

OPEN LETTER TO DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

Until today it was the firm policy of each of us in Southern California to avoid statements to the news media on the subject of the election of the Democratic National Committeeman from California. This policy was the outgrowth of the experience of many years in political life. Our firm conviction was and is that disputes within the party are best resolved when the participants abstain from furthering their competing aims through the pages of the newspapers or over radio and television.

Unfortunately, when the motives of those of us who are supporting Attorney General Stanley Mosk become the subject daily of frenzied attack, such restraint becomes impossible.

We condemn some of the opponents of Stanley Mosk for conducting a campaign of snide insinuation hardly paralleled in all of our experience. Had their intention been to deliberately sow division and disunity in this crucial election year their tactics could not have been better conceived.

We are particularly distressed that persons holding positions of the highest responsibility should see fit to actively participate in a campaign the nature of which gives serious question as to their commitment to that party unity so essential to victory in November.

There is no room for "the cult of the personality" in our party. We hold that no one man can justly place his own ambitions above the interests of a united party. Hard as it is to believe, Stanley Mosk's opponent and his followers have attempted to bolster their minority position by invoking the names of "20,000 grass roots Democrats all over California". Such an attempt remains to us totally unconvincing.

This is clearly the time to set the record straight. Very few if any of us have anything but approval of the present National Committeeman's liberal brand of politics. But the fact is that he could not have been anything else but a liberal Democrat to have adequately represented this state on the National Committee. The positions he has taken were those which any other Democrat from California would have been expected to take.

For the record, we do not believe that Mr. Ziffren is the only outspoken, effective, and liberal member on the National Committee. There are, fortunately, a great many such members - including our own National Committeewoman, Elizabeth

Smith. Secondly, we do not believe that Ziffren is the only liberal Democratic spokesman left in California politics.

Our interest has been and is now solely to select a candidate who can give California able, conscientious, responsible, and liberal representation on the National Committee, and be a force for party unity here in California as well.

The fact of the matter is that there has never been an organized "dump Ziffren" move on our part nor to our knowledge on the part of anyone else. No expensive publicity campaign has been organized, no Wilshire Boulevard "campaign" headquarters opened, no high priced "campaign" letterhead printed nor vast mailings promulgated as has been done by that small, experienced, and vocal minority of would-be bosses of the Democratic Party.

Two candidates have declared for the office of National Committeeman. Judging the two candidates we have chosen to support Stan Mosk. We do so with sincere enthusiasm. Stanley Mosk has a long and enviable record in public affairs and is a respected and eloquent spokesman for the things in which we all believe.

We firmly disagree with those who question the propriety of having an elected public official serve in the post of Democratic National Committeeman. The precedents for such selection both in our state and throughout the nation are more than adequate.

Mr. Mosk was elected to the partisan office of Attorney General in 1958. He was clearly identified as a Democrat and vigorously campaigned as a Democrat in that campaign. No one before now has had anything but applause when Attorney General Mosk has appeared over the past two years at innumerable party conventions, meetings, dinners, conferences, and other large and small party gatherings and spoken as a Democrat.

Those who are now engaging in semi-serious questions about whether the office of Attorney General is really essentially a "non-partisan" office, having "semi-judicial" functions do so in the full knowledge that their new-found concern is totally lacking in honesty and sincerity. The functions of an Attorney General are no more judicial in character than those of other constitutional officers and even of a State Senator.

In closing we believe that it is necessary to state our firm belief that Stan Mosk will be elected Democratic National Committeeman by an overwhelming majority. The size of the vote will be a fitting rebuke to those people who have chosen for their own motives to engage in a vicious, demagogic, high pressured

and expensive campaign resembling more than anything else a desperate grab for power. They will not succeed.

Frank G. Allen, Member, Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee

Hon. Thomas Bane, Assemblyman, 42nd District

Adrienne Becker, 18th Congressional District Co-Chairman

Charles G. Bell, Executive Committee Member, Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee

Rev. Maurice Dawkins, President, Fair Deal Democratic Club

James Evans, Chairman, San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee

Ludlow Flower, Associate Publisher, Frontier Magazine

Bart Lytton, Democratic State Finance Chairman

William C. Moeser, 30th Congressional District Co-Chairman

Mrs. Trudy Owens, 17th Congressional District Co-Chairman

Gifford Phillips, Co-Chairman, Democratic State Finance Committee

Mrs. June Sherwood, President, Democratic Women's Forum

Kathryn Sims, 15th Congressional District, CDC Director

Mrs. Elizabeth Snyder, former Democratic State Chairman

Mrs. Carmen Warschaw, Chairman, Women's Division, Democratic State Central Committee, South

Madale Watson, 15th Congressional District Co-Chairman

Hon. Rosalind W. Wyman, Councilwoman, City of Los Angeles

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