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July 8, 1972
Miami Beach
Press Conference

LAST NIGHT THE SUPREME COURT REAFFIRMED THE
INDEPENDENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN
AFFAIRS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSTITUTION.

THIS HISTORIC DECISION HAS PROVIDED A VOICE FOR
NEARLY 2 MILLION CALIFORNIANS WHO WOULD HAVE LACKED
REPRESENTATION IF THE SUPREME COURT HAD NOT ACTED.

I BELIEVE THAT THE DELEGATES WILL SUPPORT THE
PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AS MANDATED
BY THE 1968 REFORMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THEY WILL SUPPORT THE
TIRELESS WORK OF THEIR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. THIS
COMMITTEE MET FOR TEN DAYS AND NIGHTS STRIVING TO MEET
IN THE FAIREST WAY OUR PARTY REFORM GUIDELINES--PLACING
THE INTEREST OF DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION ABOVE THE
POLITICAL INTERESTS OF ANY SINGLE CANDIDATE.

I BELIEVE WE WILL NOW HAVE A FREE AND OPEN CONVENTION
--A CONVENTION IN WHICH THE DELEGATES WILL EXERCISE THEIR

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BEST JUDGEMENTS AS TO WHICH CANDIDATE HAS THE EXPERIENCE,
THE ABILITY TO DEFEAT RICHARD NIXON, AND THE QUALIFICATIONS
TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I AM CONFIDENT THE CONVENTION WILL SUPPORT THE RULE OF
LAW IN THE TIME HONORED SENSE OF FAIR PLAY.

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE WON MORE PRIMARY VOTES THAN ANY OTHER
CANDIDATE, I AM IN MIAMI TO ASK FOR DELEGATE SUPPORT--NOT TO
DEMAND IT.

NO CANDIDATE CAN PLACE HIMSELF ABOVE THE PARTY.
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS MORE THAN ANY ONE POLITICAL FACTION,
GROUP OR CANDIDATE. IT IS THE SYMBOL AND THE CONTINUING
EXPRESSION OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WORKING FAMILIES
OF AMERICA, THE POOR, THE ELDERLY, THE NEEDY AND THE YOUNG.

TO PUT IT FRANKLY, OUR PARTY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
ANY ONE MAN.

FOR YEARS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS BEEN THE VOICE FOR
MILLIONS OF ORDINARY AMERICANS.

DEMOCRATS HAVE LED THE BATTLE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. IT IS OUR PARTY THAT HAS FOUGHT FOR MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

DEMOCRATS HAVE AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR MINIMUM WAGES AND WORK SAFETY AND HEALTH LAWS.

DEMOCRATS HAVE AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR FAIR INCOME FOR THE FARMER.

DEMOCRATS HAVE AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS REGARDLESS OF RACE OR SEX.

DEMOCRATS ARE LEADING THE FIGHT TO REVITALIZE AND MAKE SAFE AND LIVEABLE THE CITIES.

DEMOCRATS ARE LEADING THE FIGHT TO REVITALIZE RURAL AMERICA.

THAT'S PART OF THE DEMOCRATIC RECORD.

I SAY AGAIN, THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE NOMINEE
OF OUR PARTY AS LONG AS HE OR SHE SUPPORTS THE PLATFORM
AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS PARTY.

AND I NOW CALL ON EVERY CANDIDATE TO JOIN WITH
ME IN A SIMILAR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE EVENTUAL
NOMINEE OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR CONVENTION--A COMMITMENT
WHICH SHOULD BE PLEDGED TO THE DELEGATES BEFORE THE
CONVENTION CONVENES ON MONDAY EVENING.

I SEEK THE NOMINATION BECAUSE I CAN BEST GIVE
EXPRESSION TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOOKED TO THE DEMOCRATIC

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PARTY AS THEIR DEFENDER AND ADVOCATE. I BELIEVE I
CAN BEST UNITE THE GROUPS THAT COMPRISE THE BULK OF
DEMOCRATIC VOTERS AND THE MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.

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