

## Section 14

### *Letters to the President from...*

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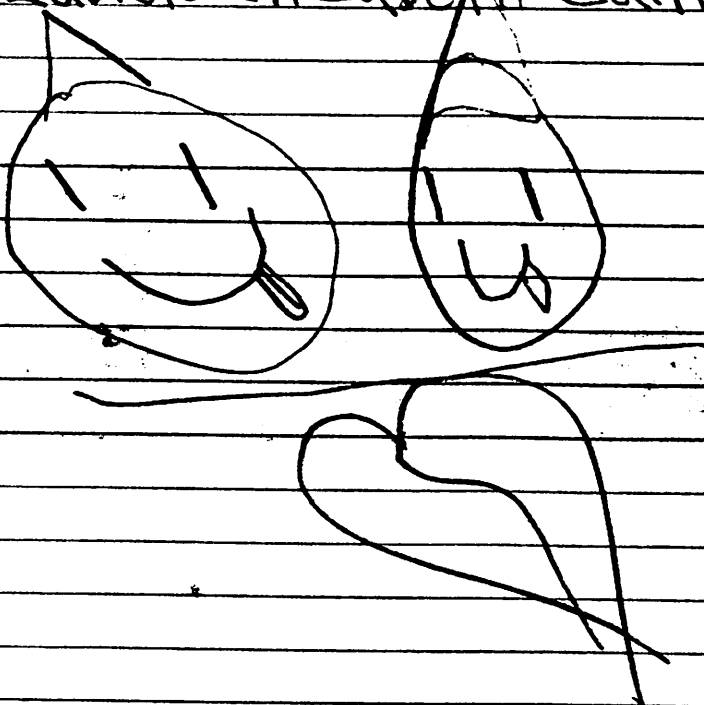
*Larry's family and friends know him as a peaceful and gentle person who genuinely regrets his role in the tragedy at Jonestown. They stand ready and willing to assist him in readjusting to life on the outside and in ensuring the opportunity to lead a productive and worthy life.*

Dear President Clinton,

My Uncle is in prison  
and has been in prison for 18 years.  
Because of the Guyana Massacre.  
I'm only 11 yrs old but I would like  
Larry Lamb my Uncle to come out  
as soon as you can please try to get him  
out. He was out for a bit but they came when I was  
2 years old.

Yours Truly:

Lauren Elizabeth Carmell.



**Thomas N. Layton, Ph.D.**  
**Department of Anthropology**  
**San Jose State University**  
**San Jose, CA 95192-0113**

February 28, 1997

Mr. William J. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Clinton:

I am Larry J. Layton's older brother. I was four years old when he was born, so I have known him for his entire life. I am a Professor of Anthropology and past Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at San Jose State University. I hold a Ph.D. from Harvard University ('71) and have published widely on the prehistoric archaeology of North American Indians.

I was close to Larry before he entered Peoples Temple but was excluded from his life (like other relatives of Temple members) from 1970 to 1978. Since that time I have been in regular contact with Larry: I visited him in prison in Guyana and remained there to attend his trial. During his freedom (on bail) between his trials here in the States I employed him as manager of my rental properties. Since his incarceration I have talked to him by phone almost weekly and have visited him in person. We exchange letters, and I've sent him copies of my scientific writings for his comment. It is fair to say that we have reestablished a healthy relationship as adult brothers.

Larry entered Peoples Temple because he believed it to be similar to early Christian communities. He perceived Jim Jones to be very much like Martin Luther King. Most of the political figures of San Francisco were likewise impressed by Jones' stated political goals during those heady years of the early 1970's. Even Rosalind Carter, wife of the President, spoke at a Temple gathering during this period.

Larry was raised as a Quaker. A fundamental tenet of quakerism is non-violence, and Larry believed so deeply in this value that he applied for alternative service early in the Viet Nam War. His application was initially denied, but finally approved after

the intercession of Jim Jones. Shortly thereafter, Larry joined the Temple and did his alternative service at Mendocino State Hospital.

The question that we must ask is how a man with such deep roots in pacificism could end up at an airport in the jungle with a gun, an apparent part of a criminal conspiracy. Larry believed that Jonestown would be an experimental inter-racial community based on equality, where members would have equal access to shared resources produced communally. That rosy expectation was replaced by a reality of starvation and exhaustion in a remote jungle compound totally separated from the outside world and totally insulated from all outside information. There, at the jungle commune, Jones created and fed an atmosphere of paranoia by providing his followers with his own "information." Larry, like most other members of the colony, believed that they faced destruction from various "outside" groups. Jones fostered that paranoia, even arranging for gunfire to be heard at night from the forest surrounding the commune.

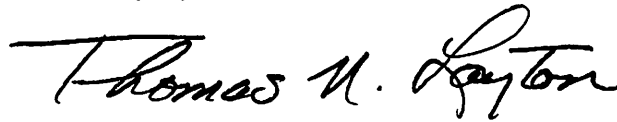
Emaciated, confused and exhausted, but still a True Believer, Larry went to the airport to preserve the Temple. He had just spent weeks under sedation by his mother's bedside helplessly watching her slowly die from cancer. The man at the airport with the gun is not the Larry Layton I knew before Peoples Temple, nor is he the loving brother I have known for nineteen years since that terrible November 18, 1978. He is today a gentle self-effacing pacifist. He bears no malice toward anyone. He wants only to live a productive life governed by reason and not by passion. He has read widely and has developed a healthy ability to question and to analyse motivations and relationships that lie behind the superficially apparent. He will never again become a member of a group demanding unquestioning loyalty.

During Larry's period on bail between trials he went to school studying art, computer science, accounting, and real estate. In addition to managing my rental properties Larry earned a real estate sales license and worked for a San Francisco realtor. He became once again a full participant in the Layton family in the roles of son, brother and uncle. His two sisters and I are financially secure and can guarantee that he will never become a welfare recipient. There is no doubt in my mind that Larry is ready to return to freedom as a productive and thoughtful member of society.

Larry has now spent more than a third of his life being prosecuted and serving time for his participation in a conspiracy hatched by Jim Jones. Larry's behavior on that one day was totally out of character with the rest of his life.

I do not ask that you pardon Larry. We must leave that to the Almighty. I do ask that you commute his sentence. You will not regret your decision.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas N. Layton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Thomas N. Layton  
Professor of Anthropology

# DEBORAH LAYTON

June 6, 1997

President William Jefferson Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 10002

Dear Mr. President:

It is not easy explaining how it was that I joined Peoples Temple and remained a member from the age of eighteen to twenty-five. I am daunted just thinking about what I should say to turn the pendulum back to a place where you can look at the tragedy and understand the state of affairs in which each of us lived and functioned. You must understand that people don't join "cults", they join self-help groups, churches, political movements, protest groups, etc.. It is not until much later, after the devotee has been successfully isolated from family and friends, thoroughly indoctrinated and tested, and made totally dependent on their new "family" that the true nature of the organization is revealed. The transformation is a gradual, almost imperceptible process which the individual is most often not even aware of.

My experience inside Peoples Temple began with great hope and excitement. I felt like I was joining the Peace Corps, but here in America. Jim Jones was a well-respected minister and influential figure in the San Francisco Bay Area, a friend of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and then Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. I was enchanted by the humanitarian and socially progressive endeavors I was assigned to participate in and felt honored to be part of a congregation that had the likes of Rosalyn Carter, Angela Davis, Dennis Banks and other highly respected leaders grace its meetings. It was not until much later, after Jim was appointed Head of the San Francisco Housing Authority, that things began to change. To those of us inside, the changes were natural and inevitable responses to hostile outside forces. Like the Jews in Germany who misread or did not believe the warning signs in Hitler's rise to power, we continued to live our lives.

The mass suicide of over 900 children and their families in the remote jungles of Guyana, South America remains one of the most misunderstood and tragic chapters in U.S. history. Insanity and delusion are not aberrations that occurred only in Jonestown. Cults pervade our existence. They have existed throughout history and are an even greater menace now as our lives and jobs become more competitive and less secure. Since the demise of Peoples Temple, awareness of cults laid dormant until we confronted the infamous incidents in Waco, Oklahoma City, Switzerland, Japan, and most recently, Montana. All races, cultures and class of individuals can fall victim to the highly organized recruiting machines. Cults know no boundaries.

As is common throughout history, it is only with the benefit of hindsight that we can see how such a tragedy could have happened. The acts that evolved from acclaim to condemnation and affected so many lives have yet to be understood. For this reason, I am writing a book about my experiences for Anchor-Doubleday. One of the most daunting questions parents have today is how to protect their children from cults. I hope my story will provide them with illumination of the darkness of deceit

It is imperative that society understand that the majority of those young people joining organizations are well-intentioned individuals looking to dedicate their services to a cause greater than themselves. It is their idealism, naiveté and innocence that are sometimes used, abused and distorted into forms neither they nor their families recognize. Charismatic leaders have long been able to convince their followers to act in ways which in any other context would seem bizarre. History books are replete with examples.

None of the 913 people who lost their lives in Jonestown wanted to die. They believed that they were about to be murdered by their own government and showed their "self-determination" by taking their own lives first. They had been successfully brainwashed by their leader. Our mother, Lisa Philip Layton, an escapee from Nazi Germany, also died in Jonestown. She died an excruciating death from lung and brain cancer ten days before the massacre. It was Larry who nursed her. It was Larry who had to beg Jim Jones to give our mother drugs to relieve her tremendous suffering, but Jones had already consumed her drugs himself. It was Larry that never left our mother's side. It was Larry that was grieving the loss of our mother ten days later, barely functional, when someone put a gun in his hand and told him what to do. Larry was not capable of rational thought. His spirit had died with our mother.

Larry became the fall guy for Jim Jones, the real villain. This country, our government, in confusion and condemnation, demanded a human sacrifice to assuage their guilt. My brother is still being held solely accountable for the insanity designed by Jones and unwittingly implemented by a thousand of us. Larry has more than paid for his actions. During his 14 years of incarceration, Larry has demonstrated through his hospice work with dying inmates, tutoring and organizing of self-help groups for men striving to better themselves, that he is an exemplary prisoner, a caring individual and worthy of a second chance. He should not be made to pay further for the sins of Jim Jones. I plead with you, Mr. President, to free him. Take not just my word, but those of the late Chief Judge Robert Peckham; four of the jurors who convicted him and yet begged for leniency; the Chief Probation Officer of Northern California Loren Buddress, who believes justice has not been served by Larry's further incarceration; and everyone who knows him. All of us believe that Larry deserves mercy. Even the two people he wounded forgave him and join me in asking for clemency. Please give my brother his freedom. It is the just thing to do.

Respectfully yours,

  
Deborah Layton

April 1, 1997

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear Mr. Clinton,

I am Larry Layton's older sister.

Nineteen years ago, my mother Lisa Layton, my sister Debby and my younger brother, Larry moved to Jonestown. By some strange twist of fate, none of them died in the suicide. Debby escaped in May of 1978, Mom died two weeks before the suicides from lung cancer, and Larry somehow missed the last ride back into Jonestown to commit suicide. I feel blessed that Debby and Larry survived and have become the fine people that they are.

Debby has created a wonderful life for herself and her family. She is raising a beautiful daughter, and is just finishing writing her first book.

Larry has created a meaningful life. When I get depressed about his situation he reminds me, "Annalisa, we can each create our own heaven or hell on this earth, and I choose to make this my heaven". Larry has been to depths that few can imagine, and resurfaced without anger or blame. He accepts that he made some terrible choices in his youth and though the price has been high, he still has his life, and where there is life, there is hope.

Larry grew up in the Quaker religion, and was granted conscientious objector status in the Vietnam war. In prison he has studied religion and philosophy, and has maintained his belief in a higher power. He doesn't proselytize, but his quiet efforts at acceptance and self improvement have lead numerous inmates to phone me after their release to tell me that they could not have survived their incarceration without Larry's strength and guidance.

Larry is a good person to the depths of his soul. Nobody in this world would say otherwise. I ask you please, to permit him to spend the last part of his life a free man.

Thank you,

*Annalisa Layton Valentine*

Annalisa Layton Valentine



8 Commodore Drive,  
Emeryville, California 94608  
May 29, 1997

To The Office of The President  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

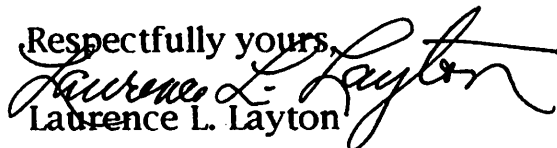
Re. Release of Laurence John Layton ( F.C.I. Registration  
20752-053) Reference to verdict and statements of Judge  
Robert F. Peckham, Chief Judge, United States Northern  
District of California, March 3, 1987.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in support of my son's application for  
release from Federal prison.

At the time of sentencing , it appeared that Judge  
Peckham, citing statements by prosecution witnesses and  
several jurors was recommending five years of  
imprisonment. for Laurence. We realized that this was  
only a recommendation by the judge who had presided  
over two trials of the case , but we assumed that his  
recommendations would prevail. I and his siblings  
petition that Judge Peckham's statements be considered  
in your decision in this case.

I and his family are financially able and willing to  
assure you that Laurence will not become dependant  
upon the public for support. I am quite certain that he  
can and will make a real contribution to society and be  
a credit to Judge Peckham's recommendation and your  
decision to release him at this time.

Respectfully yours,  
  
Laurence L. Layton



# CALGENE

February 7, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 10500

Dear President Clinton:

My name is Raymond Valentine. I'm a retired University of California, Davis Professor of Plant Science and scientific founder of the plant biotechnology company, Calgene. I'm writing in support of a pardon for Larry Layton. Larry is my former brother-in-law and I've known him for many years.

Much of the background of this case has been covered very thoroughly in other supporting letters. However, there are four questions which I'd like to address.

Is Larry Layton a threat to society?

The record is clear. During many years as a free citizen while awaiting trial Larry led a productive, quiet and harmonious life. In no sense is he a threat to society!

Would Larry be a burden to society?

Larry is a college graduate from UC Davis and has been trained as an x-ray technician. I have no doubt that his skills would make him competitive in today's job market.

Has Larry paid his debt to society?

Larry committed a serious crime for which he has paid his debt. He was 32 years old when the Jamestown tragedy occurred; now he is 51. Essentially all of this time has been served in prison. His debt is paid.

In the name of fairness, should Larry Layton shoulder the whole burden of the Jonestown tragedy?

At least three great tragedies surround Jonestown--the senseless killing of an outstanding congressman, the suicide of 900 misled souls and now the continuing imprisonment of Larry Layton after he has paid his debt. As a society we should not hold Larry Layton solely responsible for the Jonestown tragedy.

As best we can it is time to put Jonestown behind us. I urge you to free Larry Layton to let the healing process begin.

With respect,

Raymond C. Valentine

1920 Fifth Street  
Davis, California 95616  
Telephone (916) 753-6313  
Telex: 350370 CGENE  
Fax: (916) 753-1510

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

January 17, 1997

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing this letter on behalf of one of the kindest and most caring people I know, my uncle, Larry Layton. I was just five years old when my grandmother, who I had hardly known, died in Jonestown. It was only a few weeks later when Jim Jones ordered the deaths of nearly one thousand people. I was not yet in first grade when Larry first went to prison; I now have a Masters Degree in chemistry and am working toward a Ph.D. Sometimes I look back at the full life I have been leading; I have traveled to Asia, New Zealand, Central America, South America, and all around the United States. I reflect on my life with my beautiful fiancee as she trains to be a doctor, and I think about how much Larry has missed.

I have many fond memories of Larry when he was between trials. He enjoyed spending time with family. I recall taking many walks out to the local orchard with Larry and my beagle named Sounder. We would talk about all sorts of things: my preteen problems, our family, and his life in the Bay Area. He was one of the few adults I could talk to and confide in. What I realize now is that he was a happy, productive member of society, a person who was leading a normal life after being involved in one of Americas greatest tragedies. I remember Larry driving up to Davis for the holidays and for special occasions. He was always there for Christmas and for important events like my sister's High School graduation, and the birth of my cousin, Lauren. I know from these times that Larry is a good person with a good heart, not the sort of person who should be spending the bulk of his natural life in a Federal Correctional Institution.

The relationship that Larry and I now have is obviously limited and does not allow for quality time. There are times when he can phone, and I can drive for several hours to see him, but I do not believe that this is just. I do not believe it is just for a good person like Larry to spend more time in prison than he already has. I went to visit Larry three months ago at FCI Terminal Island and my belief in him was only strengthened. Over the many hours of conversation I again saw the wonderful uncle from my childhood. It is difficult for me to express Larry's genuine compassion and love for people, but I will give one example that he and I both feel strongly about: man's influence on the natural environment. We talked for several hours about global environmental problems, and as a

researcher in the field, I was very impressed with both his altruistic feelings and intellectual foundation. Larry sees environmental degradation as one of the greatest obstacles to creating a sustainable society, to all people having a quality life. I found much of this ironic because he has such benevolent feelings for a world he is not allowed to experience and for a society that has locked him away. He is not bitter and cynical toward society as many might be, but rather my uncle has spent his time in prison bettering himself and trying to make the world a better place.

Larry has always tried to help other people less fortunate than himself. In prison, he tutors others in English and math. During my last visit to FCI Terminal Island Larry expressed interest in learning more about my field of expertise, earth system science. I offered to give him several of my text books to learn from, but he told me that it was not possible since hard cover books are not allowed in prison. To me this was just another indication that Larry does not belong in prison. As a member of our family, Larry shares all the compassion, knowledge, and love of life he has. His imprisonment is the one great obstacle our family has to being truly happy. I am twenty three years old and I have no memories from the time before Larry went to jail; I cannot remember a time when talking to Larry didn't bring tears to my mothers eyes. It is my firmly held opinion and belief that Larry has served more than sufficient time for his crimes, and that he should be released as soon as possible. If you show leniency, I guarantee you that Larry will contribute positively to society; I beg you to do so.

Sincerely,

*David L. Valentine*

David Layton Valentine



# MARIN COMMUNITY CLINIC

*On The Grounds Of Marin General Hospital*

February 3, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear President Clinton,

Executive clemency for **Larry Layton** will give our nation the opportunity to put the tragedy of Jonestown behind us. It will also give Larry the chance he deserves to live a productive life with his family and friends nearby.

Larry Layton is my cousin. As teenagers, we spent a summer with our families at Lake Tahoe. I remember Larry as a thoughtful, deeply moral (and very handsome!) young man. When we both went off to college -- I to Tufts University, far away from family; and Larry to UC, Davis -- we grew apart, but followed parallel paths in service to our communities. Larry was active in social causes; both of us worked to provide health care for low income and uninsured individuals and families. Even now, in my role as Executive Director for the Marin Community Clinic, I often wish Larry were here -- both for his skills as an x-ray technician and for his deep commitment for his fellow humans.

I know that Larry will never forget the Jonestown incidents, that he takes full responsibility for his actions, and feels great pain for what happened. I also know that he is a gentle and reflective person, with a strong desire to work to make the world a better place.

During his 14 years of incarceration, Larry has used his time well, studying, helping other inmates discover the joy of learning and practicing meditation and yoga. I have not the slightest doubt that Larry has the skills and abilities to be a contributing member of our society. I therefore urge you to grant him clemency and let him come home.

Yours cordially,

Nance Rosencranz  
323 Locust  
San Francisco 94118







**Marga Rose Hancock**

1400 11th Avenue West #1  
Seattle, Washington 98119

14 January 97

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 10500

**Re: Petition for Clemency in the Case of Larry Layton**

Dear President Clinton:

I hope you will do what you alone can to secure release from prison for my first cousin Larry Layton.

Two sisters, who as teenagers in 1938 emigrated to the US from Nazi Germany, established their new families in their new country. In 1946, the year of Larry's birth and mine, they both made their homes in California's Bay Area, and shared the experience of caring for their young children. During our childhoods, our two families gathered for family events and vacationing. I knew my cousin throughout those years as a quiet, gentle boy eager to please, and easily influenced by others — especially his father, a forceful and authoritative figure.

I last saw Larry face to face at a family gathering in 1983 during the 5-year interim between his US terms of imprisonment. Since that time, we have corresponded often by letter, and I know from this of his consistent effort to make his time in prison as peaceful and productive as possible.

Although many Americans live in the shadow of Jonestown's evil, Larry Layton has suffered inordinately from the terrible events, more victim than perpetrator. He has shown by good behavior and contrition that he deserves his freedom and has the ability and will to conduct himself lawfully, to lead a constructive life in society. He has a peaceful heart and a mind to do good.

Your order of clemency would help heal many beyond Larry and his family whom the Jonestown tragedies have marked. I hope you will find the mercy and justice to relieve Larry Layton's long punishment.

Sincerely,

*Dale Caroline Lewis  
126 Florence Avenue  
Oakland, California 94618*

February 23, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear President Clinton;

I am writing you in support of Larry Layton's application for clemency.

My name is Dale Lewis and Larry Layton is a cousin of mine. I have known Larry and his family since childhood. Both of our families grew up in Berkeley, California so we saw quite a lot of each other. Larry was about five years older than I was so I played more with his younger sister Debbie. The Laytons always were a very loving and close knit family. My most vivid memories are the Christmas Eves spent with the Layton family, playing games and singing Christmas carols.

Larry Layton has been in jail for 14 years now. I have no idea what took place in all the years that Larry and his mother and sister were involved in Jim Jones church. I just know a terrible tragedy took place, and that Larry was a victim. I also know that the only reason the Laytons joined the church was that something positive would come out of creating this new community based on equality in Jonestown.

Larry Layton's father is now 83 years old. He is a very kind and intelligent man. He had his third bypass surgery when he was 81 years old. He is an incredible man in that he has survived all of this family tragedy and he still retains his great sense of humor and love for his family and friends. I just saw him last Thanksgiving and I'm very worried about his health and surviving another year. His first heart attack was 25 years ago. It would certainly be a miracle for him if he could see his son set free before he dies.

I sincerely believe that Larry Layton has served more than enough time in prison and that he is not a dangerous person. The last time I saw him was in 1984 at my mother's Christmas Eve party and he was as always a gentle and warm human being. He is certainly not a man that should spend any more years behind bars. If you could meet Larry and his 2 sisters, 1 brother and father you would see what a warm and caring family they are. I strongly urge you to look into Larry Layton's case and support his petition for clemency.

Thank you for your attention and concern.

Sincerely

*Dale Lewis*

Dale Lewis

Laurie Netreba  
6 Commodore #348  
Emeryville, CA  
94608

January 22, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

I am writing to you on behalf of Laurence John Layton, a fine person who I believe should be released from prison as soon as possible.

A doctoral candidate at the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in English literature, I have been Laurence John's father's intimate friend since 1984. Over the past twelve-and-a-half years, I have spoken with Laurence John on countless occasions, during the time he was free, and during the time he has spent in prison. I have always been impressed by his sensitive disposition and his unwavering loyalty to family and friends.

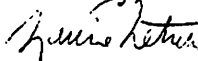
As an academic, I am impressed by how much time he has spent reading history and tutoring fellow inmates in mathematics. As a sympathetic observer, I am impressed by how well he has coped during this difficult time in his life. Calm, inner peace, and goodness pervade his entire personality, allowing him to deal gracefully with heavy disappointments and traumatic memories. Based upon what I have observed, I am convinced that he is perfectly capable of leading a quiet and productive life, without endangering anyone. He is one of the most mild-mannered, even-tempered, and considerate people I have ever known, far too gentle and harmless to be taking up space in a federal prison.

I cannot understand why he, of all people, is kept in prison while conspicuously menacing inmates are released early. Like most people, I am afraid of crime, and I have always supported your efforts to protect Americans from it. While things have improved during your administration, it still concerns me that, all too often, violent, malicious criminals who show no remorse are granted early paroles. Our system should find a way to extend the confinement of such people.

Laurence John does not fall into this category, as his record shows. America does not need to be protected from this benign person who poses no threat, means no harm, and loves to do kind, thoughtful things for his fellow man. I speak not only as someone who cares about his well-being, but also as an American citizen, concerned about justice. It disturbs me profoundly that such a peaceful and kind-hearted model inmate should be kept in prison year after year at the expense of the nation while truly dangerous people are being granted early releases, simply because our penal institutions are overcrowded and underfinanced. If our prisons lack the resources they need to maintain their inmate populations, and if, as a result, people have to be released before their terms are completed, who would not prefer to see harmless inmates, rather than hardened ones, reintegrated with society? There must be a way to handle this situation more sensibly and equitably, for Laurence John's sake, and for the sake of the country as a whole.

I hope you will come to the conclusion that nothing can be furthered by Laurence John Layton's continued incarceration, and that he can serve our society far better as a free man than as a needlessly imprisoned one.

Sincerely,



Laurie Netreba



January 13, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear President Clinton

I am writing to you in support of Larry Layton's application for clemency.

Before he was incarcerated, I lived in a household with Larry in San Francisco. I had always found him a peaceful and encouraging presence back then, and in letters today, continue to find him thoughtful and engaging, without bitterness, and hopeful for the opportunity to return to society.

I have no doubt that Larry would be a responsible and contributing citizen if given the chance. He is a thinking, feeling being that has been through tragedy and remorse while still remaining positive and willing to work towards some productive direction. I believe his further imprisonment serves no societal purpose. Please help him.

Respectfully yours,



Joyce Hiyane

ERICH HEFTMANN, Ph.D.  
P. O. BOX 928  
ORINDA, CA 94563

January 5, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Av. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear Mr. President:

Today, I am writing to you in behalf of Larry Layton, an inmate of a Federal Correctional Institute. I am a close friend of Larry's father, whom I first met at the University of Maryland in 1944. Being in the same field of science as he and coming from the same background as his wife, we have kept in contact with each other throughout the years, even though we did not always live in the same location. I have watched his children grow up and I got to know the Layton family very well.

Larry was always a very reserved and quiet child. Rough play was not for him. As he grew up in a harmonious family, he adopted the Quaker faith of his parents, then joined various peace movements, and ultimately became a conscientious objector during the years of the war in Vietnam. It is inconceivable to me that he would be involved in violent acts. Whatever the facts in his case may be, I am convinced that Larry does not have the character of a murderer. I met him last in the Eighties when he was free on bond and found him somewhat subdued but, otherwise as always, friendly and sincere. I certainly did not feel threatened or hostile.

My daughter, about the same age as Larry, was also seduced by a false prophet. I am just lucky that she came out of the Moonies without a scar. Like most children of that dark period of our history, both she and Larry have learned their lessons, and Larry has paid dearly. I say, let us close the book on those horrible years and let's allow the victims of the various cults and movements to join the rest of the world. When he comes back to his dependably supportive family, Larry will certainly be no threat to society. On the contrary, when he stops living on the taxpayers' money and makes a living on his own, he will most likely make a positive contribution to it.

Thanking you in advance for your compassionate and generous action on this case, I remain

Faithfully yours,



Erich Heftmann

Brigitte Heftmann  
P.O.Box 928  
Orinda, CA 94563

9 January 1997

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear Mr.President,

I am writing to you on behalf of Larry Layton, who has been convicted for the murder of Congressman Leo Ryan near the Peoples Temple compound in Jonestown, Guyana.

I have known the Layton family for many years and considered myself a good friend of Larry's mother, Lisa Phillip Layton.

Lisa was, like her son Larry, an idealistic person and believed in the utopian society Jim Jones promised to create in the jungle of Guyana. She gave herself and her (considerable) worldly possessions to that ideal. Fortunately for her she died of a natural death in the temple shortly before the ultimate disaster. I do believe that Larry Layton was under the spell of that evil man, Jim Jones.

Larry is an extremely mild-mannered person, a pacifist, a Quaker, a conscientious objector, who did alternative service during the Vietnam war. Is this the profile of a murderer? Larry was a victim of his circumstances. I feel that Larry Layton has atoned for his sin long enough and I am convinced that he will never harm anyone. On the contrary, I think he will be a valuable member of society once released. He has the full support of his whole family to help him in the transition.

Being friends of the Layton family we have kept in close contact with his father, Dr.Laurence Layton. We have grieved with him and try to be supportive. He is quite elderly and has several serious illnesses and is a psychologically broken man as a result of his family's involvement in the Peoples Temple. If for no other reason, Mr.President, it would be an act of great compassion to have Larry Layton released, while his father is still alive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely yours,

  
Brigitte Heftmann

*Bridget Moar*  
40 Woodland Drive  
Walnut Creek, California 94595

January 24, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 10500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you on behalf of the appeal to release Larry Layton from federal prison. It is with no reservation that I respectfully request you to consider this appeal seriously and with hope that you find it appropriate to grant the request.

My involvement with Larry was through his sister, Debbie. Debbie and I met in 1981 when we were both employed by the San Francisco investment banking firm of Montgomery Securities. Currently, I manage a group of project development staff for Automatic Data Processing, where I have been employed for over 11 years. Debbie and I became close friends while working at Montgomery Securities, and over the years I have had the pleasure of knowing many of her family members. In those early years of our friendship, I empathized with the turmoil of Debbie and her family as they struggled with Larry's first United States trial, which ended with a hung jury.

During the five years that Larry was free on bond, I became acquainted with him personally. The Larry I came to know is kind and peaceful, with a great spirit, and belief in societal responsibility. It was during this time that I realized how an individual's circumstances can influence one's behavior. The Larry I knew could never have held a weapon nor planned harm for another. This is because the true Larry is a thoughtful, nonviolent person. The circumstances of Jonestown, grief over his mother's very recent death, the lack of proper nutrition, and, perhaps most critically, the control Jim Jones had on the People's Temple member's minds and spirits created the Larry Layton of 1978. Larry was caught, along with all of the People's Temple members, in the middle of a long nightmare. A nightmare conceived by Jim Jones, and at Jim Jones' command, a nightmare that ended tragically. Nevertheless, the Larry of 1997 makes no excuses for the events of Jonestown nor carries any bitterness for the consequences he has had to endure for those events.

Larry has been the only person held accountable for the events of Jonestown. This seems unduly harsh; Larry has been more than justly punished for the People's Temple tragedy. It is the hope of Larry, his family, supporters, and friends that Larry can be released from prison in order to once again become a productive member of society and to somehow compensate for the events leading to his conviction. The Layton family is a close-knit family, and they will be there to support Larry through his transition to a productive member of society. I look forward to the time when my young sons and husband can also get to know Larry. I know that he has a lot to offer to others, as well as his community.

Please grant Larry this opportunity.

Respectfully yours,

*Bridget Moar*

Bridget Moar

PHYLLIS MACY, PH.D.  
632 CONDOR AVENUE  
BEN LOMOND, CALIFORNIA 95005  
TELEPHONE (408) 336-2513

January 7, 1997

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am a retired clinical psychologist. I have known the Layton family since 1951. My knowledge of all members of this family up until the tragedy of the Jim Jones ministry is that they were a well integrated, very productive, highly intelligent middle class family.

My memory of Larry, Jr. as a young child is of an intense, emotional, rather serious little guy. He was in no way violent or disruptive. Throughout my close friendship with the family I knew Larry to be sensitive and idealistic. When I saw him after his acquittal in Guyana and before trial in the U.S., I perceived him to be still an intense and rather emotional young man who was shy and withdrawn. My impression was that he was struggling with confusion and guilt over what had happened in Guyana and the degree to which he had been drawn into it.

I do not believe that Larry, Jr. was capable of assault or murder, or conspiracy to commit murder. There is no violence in his history -- a condition on which violence is often predicated. It is more likely that he was caught up in the emotional rush of Rev. Jim Jones' charismatic leadership. As we all know, Jones had a very powerful impact on a great many people, influencing them to carry out unthinkable acts that they very likely would never have chosen to do on their own.

In the light of these facts, Laurence John Layton was more of a victim than a perpetrator of the events that caused Congressman Ryan's death. It seemed to me at the time, and I still believe, that he has been made the scapegoat because he is the only individual that U.S. authorities have been able to lay hands on to stand accountable for the tragedy at Port Kaituma airstrip at Jonestown.

Larry has been a model prisoner, engaged in constructive activities while in prison. He surely has more than paid his debt for having held a gun in his hand at the time of the shooting. As you know from the case records, there is no direct evidence that

President Clinton

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January 7, 1997

bullets from his gun either seriously wounded or killed anyone.

Mr. President, please take steps to rectify this injustice. Larry Layton has a welcoming family awaiting his release. He will have plenty of support for adjusting to life in the community. Please use the powers of your office to free this man so that he may spend the rest of his life as a productive citizen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Phyllis Macy*  
Phyllis Macy, Ph.D.

*William and Ruth Wasley*  
Del Mesa Carmel #129 • Carmel, California 93923 March 2, 1997

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

This letter is a plea for your clemency for Laurence Layton.

May I introduce myself. I am an 84 year old retired research scientist (Ph.D., Stanford, 1938). I have known the Layton family since 1952 when the Layton children and my children went to school in Berkeley, and I worked in a research laboratory where their father also was employed.

Laurence Layton is the very unfortunate man who has been in federal prison for many years because of his alleged involvement in the Guyana affair of 1978.

Laurence Layton and his sisters and brother were brought up to believe in the Quaker ideal of non-violence as a way of life. It is therefore hard for me to believe that Laurence could have been involved in any illegal or violent act unless he was forced in some way to act in a way contrary to his ingrained beliefs. If he was involved in any illegal act when the congressman was leaving Guyana, it would be completely inconsistent with his true character. His action must certainly have been controlled by the evil leader of the cult in Guyana, the leader whose control over his followers was so absolute that at his command hundreds joined in mass suicide.

Laurence Layton is certainly not a danger to society and you can be sure that when he is free, he will lead a good and constructive life, - a kind, gentile, idealistic person for the rest of his life. His many years in federal prison have been a terrible penalty, and I believe it is a penalty that is unduly severe.

I urge you to grant clemency to Laurence Layton NOW. I hope and pray that you will take the necessary merciful action to release him NOW.

Sincerely,

*William L. Wasley*  
William L. Wasley



"and they shall beat their  
swords into ploughshares"

---

9 Brooks Place  
Pueblo, Colo. 81001  
(303) 542-3032

Systems Analysis  
Risk Management  
Human Factors

D.A. Weaver, CSP, CPCU  
Management Consultant

March 12, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 10500

Re: Clemency in California

Dear Mr. President:

Your staff can verify the facts in a few phone calls. They can assure you that your executive clemency in the case of Larry Layton is an act of justice that will redound to your credit and be acclaimed by the people of California and the nation.


Even in the years immediately after the tragic death of California congressman Ryan in Jonestown, Guyana, prominent Californians spoke up for leniency in the case of Larry Layton. Even the presiding judge at his trial, and even the jury that convicted him, spoke up for leniency. But, the law was inexorable.

I have known all the Layton family since I first knew Dr. Laurence L. Layton as a fellow graduate student at Penn State just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Lisa and her sister were refugee students from Nazi Germany. Dr. Layton, after completing his doctorate, devoted a brilliant career to scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Lisa married Dr. Layton and became the mother of four talented children. Their family history continues to this day to be a triumph of accomplishment. In the case of young Larry, a deep sense on altruism trapped him in the quagmire of Jonestown, Guyana.

Your staff can readily verify Larry Layton's minimal role in the events for which he is being punished, and the mitigating behavior of his whole life. Further punishment no longer fits the crime but the law continues to be inexorable. Your clemency, Mr. President, can restore the delayed balance of justice.

In your accomplishments in eight powerful years as our president in the White House, what you do about Larry Layton will be only a footnote. It will, however, be a footnote that fits into a special chapter on your aspiration to a society of noble ideals. Please find the time to get the facts in the case of Larry Layton. Do that, and I feel confident that justice will be served.

Sincerely,

  
D. A. Weaver

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**D.A. WEAVER SAFETY ASSOCIATES**

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January 3, 1997

President William Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D. C. 10500

Dear President Clinton:

Subject: Letter of Strong Support for Executive Clemency and the Release from  
Federal Prison of

**LAURENCE [LARRY] JOHN LAYTON**  
Reg. No. 20752-053  
FCI Lompoc, California 93436

I welcome this opportunity to submit to you this letter of recommendation and earnest appeal for executive clemency and the release from federal prison of Laurence [Larry] John Layton. It is my understanding that Mr. Layton is filing an application for clemency, and I trust your eventual decision will favor his request.

Permit me to introduce myself. My name is Eugene A. Fuller. I am 70 years old, a homeowner [since 1965], a political conservative, but I did change my Republican affiliation and voted for you in both of your runs for President. In 1981, at age 55, I retired early from my full-time teaching position with the San Francisco Community College District [20 years' credited service]. For the next 5 years, I served as an educational consultant in our District. Now I am simply enjoying the good things that life offers us and doing volunteer work at hospices, senior centers, and hospitals.

In September, 1981, when Mr. Layton's first trial began, I attended all courtroom sessions. Like many others, I wanted to learn more about and perhaps gain better understanding of the Jonestown tragedy. As this was the first trial I ever witnessed, I focused carefully on each day's proceedings and kept an open mind. I did not know Mr. Layton or anyone connected with Jim Jones' Peoples Temple. However, I did know the mother of a San Francisco newspaper reporter who was in Jonestown on November 18, 1978, the day the tragedies occurred. [She was a colleague of mine and introduced me to her son the day he testified. We remain good friends to this day.]

When the prosecution finally rested its case after 9 weeks of testimony, I was not convinced of Larry Layton's guilt. I decided to write him a short letter expressing my objective viewpoint and earned support. His attorney was kind enough to deliver my message to him in the courtroom before the next session began. The hung jury's count [11-1 favoring acquittal on the main conspiracy charge; 7-5 on aiding and abetting] satisfied me, if not fully, believing that Larry Layton could at least get on with his life. I do know that for 5 years, 1981-1986, he worked, studied real estate, attended school, and clearly demonstrated that he definitely was not a threat to society, any person, or himself.

Shortly after his appointment a few years later [1985], the new US Attorney announced publicly that he personally would prosecute Larry Layton after ordering a second trial. While attending all the preliminary sessions for this new trial, I met Larry. His attorney introduced us. In a short time, we became friends. Larry, in turn, introduced me to his steady girlfriend, his family members, and other friends. Our friendship continues to this day. I write him weekly, and he does the same. For the first few years of his incarceration resulting from the second trial, we talked together on the telephone every Saturday or Sunday. Other

President William Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
January 3, 1997

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than myself and my pet, Larry is my most consistent, reliable, and trusted friend. With all my teaching and life experiences, my conservative and maintained critical thinking, I can recognize honesty and sincerity in others. Larry Layton possesses both of these desired human qualities and more.

Let me outline for you, President Clinton, some of the additional things I know first-hand about my friend, Larry Layton.

1. He is a fine man, well mannered, sensitive, comes from an educated and honorable family background, and a man of remarkable inner strength and courage.
2. He is intelligent, kind, generous, trustworthy, and a very caring individual.
3. He is a talented man with a strong potential to make valuable contributions to society and his fellow man.
4. He is insightful, always striving for self-improvement, well read, and a gentle man.
5. Lastly, Larry is filled with remorse for what happened that tragic day [November 18, 1978]! I recall his most caring statements in the courtroom before sentencing, "I speak to you simply from my heart..." asking forgiveness for any hurt or sadness he may have caused anyone. Also, he has expressed his remorse to me.

Larry has matured in an extremely positive manner in the 11 years I have known him. Vindictiveness plays no part in his make-up. I could cite many examples to verify each descriptive word I have used to evaluate Larry Layton's character, thinking, and behavior; but these would make my letter too lengthy. Basically, Larry is still rather shy and soft spoken as anyone who interviews him may well observe. With all that he has experienced in his lifetime, it is not easy for him to "open up" verbally to others. Trust is the determining factor! He trusted Jim Jones, the leader of Peoples Temple; yet, Jim Jones took both of Larry's wives, Carolyn and Karen, away from him and made them his mistresses. He trusted our judicial system--and still does--disappointed, of course, with the second jury's guilty verdict, but quietly accepting the resulting punishment. Instead of succumbing to negativity and defeat, he chose the positive path: focus on continued self-improvement and personal growth while awaiting his freedom. And, he has made remarkable progress, believe me!

Larry Layton is the only Jonestown survivor who was required to experience three [3] trials [one in Guyana, which resulted in acquittal; two in our country], and he has already spent several years in both Guyanese and United States jails and prisons. I cannot comprehend any benefit he would derive from longer incarceration! He definitely is rehabilitated now, and granting him executive clemency now President Clinton will not adversely affect our society's respect and want for law and order. I know that Larry is a law-abiding person, and I believe strongly that he has much to offer and will offer our community. Again, consider what he did and was achieving during the 5-year period between his first and second US trials. Yes, I know Larry Layton well. He is a man of integrity. He definitely deserves his freedom now!

Thank you, President Clinton, for your time and thoughtful consideration of this

President William Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
January 3, 1997

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letter of recommendation and earnest plea on behalf of Larry Layton. Without doubt, this is one of the most important letters I've written in my lifetime. My faith in Larry Layton, my friend, is strong. I sincerely hope that you will grant Larry executive clemency. Again, he has served enough time in Guyanese and United States jails and prisons already--the only survivor of many charged with the Jonestown tragedy!

Sincerely yours,



Eugene A. Fuller

116 Alta Vista Way  
Daly City, CA 94014-1402  
Telephone: [415] 586-3235

February 28, 1997

President Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 10500

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to express the strongest possible support for a presidential grant of clemency for Larry Layton, convicted on federal charges related to the deaths of Representative Leo Ryan and four others at the Port Kaituma airstrip near Jonestown, Guyana, in 1978.

I have known the Layton family for almost thirty years, having attended middle school with Larry's sister, Deborah Layton. Debbie and I were close friends throughout our adolescence and I came to spend a great deal of time with the Laytons and know them well. I continue to be in touch with Debbie, even though I now live in Salt Lake City (where I am Associate Professor of History at the University of Utah). I feel a great affection and respect for all the members of the Layton family.

I closely followed the tragic consequences of People's Temple and the tragedy at Jonestown for the Layton family, including Larry's arrest and conviction. I feel absolutely certain that Larry should be released. He has served fourteen years in prison, during which time he has been a model prisoner. I truly believe that he represents no threat to society and, moreover, is capable and ready to become a contributing member of society. He has a supportive and loving family and many friends to help him reestablish himself. With his educational background, I have no doubt that he will easily find suitable employment. Larry Layton deserves the chance to begin again.

Larry Layton  
Page Two

I should add that I feel strongly about appropriate punishment for violent crime as my brother was shot and killed thirteen years ago during a mugging. Larry Layton, however, has served his time and poses no risk to anyone. I feel absolutely certain that it is fair and just to release him and give him an opportunity to rejoin society. I hope you will seriously consider doing so.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Horn*

Rebecca Horn  
141 E. Second Avenue  
#602  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2304