

CHARLES B. RANGEL
18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

MRS. VIRGINIA BELL
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

144 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027
TELEPHONE: 866-8600

Rangel

File

June 7, 1971

*Called CBR 4:15 pm
6-14-71*

Mrs. Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Nixon:

Regrettably, I would like to take this opportunity to bring a rather unfortunate incident to your attention. My wife, Mrs. Alma Rangel, recently attended a luncheon hosted by you at the Executive Mansion on Monday, May 24, 1971. The following outline relates to the luncheon.

On the afternoon of the luncheon, at approximately 12:55 p.m., my wife sought admission to the Executive Mansion through an entrance located on Pennsylvania Avenue between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets. Discovering for the first time that she was without her invitation, Mrs. Rangel sought help from the officer on duty (an Officer Wood - Maryland). The officer was unable to locate Mrs. Rangel's name on the guest list available to him and suggested that she produce some identification. Throughout the foregoing, the officer maintained a minimum of civility.

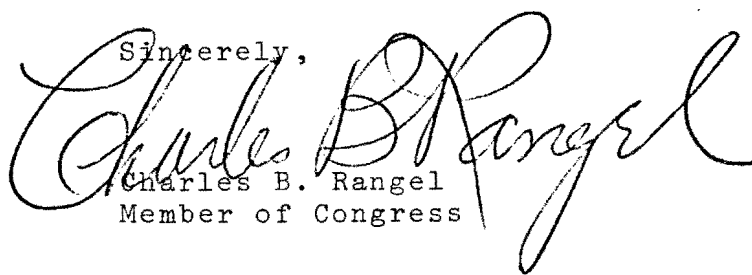
Mrs. Rangel was able to produce a New York State motor vehicle operator's permit and other documentation. The officer was eventually satisfied that Mrs. Rangel was in fact Mrs. Rangel. His approval took the form of the following statement: "O.K. Alma you can go in." Mrs. Rangel immediately reminded the officer that she had not explicitly nor implicitly authorized the officer to address her as anyone other than Mrs. Charles B. Rangel.

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Needless to say, my wife was very upset by the officer's assumption of familiarity and general failure to accord Mrs. Rangel the dignity deserved by all women black or white. I am sure that you will see to it that the officer demonstrates more sense and courtesy in the future. Maintenance of a courteous demeanor is particularly important for a member of the staff of the Executive Mansion.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles B. Rangel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

CBR:b