because you were candidate for vice president but because of the kind of candidate you were, the kind of campaign you ran, ~~the~~ vision, understanding and courage you displayed. You still have the energy I noted years ago, too, if in the days immediately ahead you may feel that it has ebbed.

Dark days lie ahead for our country. The small part of the corruption that is now visible is the smaller danger. Basic changes in the form of society have already begun. Unless people of decent concern are not overwhelmed by the disaster today will formalize, we will not recognize the country in four years.

I fear - and this is not a figure of speech - that you are today the only man who can give effective leadership to the forces of decency. You have an opportunity, a challenge and I hope you will feel an obligation no unsuccessful vice-presidential candidate has ever had because the situation is a new and entirely different one. If I thought we face an impossibility I would not be writing you.

My purpose in reminding you of what you once thought of me is because I ask that you find time to discuss this with me, wherever you want or here. We live about 40 minutes from the Rockville cloverleaf of I70S, about 5 minutes from Exit 6W at Frederick. You may remember it from driving to Pennsylvania or Camp David. I suggest here because I have some things I think it serves your interest to see and I would prefer that you not have to take my unsupported word.

Whether or not you agree, I want to express appreciation of the kind of campaign you ran, your effort to address national issues and some of the issues you alone saw and raised. With some of these I think I can tell you what you do not know.

Out of the ashes, Dick Daring?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg