

VICE PRESIDENT RICHARDSON

HAD

... therefore I tender my resignation as Vice President of the United States of America.

You wrote the document, you signed it. Was it ever delivered? Was it ever read and processed? You wish you knew. If not, it may not be too late for you to take charge. President Carroll is unfit after having unleashed this plague upon the world. So many dead...

You like having power and authority. There is no doubt about it. It is what first prompted you into politics. Yet a strange thing happened along the way over the past several decades. You found something you liked even more: doing right by others. By the time you won election as the Governor of Florida, you honestly, legitimately cared about people. Amidst all the numbers and all the stories it really got through to you that what you did had tremendous impact on the lives of millions of people and you had a responsibility to do right by them.

You joined the campaign as the candidate for Vice-President because you believed that President Carroll would honestly govern the nation well. President Carroll had a careful, moderate brand of politics that could lead to sensible compromises (and hence real movement) on issues that impacted the daily lives of Americans. President Carroll did deliver on those promises for the most part during the first term.

Project Resonance changed everything. You had only the faintest awareness about it, that it was one of dozens of major research projects into less-lethal weaponry. That sounded fine on the surface. It wasn't until it was too late that you, and the rest of the nation, found out the truth: that it was a biologically-engineered virus. That was why you resigned... or at least wrote the letter.

Are you the Vice-President or not? You don't know. If no one else can show that you resigned, then perhaps it isn't too late to try to take charge and save whatever is left of the nation. President Carroll, and whoever else is left alive amongst those that approved this monstrosity, have forever forfeited their time for any kind of leadership.

President Carroll has gone too far. Carroll has no right to lead what remains of this country.

Secretary Highmore is the secretary of Defense. Highmore has no particular morals. You never liked that Carroll repaid a Wall Street donor with such an important cabinet position. You wouldn't be surprised if Highmore was behind the Resonance push.

Advisor Cahill would do anything to keep the population under control, even breeding dangerous viruses. Carroll had good ideas, but made terrible choices about defense.

Secretary Stevenson was one of the few people to speak out against the Resonance virus. You dislike Stevenson personally a great deal. Stevenson is a drunken, thrice divorced blow-hard, but at least you saw eye-to-eye on this.

Dr. White was your father's bastard child and took advantage of this in every way. You have always resented this. To think that your father's illegitimate child was a major cause of this catastrophe, partially because of the advantages that blackmailing your dad allowed.

Colonel Rothenberg is deeply invested in the progress of Project Resonance. It almost seems personal to him, more than just of professional interest.

You were shocked to hear that **Secretary Gutierrez** was so comfortable with the project. You believe that if Gutierrez knew more about it, the secretary of state would have been as horrified as you are.