



THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

February 5, 1969

Mrs. Jane Tolmach

Oxnard, California 93030

Dear Mrs. Tolmach:

In accepting the Chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee on January 14th, I said that I want our Party to be an open one, encouraging the widest possible participation in all its decision making processes, fully democratic.

Since then, I also have expressed my earnest desire that the Democratic Party serve as a social action party, enlisting our young people and others to work as tutors for the underprivileged or undertake other projects which would give purpose to their political activity beyond only doorbell-ringing or sloganeering.

As I said in my acceptance speech, a copy of which is attached, I want the Democratic Party to be a vigorous and progressive influence in national affairs, offering constructive alternatives on the critical issues of our time.

And on "Face the Nation" the other day, I said that I want the Democratic Party "to offer an opportunity to young people, to women, to everybody, a chance not just to say something about social ills but to do something about them."

On these matters, as on many others, I need your help, and I need the help of women throughout our Party.

More than an honor, the Democratic National Committee has given me a sobering responsibility. I am anxious to have your counsel and advice on what the Committee should be doing and how we may be most helpful to you.

I want women to play an increasingly important role in our Party. I know that our Vice Chairman, Geri Joseph, is contemplating a number of worthwhile projects by the Office of Women's Activities, which she heads, in conjunction with Democratic women leaders at the state and local levels.

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We can succeed only with the help of you and other leaders, and the many Democratic women with whom you are associated. Working together, we shall rebuild our Party on a national scale and we shall win the Congressional elections in 1970 and the Presidential election in 1972.

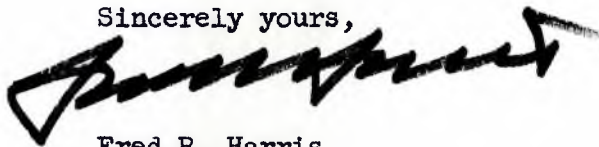
But we must start now.

I therefore would appreciate having your suggestions as to how the Democratic National Committee can best serve you and other women leaders, and how women throughout the country can play an even more vigorous role in our party's affairs -- whether in organization, social action or other areas of activity.

Further, the DNC has authorized and directed me to appoint certain committees which are briefly described in the enclosed sheet. I solicit your advice and recommendations with respect to these groups. Also, I am empowered to appoint such other task forces and special committees as I may deem necessary, and I would appreciate any suggestions you may have about additional committees or task forces which you feel should be established.

I want you know that this is a serious request and I will treat it seriously. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fred R. Harris', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fred R. Harris
Chairman

Attachments