

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

PARKS

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Dec 2 1963

AIRMAIL

Dear Members of the Campbell Garden Club:

The late President John F. Kennedy had referred to us your telegram of November 18 about the threatened removal of a redwood tree which President Theodore Roosevelt had planted in 1903. We are sure he deeply appreciated the significance of this tree and shared your concern about its threatened destruction.

We must assure that the Planning Commission of Campbell, California, has given full consideration to the special value of this tree as a conservation symbol and that the Commission has fully considered all alternative measures that might save the tree at its original site. If this is not possible, we must assure also that the Commission has considered the possibility of moving the tree to a protected place where it could continue to grow and serve its purpose. If these assumptions are correct and the final decision must be to destroy the tree, we will share your sadness that this is so.

In this event we urge you to consider ways of compensating for its loss by using this incident to stimulate renewed conservation efforts in the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt. Perhaps the removal from this tree could be used to create many symbolic reminders of the efforts begun so long ago by this great President. These could be used to encourage greater efforts in behalf of current programs to save some of the remaining redwood forests for posterity. Perhaps a protected area near by could be planted with sixty new redwood trees, one each for every year since this tree was planted.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtful and determined efforts to preserve that which makes America beautiful.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Campbell Garden Club
3500 Andrea Court
San Jose 17, California

cc:
Planning Commission, Campbell, California

x ref L 7019 Calif

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Mr. Fredine v/c inc.

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