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AMERICANS FOR
DEMOCRATIC
ACTION

June 17, 1960

Dear Delegate:

On behalf of Americans for Democratic Action I am happy to congratulate you on your designation as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. This is an exciting and challenging assignment in a vitally important election year.

Americans for Democratic Action firmly believes that the major political task of the Democratic Party in the months between now and November is to present to the public an aggressive liberal image which clearly and unmistakably distinguishes it from the conservatism of the Republican Administration.

We respectfully urge you to do all in your power to nominate candidates whose records, whose convictions and whose fighting capacities as liberals will offer the American people a clear alternative to Richard Nixon.

The platform on which such a Democratic ticket can go to victory in November must pledge complete support for civil rights, including integration of schools, transportation facilities, housing and public accommodations, full protection of the right to vote, and an expression of understanding and support for the student sit-in movement. The Democratic Party and its nominees must be unmistakably committed to support of the Supreme Court decisions on civil rights, not only as the law of the land but as an expression of the deepest moral purpose of our country.

The albatross of racism must no longer ride the shoulders of the candidates of the Democratic Party. We urge you to take the liberal side in any credentials fight which develops. Certainly no delegates or delegations should be seated unless they are willing to assure the convention that Democratic electors pledged to the Democratic nominees will be on the ballot in their state, and give assurances of their good-faith participation in the convention.

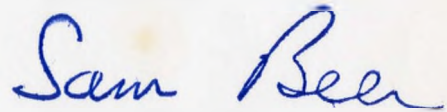
In every national election won by the Democrats from 1916 through 1944, the Democratic ticket would have won if the entire southern electoral vote had gone to the Republicans. In the last year of a national victory, 1948, the Democratic Party won despite the active opposition of a States' Rights Party which carried 39 electoral votes in 5 Southern states. Twelve years later, it is unthinkable that the Democratic Party would risk its opportunity for, or evade its responsibility to world leadership by truckling to this dwindling band of segregationists.

Civil rights will be the touchstone issue at the Democratic National Convention. It is only through a declaration of emancipation from commitment to the racist minority within its ranks that the national candidates and the national party can merit and attract the support of a winning majority in November.

Of course there are many other critical issues -- especially in the field of international relations and in the area of our domestic economy -- on which the Democratic Party must act creatively and progressively so as to blueprint the leadership it can -- if it will -- provide.

I hope to be in touch with you again before the Convention to present our ideas in these important areas.

Sincerely,



Samuel H. Beer
National Chairman