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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: James A. Moreau (pronounced: Moroe)

DATE: May 6, 7, or 8, 1976

RECOMMENDED BY: Max Friedersdorf *M.F.*
Charles Leppert, Jr. *CLJ.*

PURPOSE: To encourage James A. Moreau to seek election to the U. S. House of Representatives as a Republican for the seat being vacated by the retirement of Rep. Edward Hebert (D. - La.).

BACKGROUND: See Tab A.

- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:
1. Mr. Moreau, I'm calling at the suggestion of Rep. Dave Treen (R. - La.), who I understand has spoken to you about seeking the Republican nomination to the seat in the House of Representatives being vacated as a result of Eddie Hebert's retirement.
 2. Jim; I'd like to endorse the appeals of Dave Treen, Henson Moore, and the Louisiana State Republican Leadership and ask you to seek the Republican nomination for that Congressional seat.
 3. We need people of your political philosophy and persuasion in the Congress. I know that we can try to help you in many ways to win that seat. From what I am told you would make an excellent Congressman and be an asset to our party and nation.

May 5, 1976

Action 5/10/76 Called

Addressed Friedersdorf's office 5/12/76

DAVID C. TREEN
THIRD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

MEMBER:
REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON
ENERGY AND RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TELEPHONE: CODE 202: 225-4031

DISTRICT OFFICES:
FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 107
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70360
TELEPHONE: 504-876-3033

4900 VETERANS MEMORIAL BOULEVARD
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70002
TELEPHONE: 504-889-2303-4

210 EAST MAIN STREET
NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA 70560
TELEPHONE: 318-365-7149

April 29, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Republicans have a good chance of electing a Republican to succeed Eddie Hebert in Louisiana's First District.

Attached is a memorandum summarizing the present situation. A copy of this memorandum has been furnished Guy Vander Jagt, who has indicated that he will take up this matter with you.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated by Louisiana Republicans.


Respectfully,



DAVID C. TREEN
Member of Congress

DCT:am

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM FOR: President Gerald R. Ford
FROM:  David C. Treen, M.C.
RE: Republican Opportunity in 1st Congressional District

Background:

Republicans have opportunity to pick up a third House seat in Louisiana as a result of Hebert retirement. Hebert has pledged public neutrality.

Composition of 1st Congressional District:

Portion of City of New Orleans, all of three surrounding parishes (St. Bernard, Plaquemines and St. Tammany).

Filing Deadline: June 18

Best Republican bet: James A. Moreau (pronounced: Moroe)

Moreau is presently a New Orleans city councilman, one of two elected from city at large. Former district councilman and state legislator.

Conservative; Marine Corps retired colonel; very close to Congressman Hebert; wide respect for integrity, hard work. Champion of moderate/conservative groups. Registered Democrat. Publicly supported President Nixon in 1972 campaign. Age 62. Catholic.

Dave Treen has made strong presentation to Moreau -- verbally and in writing -- offering substantial financial support, assignment to Armed Services Committee (Treen will give up his seat on AS committee, if necessary), and other inducements.

Moreau is choice of Republican State leadership and both Republican Congressmen. One announced Republican candidate, Mike Starr, has virtually no chance due to lack of recognition and, unfortunately, little voter appeal. Starr can probably be persuaded to withdraw if Moreau elects to run as a Republican.

Needed: Personal call from President Ford

Personal request from President that Moreau switch party affiliation and run as Republican could swing Moreau. He is definitely running and only question is under which party label. Suggested points of emphasis:

- (1) His philosophy is Republican.
- (2) Election as a Democrat serves to perpetuate Democrat control of Congress -- something Moreau does not favor.
- (3) As a freshman conservative, he will be out of mainstream of Democrat majority, probably without chance for assignment to Armed Services Committee (his aspiration) since Democrat caucus will resist appointment of conservatives to this committee.
- (4) Eddie Hebert's treatment at hands of Democrat caucus shows what can happen to a very senior conservative Democrat; what chance is there for a freshman?

(5) Republicans will have to support nominee of party, be it Starr or someone else. As Democrat nominee, Moreau would be put in awkward position of either declaring for the Democrat presidential nominee or remaining neutral, while Republican nominee enthusiastically associates himself with the Republican presidential nominee.

(6) Moreau is very patriotic -- an appeal to his conscience to help the national party which stands for what he believes in (strong national defense; free enterprise system; fiscal responsibility; local rather than federal control) would be effective. At age 62, with ample retirement benefits, he doesn't need this job -- he should aspire to it for what his election as a Republican can do for his country.

(7) He can win as a Republican in Louisiana: Dave Treen and Henson Moore proved that by winning the last two seats to become "open". Moreau believes Treen and Moore have performed well. (Neither Treen nor Moore has a declared opponent at this time -- both are regarded as safe this November.)

(8) Since Moreau can win as a Republican, he can come to Congress and face none of the problems -- substantial problems -- which he would face as a Democrat.

Moreau Telephone Numbers: Area Code 504

Office at New Orleans City Hall
(private line): 586-4146

Residence (unlisted number): 288-0058

cc: Rep. Guy Vander Jagt