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February 29, 1984

Clair E. George, Director
Office of Legislative Liaison
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Clair George:

Thank you for your letter of February 16th. I have, all along, been in full understanding of the situation you describe.

It seems ironic and grossly unfair that these former spouses must, in order to gain their rightful benefits, endure the costs of lawyer and court fees to correct an injustice. How does one do that when there is little money to provide more than the essentials of existing? In a divorce court, and bound by secrecy requirements they cannot explain their cases adequately. Lawyers are well aware that they cannot pay for intricate and lengthy legal maneuvering.

My mail indicates that many of these former spouses are already existing at poverty level or are in danger of becoming a burden to society in the form of being welfare recipients. These former spouses need unique help in providing a financial base for their old age. They come late to the job world. They have too few years of employment and too low job status and pay scale to earn their own survival level retirement. Those benefits earned on their own can be added to a government annuity. Then the former dependent can hope to end up with an adequate income. Rights to the government annuity should be vested rather than left to court discretion.

Many of these former spouses no longer live in the jurisdiction where the divorce was granted. For some of them a move to an area where living costs were cheaper was imperative.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature box]

cc: Maine Congressional Delegation
Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder