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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 10, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DON RUMSFELD

FROM:

JIM CONNOR 

SUBJECT:

Announcement Speech of
George R. Packard for
United States Senate

The attached was returned to you in the President's outbox.

September 17, 1975 at 9:30 am

ANNOUNCEMENT SPEECH

GEORGE R. PACKARD

Don R. ARY

I am announcing today my candidacy for the Republican nomination to the United States Senate in the elections of 1976.

I am troubled by the corruption and dishonesty in politics today.

I want to do something about it.

Life in America today is becoming dominated by huge institutions which are rigid, uncaring, and stifling to individual initiative. Big government is the worst of these.

As editor of The Bulletin, Pennsylvania's largest newspaper, I felt almost every day the frustration and anger of citizens who could not make government at any level respond to their needs.

The founders of this nation had a revolutionary idea: government was to serve people, not run their lives.

We have drifted away from the idea of government as service to people. To us.

In the past decade, our government has fought wars, spent billions of our tax dollars, and caused the worst recession in 40 years, all without a sense of accountability to the people.

It is no wonder that we feel we have lost control over it -- that it is sometimes working against us rather than for us.

It is no wonder that we don't believe official pronouncements. In fact we don't believe anyone any more. Where can you get an honest answer?

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In Pennsylvania, the system is run by machine politicians, special interest groups, and the selfish personal ambitions of a few men.

Stories of corruption are so common that they are scarcely noticed in the newspapers.

I believe people should feel close to, and proud of, their elected leaders, not disgusted by them.

The time has come to open up and humanize the system.

The time has come for a new generation of leadership to step forward.

As we approach 1976 and our 200th birthday, we should celebrate the promise of America more than the performance.

And the best way to celebrate will be to participate in the political process, and to revive the pride in service which motivated the men at Independence Hall 200 years ago.

We must not be paralyzed by the tragedies of Vietnam and Watergate and our current economic plight. Rather let us mark them as lessons painfully learned. The lessons are these: our government needs leaders who understand the will and the common sense of their communities, and who can turn that into public policy.

Time and again the American people -- the most decent and generous people in the world -- elect politicians who lose touch and break the faith.

Feeling secure in the halls of power, they forget that we who gave them that power, can also take it away.

There are a thousand tasks to be accomplished: our railroads must roll again; our cities must come alive; our aging citizens must be given the dignity and security they deserve; our young people must be welcomed and heard.

Our minority groups must have meaningful jobs, and enter the mainstream of American life.

We must clean up the environment without putting people out of work.

Our schools must teach people how to read.

Our communities must be made safe from vicious criminal repeaters.

All of these tasks, and more, can be accomplished without massive new taxes, and without adding to the bureaucratic mess in Washington.

How? By eliminating wasteful federal spending, by getting more tax dollars back into the local communities through revenue-sharing, and by local initiative and participation, government can be made responsive again.

It is within our grasp, within our lifetimes, to realize the American dream. We can be the first truly multi-racial, just society, without poverty, without coercion, without violence, without surrendering our personal freedoms to big institutions or strangling bureaucracy.

We have learned to split the atom, explore the moon, and restore prosperity to Western Europe and Japan. Can we fail to build a decent society here at home?

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we can do this and more. We can leave for our children and their children a nation at peace with itself, a nation which stands again as a beacon for peoples all over the world.

Let's get back to these basic principles:

One, government is too big, too remote and too costly. We need to bring it under control to serve us again.

Two, jobs should be available for all who want to work, and welfare should go only to those who cannot work. These jobs should be created through expansion of the private enterprise system, not through ill-conceived, wasteful government programs. At the same time inflation must be curbed.

Three, we need an effective national strategy to end the crime wave which is no longer just a big city problem but infects every community in this nation.

Four, we need to restore confidence in the political process -- to recruit the loyalty and idealism of the younger generation.

Five, we must live within our means and our hard-working, tax-paying middle income citizens should not be asked to pay an unfair share of the bill.

These are not impossible dreams. All our problems have been created by people. And they will be solved by people.

Thousands of talented and dedicated citizens are ready to participate, if only they can believe again in the integrity of government.

To believe in government, we must believe in ourselves and trust each other -- old and young, business and labor, blacks and whites, men and women.

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Of course there are racial, ethnic and other divisions in our society. That kind of diversity is our marvelous strength. But as Americans, we have another kind of strength and unity; we share a belief in moral values, and a faith in democracy.

If as Americans we lose our sense of privacy, decency, moderation and loyalty to the community, we debase our 200 years of history, and become rudderless in a sea of violence and selfish materialism.

If we lose ourselves in a frantic quest for relevance, we become irrelevant. In exploiting the present, we risk our past and future.

Above all, let us remember that .

---charisma is not leadership

---mere change is not progress

---material goods do not represent success

---self-indulgence is not the purpose of liberty

---rather, the gift of liberty calls for the acceptance of responsibility

We need to restore the guiding vision of America based on the values that have made us free: self-discipline, self-sacrifice, and courage.

I believe Americans stand ready to tighten their belts and make sacrifices, if necessary -- provided that all share the burdens equally.

In my campaign, I plan to walk from one end of this state to the other, and through as many communities as I can, listening to the concerns of people.

I am not a politician. I do know how to listen and I am beholden

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no one. I shall respond with ideas based on what I see and hear from people -- not based on what some remote agency in Washington thinks we need.

Except as a newspaper editor, when I was necessarily registered as independent, I have been a registered Republican for all my adult life. I believe the Republican Party in Pennsylvania offers the best hope for reform and honest government.

Leaders of the Democratic Party in our state have made a joke out of government, abusing our trust, and fighting endlessly for personal power. At this moment, our governor is running around the country trying to be president -- perhaps to escape from the unbelievable corruption in Harrisburg.

And so it is time to get involved.

I invite you to recall the words of Thomas Jefferson, who has influenced my thinking more than any other American:

"I believe...that morality, compassion, and generosity are innate elements of the human constitution."

I believe the people of Pennsylvania may be ready to vote for someone who believes in them.

I invite all Pennsylvanians to join me today in rediscovering the truth that people made the problems and people will solve them.

I invite all Pennsylvanians to join in my campaign for decent responsive government, and to walk with me, as I walk through your community.

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I urge you to join me in proving that we can do better. 1976

can be the year in which America begins again to fulfill her promise:
to herself and to the world.