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THE WASHINGTON POST Thursday, Nov. 24, 1973 A 9

**President Nixon,  
please read this message  
from The Rhode Island  
Chairman of the Committee  
to Re-Elect You.**

Dear Mr. President:

Having served as Rhode Island chairman as well as chairman of the New England Regional Conference of Mayors for your re-election, you are aware of my strong, active support for your administration.

In a letter following your great victory in November, you asked me to call upon you for assistance if ever needed.

Today, Mr. President, I am calling upon you in behalf of the million people of the State of Rhode Island.

We are desperately trying to reach you with a plea. A plea to reverse — or, at the very least, to slow down — the disastrous decision of the Department of Defense which would eliminate over 4,600 civilian jobs and transfer more than 17,000 military personnel from our state within the next few months.

We are being asked to take over 50% of the Defense job cuts for the entire nation! This could result in up to 20% unemployment and the loss of over 10% of the personal income in the state.

I am personally disturbed because the National Committee to Re-elect the President ran a newspaper advertisement throughout Rhode Island during the campaign which, in essence, said: "vote for George McGovern and the Rhode Island Navy bases will close. Vote for Richard Nixon and they will not".

I believed this, Mr. President.

And so did the people of Rhode Island who gave you a substantial winning margin. As you are aware, this was a great turnout from 1968 when you lost in our state and your percentage of vote obtained was among the lowest in the country.

Today, your supporters in Rhode Island grieve.

We grieve, Mr. President, because we feel that a campaign pledge is the very

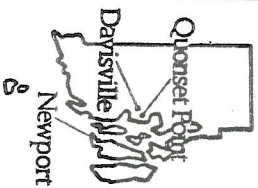
first building block of our political process.

A vote is given a man because — in the most basic terms — he has promised something a person believes in and wants.

If such a promise is not kept, trust and faith in our system, in our political philosophies, and in our elected officials crumble. And we then must ask ourselves, what can we believe . . . who can we believe?

We are pleading for your personal attention. Without it, Rhode Island and her people stand to suffer much . . . not only in economic terms, which we may eventually survive, but in the very credibility of our political process as well. These pains will be more difficult to heal.





## What George McGovern's defense cut could mean to Rhode Island.

If Senator McGovern is elected President, and he fulfills his pledge to cut America's defense budget by 40% - here's what's likely to happen in Rhode Island. Quonset Point, Davisville and Newport Naval Base would be severely affected by the McGovern Plan. Thousands of civilian jobs at the bases would be lost and thousands of Navy men and their dependents would have to leave the state - the blow to Rhode Island's economy would be staggering.

Several thousand Rhode Islanders work at the Electric Boat Division at Cranston - many of these jobs would cut the Navy's submarine program.

Not does the matter end there. For also of concern to Rhode Islanders is the security of their country. They know that the best hope for future agreements on arms limitations - and *peace* itself - rests on America's ability to negotiate from a position of strength. And that position would be endangered by so huge a defense cut as the one proposed by Senator McGovern.

Fortunately, none of this will come to be if the man who's President right now remains President. It's one of the reasons why more and more people are saying that America needs President Nixon - now more than ever.

**President Nixon.  
Now more than ever.**

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James L. Taft, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James L. Taft, Jr.  
Mayor of Cranston, Rhode Island  
Chairman, Rhode Island  
Committee to Re-elect the President

**This is the Committee to Re-Elect the  
President's advertisement concerning  
Naval Installations in Rhode Island**