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PK 5-4

THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF

m. f.

max

SUBJECT: A Republican Statement

The attached has been circulated among Republicans on the Hill, and to Republican Governors.

A REPUBLICAN STATEMENT

As Republicans, we reaffirm our dedication and loyalty to the party and its principles and pledge our efforts to rebuilding the party in the wake of our recent setbacks, and to broadening our political base.

Like any living institution, the Republican Party is ever in need of improvement and reform, growth and change. But we believe it has an essential place in American politics, and we intend to work hard for its survival and success in the months and years to come.

We rededicate our efforts to truly making our party the party of the open door and the open mind. We welcome the challenge of reassessing and redefining our party's identity and goals, shaped to the realities and problems of this Bicentennial era. We welcome all segments of our party as well as those disaffected with any political party to join us in this challenge of shaping a modern-day Republican Party which can effectively serve the legitimate political interests of a large segment of the American people, within a strong, two-party framework.

We further reaffirm our belief in the necessity of retaining a strong two-party system in America as opposed to a proliferation of political parties formed around narrow interests, causes or ideologies. We believe the Republican Party must build anew, not split apart. We strongly feel that both major parties are capable of maintaining their separate and distinct identities and principles while appealing to major segments of the American citizenry. We acknowledge that within our own party there is a wide range of views on particular issues, yet feel that this competition of views and ideas can be healthy in terms of broadening our base of support and strengthening our party in the long run. To fail to broaden our base -- to exclude any segment of our society -- would be not only morally wrong, but politically stupid.

Republican ideals and strong Republican candidates brought us victory in the past; they are our hope for the future. Just as our Republican President has set a new tone for government based on openness, reason, candor, conciliation, cooperation and responsible compromise, so too can we as Republicans work together to constructively rebuild our party. We recognize that no party leader can please all of the party all of the time, particularly if he also serves as President of all the people. But we also recognize the singular advantage of retaining the presidency for our party, and to that end, we pledge our efforts to work for party unity and the national good.

William F. Buckley