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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

The attached statement by Senator Carl T. Curtis was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Great"

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jack Marsh

Great.

STATEMENT BY SENATOR CARL T. CURTIS IN WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY,

MARCH 7, 1976.

HOLD FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, MARCH 7, P.M.'S

On Monday I will file as a candidate for delegate to the Republican National Convention. I will file to become a delegate pledged to Nebraska-born President Gerald R. Ford.

The choice between President Ford and former Governor Ronald Reagan has not been an easy one for me. Each one is qualified to be President. Each man is honest, patriotic, and committed to maintaining the defense of our country, and to reducing excessive Federal expenditures.

I believe that a Republican victory this fall is crucial. My criticism of the Republican Party is that we do not think big enough. We should go all-out to elect a Republican House of Representatives, a Republican Senate, and the President. This is my 38th year in Congress. During that time, the Republican Party has controlled both the Congress and the Presidency for only a period of two years. There was an additional two-year period when we had a Republican Congress but did not control the Presidency.

This lopsided Democrat Party control of the Federal Government has brought us to near disaster. Our national defenses are lagging dangerous. The head line seekers have toyed with our security. The Church and Pike committees have nearly ruined our intelligence-gathering agencies and have

greatly damaged the FBI.

Our citizens are over-regulated. The Democrat philosophy has brought Federal over-regulation to our schools, to the practice of medicine, to the conduct of business, to the field of health and safety, to the control of the environment and every sphere of life. The over-regulation of our economy is one of the prime causes of unemployment.

This same lopsided Democrat control has resulted in excessive deficit spending and runaway inflation.

It took this country 185 years to get to an annual spending level of one hundred billion dollars, but it took only nine more years to double that to a two-hundred-billion-dollar level and then only four more years to reach the three-hundred-billion-dollar level.

President Gerald Ford has stood like Horatius at the bridge in defending the rest of us against this avalanche of proposals for the expansion of government and the increase in deficits and debts. President Ford has been most courageous in his vetoes. He has stood up and made some hard choices. He has vetoed proposals that had great appeal to many of our citizens. The use of the veto and the threat to use it has saved the United States Government billions upon billions of dollars. It has also prevented the enactment of many pieces of legislation which would have increased the size of our government and made additional expenditures necessary throughout the years to come. President Ford's vetoes of such bills as authorizations of new or expanded programs, public works, increases for Federal employees, emergency public employment

proposals, increased housing subsidies, excesses in the school lunch program, and many appropriation bills have all been for the benefit of the people. He has used the veto to prevent the enactment of many pieces of legislation that were wrong in principle and would be damaging to our economy and to our citizens. I cite as two examples the strip-mining bill and the common situs picketing bill.

Even though I may not have agreed with the President in one or two instances, I cannot turn my back on the courageous record that he has written in vetoing unwise and bad legislation. This is the overriding reason for my decision to support the nomination and election of President Gerald Ford. In my opinion, when a public official stands up against the pressure groups, the power-grabbing union bosses, and the reckless and unrestrained spenders, the rest of us should stand up and be counted for that officeholder.

In supporting President Ford, I have nothing but the highest praise for former Governor Ronald Reagan. He would make a courageous and outstanding President. He is my personal friend, but I believe when an incumbent President like President Ford stands up as he has on these vetoes, it would be a loss to the Republican Party and to the country not to nominate him.

I would look with favor upon a Ford/Reagan ticket. I believe it would be a winning combination. We must carry the two large states of Texas and California if we are to win.

If the Republican voters choose to select me as a delegate to the next convention, I shall always be grateful.