NONFICTION

THE GERALD FORD LETTERS.

Robert N. Winter-Berger. Lyle Stuart, \$7.95

In 1972 Winter-Berger's "The Washington Payoff," a pre-Watergate exposé of "favors for sale" among Washington's political biggies, was a succès de scandale of sorts, although because of its namenaming allegations some stores initially would not handle it. Those allegations led to the author's appearance before Senate committees involving the confirmation of Gerald Ford as Vice President. Now ex-Washington "lobbyist" Winter-Berger produces (in facsimile) 34 letters he says were written to him by Ford-who had testified he had written only a few and scarcely knew the author. The letters indicate Ford's favors for Winter-Berger's "clients" and are backed by Winter-Berger's background story describing his "loan" of nearly \$15,000 (in cash) over several years to Ford. Also documented are other aspects of the author's relationship to Ford and to convicted influencepeddler Nat Voloshen (who supplied most of the cash). This self-pleading book raises more questions than it answers, but it makes its own kind of news. Book people will be interested in the account (supported by Lyle Stuart's introduction) of book trade resistance to "The Washington Payoff."

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