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FROM: Jack Marsh
TO: Dick Cheney

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G.O.P. AIDES SCORE PLEA FOR BROOKE

Black Republicans Criticize Move for Vice-Presidency

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Aides to President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller are among several Black Republicans who have condemned the black-led effort promoting Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts as the Republican nominee for Vice President.

John Calhoun, a special assistant to President Ford, called the move "a disservice to black people" and to the Senator. He said it was "highly unprofessional and unethical" to "campaign for a post not traditionally sought in that manner."

A special assistant to Mr. Rockefeller, Theobaldus Garret Jr., argued that black Republican projects should operate in the framework of the Republican National Committee and the President Ford Committee.

Kenneth Drew, publisher of *The New York Voice*, a black weekly, and a 50-year veteran of Republican politics, suggested that, "while Ed Brooke is highly qualified for the job, the party and America are not

yet ready for him" and that the proposal was "not meaningful."

And Willie Williams, a Columbus, S. C., real estate developer who is a Ford alternate delegate to the Republican convention, said he was "dismayed—anyone politically astute understands it is not done this way."

'Vital to Black People'

The Pittsburgh-based black building contractor heading up the Brooke promotion, Barrell Haselrig, argued, however, that it was "vital to black people, the Republican Party and to America" that the effort continue. He said that since the project was announced last Friday considerable support had come from political activists and volunteers in New York, Delaware, Ohio and Mississippi.

An aide to Senator Brooke Haselrig, by mail, last Feb. 11 that he "honestly did not feel lightning is going to strike in August"—that he would probably not be named the Vice-Presidential candidate at the Republican National Convention.

The Brooke letter urged, instead, Mr. Haselrig's support for the Senator's reelection campaign in Massachusetts.

Mr. Calhoun, the President's assistant, also complained that his name had been used without his permission or knowledge as one of two people to be honored at a reception when traveling to Cleveland.

the Brooke proposal was announced. He said that his first knowledge of the campaign, and the fact that his own name had been used, came while reading a news report in an airplane.

Dick:

The above relates to an effort to launch a campaign to unit the Black Community behind Senator Brooke for Vice President I am convinced it requires very careful handling. I have talked with Bill Baroody this morning with the request that he give it very high priority and give me a summary of any additional facts not appearing in the above story, but to handle very discreetly.