



GERALD R. FORD

September 21, 2005

RE: Justice John Paul Stevens, 30 Years on the Supreme Court

Dear Dean Treanor:

Historians study the significant diplomatic, legislative and economic events that occurred during a Presidential term to evaluate that Presidency. Normally, little or no consideration is given to the long term effects of a President's Supreme Court nominees. Eisenhower's Earl Warren, John Adams' John Marshall and Wilson's Louis Brandeis immediately come to mind; although references to these great jurists are usually absent in Presidential biographies.

Let that not be the case with my Presidency. For I am prepared to allow history's judgment of my term in office to rest (if necessary, exclusively) on my nomination thirty years ago of Justice John Paul Stevens to the U.S. Supreme Court. I endorse his constitutional views on the secular character of the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause, on securing procedural safeguards in criminal case and on the constitution's broad grant of regulatory authority to Congress. I include as well my special admiration for his charming wit and sense of humor; as evidence in his dissent in the 1986 commerce clause case of *Maine v. Taylor and United States*, involving the constitutionality of a Maine statute that broadly restricted any interstate trade of Maine's minnows. In words perhaps somewhat less memorable than, "Shouting fire in a crowded theater," Justice Stevens wrote, "There is something fishy about this case."

He has served his nation well, at all times carrying out his judicial duties with dignity, intellect and without partisan political concerns. Justice Stevens has made me, and our fellow citizens, proud of my three decade old decision to appoint him to the Supreme Court. I wish him long life, good health and many more years on the bench.

Warmest regards,

Dean William Michael Treanor
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