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President Asks Goldin For Donation to G.O.P.

Politics make strange bedfellows.

President Ford, a Republican, recently asked Harrison J. Goldin, the Democratic Comptroller of the city, for a political contribution.

In a form letter to Mr. Goldin, the President, ignoring the city's recent fiscal battle for Federal help, asked the Comptroller to support Republican candidates for Congress "by sending your maximum contribution."

The two-page letter, written on Mr. Ford's personal stationery, was addressed to "Dear Fellow American." Mr. Ford said: "I am writing you today personally to ask for your help in a matter that is of great concern to me."

The Presidential letter explained: "What America needs is a Republican Congress working for Republican goals. Unless more Republicans are elected in 1976, inflation and excessive deficit spending will continue."

Replying to Mr. Ford's appeal yesterday, Mr. Goldin wrote:

"Since you have often described New York City's spending as wasteful and irresponsible, I can readily understand that you might turn to the city for just such a purpose."

Mr. Goldin wrote that it was "difficult to disappoint someone who has such faith in our behavior, but contributing money to elect a Republican Congress to reduce inflation is too irresponsible even by New York standards."

The Comptroller said in his letter that he thought Mr. Ford's appeal might "really be a test to see if we have changed our spending practices," adding: "If we have now passed the test, please inform Mr. Nessen [Ron Nessen, the President's press secretary] that we are no longer hooked on heroin."

Last Oct. 17, Mr. Nessen announced at the White House that President Ford would take no action to prevent a New York City default. At the time he compared the city to a "wayward daughter hooked on heroin."

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