DEAR SECRETARY UDALL. I HAVE MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY ADMIRE
YOUR WILL TO SAVE SOME OF THE WILDERNESS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND
ALL SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS.

I BELIEVE TOO, THAT WE MUST SAVE OUR HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL KNOW AND FEEL THE GREATNESS OF THEIR
HISTORICAL INHERITANCE. OUR COMMUNITY PROUDLY LAYS CLAIM TO
ONE OF THE GREATEST HISTORICAL HOMES IN OUR STATE, THAT OF
GENERAL JOHN BIDWELL NAMED BY DR ROCWELL HUNT, HISTORIAN AS
ONE OF THE FOREMOST CALIFORNIA PIONEER. I IMPOLE YOUR ASSISTANCE
TO PRESERVE THIS LOVELY OLD MANSION IN ITS PROPER SETTING.
THE MANSION AND GROUNDS HAVE BEEN STATE PROPERTY FOR YEARS
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE SCHOOL NAMELY CHICO STATE
COLLEGE. AFTER RECEIVING GREATsums OF MONEY TO EXPAND THE COLLEGE THEY HAVE TURNED OVER THE MANSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND BEACHES. THEY FAIL TO SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF RESERVING AMPLE SPACE FOR PROPER SETTING. THE COLLEGE IS NOW DESIGNING A SCHOOL BUILDING ON PART OF THE GARDEN WHICH WILL NOW AND FOREVER DESTROY MUCH OF THE DIGNITY AND BEAUTY OF THE OLD MANSION.

WILL YOU PLEASE MAKE INQUIRY AND INFORM ME AS TO THE PROPER PROCEDURE I MUST TAKE TO LOC THIS HORRIBLE MISTAKE MARY C J GONI MEMBER OF WILDERNESS SOCIETY, NATURE CONSERVANCY NATIONAL PARKS ASSN. SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.
Dear Miss Goni:

Secretary Udall appreciates the kind remarks in your telegram of January 8 about the Department's conservation efforts and asked us to express his thanks. He also asked that we comment on the question you raise about the John Bidwell home which has been under the jurisdiction of Chico State College.

You indicate that the College has turned over the Bidwell home, which is State property, to the Division of Beaches and Parks. You have the feeling, apparently, that the Division is not exerting itself to assure the reservation of sufficient grounds and space to give the old historic home a proper setting, and that the old garden will be built upon according to current plans and thus destroyed. While we do not have any direct knowledge of and acquaintance with the Bidwell home, it would seem essential to preserve sufficient grounds around the immediate environs of the home, including the garden perhaps, to assure something of its original historic setting.

We wonder if you have discussed this matter with Mr. Charles A. DeTurk, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, for the State of California. The Division of Beaches and Parks, to which you make reference, is a part of his Department. Mr. DeTurk is known to us as a man of broad interests, sympathies, and understanding in matters of conservation. We feel that if this matter is brought to his attention he will give it very careful consideration. We suggest that you arrange to discuss it with Mr. DeTurk to see if he can help arrange a suitable settlement of the issue.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) John A. Carver, Jr.

Secretary of the Interior

Miss Mary C. J. Goni

Chico, California