

Democratic National Committee

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February 10, 1969

Dear Democratic Leader:

I thought you might be interested in a report concerning the meeting of the Democratic National Committee held in Washington, D.C. on January 14. As you know, we elected Senator Fred Harris as the new National Chairman. I think that Senator Harris is an energetic, dedicated and enthusiastic leader, who will give the needed impetus to the drive to modernize our party machinery and institute the necessary program for reform. There was a widespread recognition among the members of the National Committee that basic changes are necessary in our party structure. I am hopeful that you will see the most effective and active National Committee that our party has had in many years.

It will be my privilege to serve on the Executive Committee of the National Committee for the next four years. The Executive Committee is composed of twelve persons -- the Chairman, one man and one woman elected from each of the four regions, and three persons to be appointed by the Chairman. It serves as the governing body of the party between meetings of the National Committee.

At our meeting in Washington, we passed a number of resolutions, including two which were based on resolutions submitted by me. One supports the current Congressional effort to abolish the electoral college and to substitute the direct popular election of the President and Vice President. The other instructs the committees which will select future convention sites and make future convention arrangements to take action to assure that at future conventions the rights of delegates, the public and the press are "fully recognized and protected". The committees were instructed that in selecting future convention sites "major consideration" be given to the "willingness and ability"

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of prospective host cities to assure proper treatment to all interested persons.

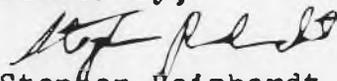
At our Washington meeting, we also decided to establish several important new committees. We will have a Democratic Policy Council, which will operate along the lines of the Democratic Advisory Committee which functioned so successfully during the Eisenhower administration. There will be a reform committee (the Committee on Party Structure and Delegate Selection) which will have the job of implementing the convention's decision to abolish the unit rule at all levels of the delegate selection process and to assure that all delegates are selected by democratic methods. We also voted to establish a Rules Commission to develop permanent rules for future conventions and to make the Equal Rights Committee a permanent commission. We are hopeful that we will have good representation from California on some of these committees and have strongly urged Senator Harris to make appointments from our state.

Although the National Committee made excellent progress in almost every respect at the Washington meeting, there was one issue which, in my opinion, was not resolved in the right manner. The majority of the members of the National Committee voted to seat the Georgia members, who had been appointed by Governor Lester Maddox's handpicked state chairman. California, New York, Michigan and many other states urged that the members not be seated. While we lost the immediate battle, we did manage to persuade the majority to instruct the Georgia Democrats that in the future National Committee members from that state will not be seated unless they are selected in a democratic manner. It should be noted, however, that the Georgia members who were seated did actively support the Humphrey-Muskie ticket.

I thought you would also like to know that our state was honored by the selection of our National Committeewoman, Carmen Warschaw, to second the nomination of Senator Fred Harris as Chairman of the National Committee.

Carmen and I are working together very closely in our efforts to promote the cause of California Democrats. We would both welcome any suggestions from you regarding National Committee concerns as well as any thoughts or ideas on party activities in general.

Sincerely,



Stephen Reinhardt
Democratic National Committeeman