

County Court

KOOCHICHING COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN. 56649

JUDGE  
George Hnatluk

9/20/76

*Mike*

218- ~~283-2573~~  
282-3351

CLERK OF COURT  
Terrence Carew  
DEPUTIES  
Aaron Carew  
Mary Mahle  
Dorothy Thomson

( ) Probate Court Div.  
( ) Family Court Div.

Wendell Anderson,  
Governor State of Minnesota  
State Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My Dear Governor Anderson:

Please consider this letter as a petition to you under the provisions of M.S.A. 490.123 Subd. 4 for disability benefits as set forth therein.

I am the County Court Judge in and for the Koochiching County. I was Probate Judge from October 1962 until March of 1972 when I assumed duties as County Court Judge, and am at present completing the term which expires December 31, 1976.

Since November 1975 I have been under observation of Dr. Harris of the Ophthalmology Clinic of the University of Minnesota, because of deminishing eyesight which is apparently due to the deterioration of the Optic Nerve, and is not correctable. I have also had extensive examination by Dr. Chou of the Neurosurgical Division at the University of Minnesota and was advised that further exploratory surgery is not warranted.

My vision has now deteriorated to the point that I have been advised that I am legally blind. In any event I am presently unable to do any reading of books, typewritten material, newspapers and other documents which are required of me as Judge. All material must be read to or for me both in the court room or in chambers, and doing any legal research is impossible.

dob: 4-10-15 (61)

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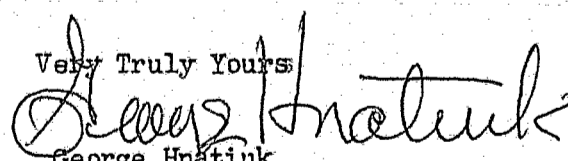
2.

Because of my present situation I do not feel it is in the public interest that I try to continue in office, and therefore earnestly request that you make a determination that I am entitled to disability benefits under the Statute effective Nov. 1, 1976, in order to avoid the need for standing for re-election in November and then petition for disability status thereafter. Nor do I feel that I should be required to run for office with such a handicap existing.

If you desire to make further verification of my condition, you have my permission to check with Dr. Harris and Dr. Chou at the University of Minnesota Hospital.

Thank you for your prompt attention and consideration in this matter.

Very Truly Yours



George Hnatiuk  
Judge of County Court  
Koochiching County

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

Department of Neurosurgery  
Medical School  
B-590 Mayo Memorial Building  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

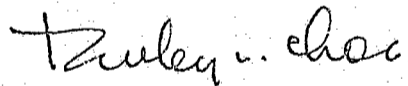
September 20, 1976

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: George Hantiuk  
UH# 1228629-2

This is to certify that I have been involved in the care of Mr. George Hantiuk on a number of occasions. Basically he was referred to me because of impairment of vision of both eyes. In December of last year he was in the hospital for certain tests, and again I saw him in follow-up consultation in August of this year. His visual acuity on August 25, 1976 was 2300 for the right eye and 2200 for the left eye. It is felt that he has optic nerve atrophy probably of a degenerative nature. It is felt that the prognosis for recovery is poor.

Sincerely yours,



Shelley N. Chou, M.D.  
Professor and Head

SNC/ts

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

Department of Ophthalmology  
Medical School  
A-684 Mayo Memorial Building  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

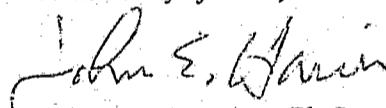
September 23, 1976

Re: George Hnatiuk  
UH# 1228629

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that the best corrected vision of Mr. Hnatiuk as of August 25, 1976 was 20/300 on the right and 20/200 on the left. Mr. Hnatiuk has an optic atrophy of unknown etiology. No return of vision is to be expected. He is considered legally blind.

Sincerely yours,

  
John E. Harris, Ph.D., M.D.  
Professor and Head

/pw

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
THE HONORABLE GEORGE HNATIUK, JUDGE  
OF THE COUNTY COURT OF THE COUNTY OF  
KOOCHICHING, STATE OF MINNESOTA, FOR  
RETIREMENT UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE  
PROVISIONS OF MINNESOTA STATUTES,  
SECTIONS 490.121, SUBDIVISIONS 13  
AND 14, AND 490.124, SUBDIVISION 4.

WHEREAS, the Honorable George Hnatiuk, Judge of the  
Koochiching County Court, has heretofore filed with the undersigned  
Governor of the State of Minnesota his written application for  
retirement pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes,  
Sections 490.121, Subdivisions 13 and 14, and 490.124, Subdivision  
4, and

WHEREAS, the said Judge George Hnatiuk has indicated  
in his application that he has become physically incapacitated  
from performing his judicial duties during the remainder of his  
term in office, and said condition being attested to by his personal  
physician, and

WHEREAS, the said Judge George Hnatiuk has served as  
such judge and as such judge of a court of record for the past  
fourteen (14) years, and

WHEREAS, the undersigned Governor of the State of Minnesota  
did, on September 27, 1976, make a determination according to law  
that the said Judge George Hnatiuk has in fact become unable to  
perform his judicial duties,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendell R. Anderson, Governor of the  
State of Minnesota, acting pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota  
Statutes, Sections 490.121, Subdivisions 13 and 14, and Section  
490.124, Subdivision 4, do hereby order and direct the retirement  
of the Honorable George Hnatiuk, Judge of the County Court of  
Koochiching County, Minnesota to become effective at the close of  
business on October 31, 1976. He shall become entitled thereafter  
to retirement compensation as provided under the law, and I further  
direct that this Order be filed in the office of the Secretary of  
State of the State of Minnesota.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1976, at the State  
Capitol in the City of St. Paul, State of Minnesota.

*Wendell R. Anderson*  
WENDELL R. ANDERSON  
Governor  
State of Minnesota

#30128  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED  
SEP 29 1976  
*Joan Anderson*  
Secretary of State