

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN OFFICE:
425 CHERRY STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS
ZIP 49502

Congress of the United States
Office of the Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 30, 1968

Honorable Bob Dole
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob,

For the past six years Ben Reifel of South Dakota has represented your geographic area on the United States delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group. This organization meets annually to discuss and develop possible solutions to problems of mutual concern to both countries.

Some of the matters covered at previous conferences include Latin America's attitude with respect to the use of nuclear weapons and arms control; the objectives and functions of the Organization of American States; and the operation of the Alliance for Progress with special reference to factors in economic development.

Other major topics on the agenda have included commercial policies of Mexico and the United States; balance of payments; customs and quantitative policies for exports of the two countries; reciprocal trade; operation of bonded stores at the international border and restrictions on border trade; as well as trade between the two countries in cotton, coffee, shrimp, minerals, fruits, and vegetables.

The discussions have also centered around the establishment of a Mexican-American commission to study economic and social conditions on the frontier to improve border relations; the whole question of tourism and immigration; housing development; desalinization; technical assistance programs; agricultural research; scholarships and exchanges between cultural institutions of both countries; and world community development.

Recently Ben advised me he cannot continue to serve as a member of this important international group. As a result, this leaves the vast area lying west of the Mississippi River and nearest the Mexican border without Republican representation at these conferences. It is of the utmost importance that the Republicans in the House of Representatives have one of their members included in the official United States delegation.

Honorable Bob Dole

- 2 -

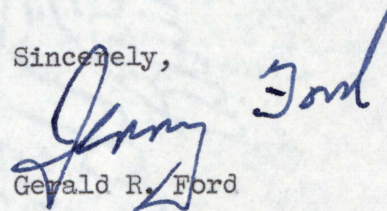
January 30, 1968

To fill this need, Speaker McCormack today, on my strong recommendation, designated you to serve as a member of the official United States delegation of the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group.

While I realize you have an unusually heavy schedule planned for several months ahead, you are needed for this special assignment, and I am most grateful to you for your willingness to accept the additional responsibilities.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

 Ford

Gerald R. Ford

GRF:jw