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Congress of the United States
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December 6, 1991

Frank Oliver

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am taking the unusual step of sending to you a copy of a letter, addressed to you, from one of my constituents.

I am doing this, not because Mrs. McNay's situation is unusual, but because it is, in fact, becoming more and more typical of stories I am hearing with increasing and alarming frequency. I know from discussions with colleagues that this letter is typical of things they are hearing, too.

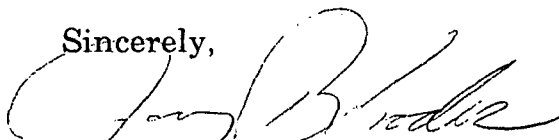
One thing that it is important for us to remember is that people like Mrs. McNay would not easily write such a letter. These are people who were taught to be self-reliant, not to complain, to do their share, pay their taxes, and exercise the rights and duties of citizenship. I can barely imagine the loss of pride and self-esteem this lady had to have suffered even just to write such a letter.

Mr. President, the point I must make to you is that this letter is not anecdotal. The situation described is happening all the time, and all over. We are the elected leadership of this country, and the McNay's are looking to us to help them restore their pride. That's all that they want---no hand outs, just a chance.

Mr. President, the recession is NOT over, and we must help. I am ready to assist in any way you may ask.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



John J. Rhodes, III
Member of Congress

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November 29, 1991

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President George Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am becoming more and more alarmed at what is happening in my life, and what I see happening around me. I have always considered myself to be a middle-class American, but not anymore - I think of myself as the "working-poor". I want to tell you my story, and ask you what to do. You are the President of this country and I think you should hear first-hand what is going on with the people in America - not the rich people, but the regular people.

Four years ago my husband lost his job, and since then he has not been able to find another one. Since that time we have lost our home - something I always thought happened to other people, certainly not to me. I believed that your home was your security - I was very wrong. We lived in our home with our two daughters for over ten years, and I am still reeling with the shock of losing it - the place I felt was safe and secure, not just a house, but a place where I knew all my neighbors, where my children went to school and knew all the kids in the neighborhood. It was not a pleasant experience moving my family from a home and a place we all loved into a small two bedroom apartment - I never dreamed such a terrible thing could happen to me. I thought my husband and I could always protect our family from bad things - I was wrong. We also ended up filing bankruptcy. Something else I never imagined could happen. That also was a terrible experience.

My husband is a college graduate, and he thought he was prepared to always take care of his family. Since he lost his job in the insurance industry, and has been unable to get another position in it, he has worked as a janitor for a cleaning service, a truck driver for several trucking companies and in a used book store - all for approximately \$5.00 an hour - some not even that much. We cannot raise our family on this - could you? My husband is 48 years old, and has found much age discrimination. My husband is also a diabetic, and we have gone all this time without any health insurance. We have been very fortunate so far, but I will not even allow myself to think of the "what if's". We also have not been to a dentist in all this time. These may seem like little things, but they are things that keep me awake at night. My children deserve health care and dental care, and we are not able to provide it for them. There is something terribly wrong in our country when you cannot even

Bush Presidential Library Photocopy

get a decent job and take care of your family. I have seen my husband's self esteem take such a nose dive - and it is so unfair.

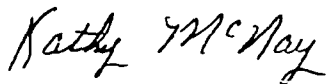
Eight months ago my husband decided he had to do something to make himself more employable, so he decided to re-train. We took out a loan and he went to school and trained to become a paralegal. He finished school in October and is again looking for a job. So far he has not been successful, but we are not giving up hope. Surely there is a good job for him that will provide us with a decent income and health and retirement benefits. My family deserves this.

We have a college age daughter who has tried and tried to get financial aid to go to school, and she can't get it - why not? I know how important it is for her to get an education, I just don't know how to get it for her. Our other daughter will be ready for college in a couple of years - what then? They both deserve an education, and certainly need one. I don't want a free ride - just some assistance.

Something else that worries and terrifies me is the homeless people I read about and see stories about on the news. I feel that could so easily be me - after all, look what has happened to us so far. We have got to be able to support our families and keep them safe.

You are the President of this country - please help us. What are we supposed to do when we cannot even get a job to support our family? What would you do? You have a family - children and grandchildren - what would you do? I see this kind of thing happening all around me, and I am very concerned and frightened.

Sincerely,



Kathy McNay
3320 E. University, #1012
Mesa, AZ 85213

cc: Dennis DeConcini
John McCain
John J. Rhodes III