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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1976

MEETING WITH SELECTED MEMBERS OF
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS (PLATFORM)

Sunday, August 15, 1976
Your Suite, (45 minutes)

From: Mike Duval



PURPOSE

To receive a report on the Platform as adopted by the Platform Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Committee has drafted a Platform which generally supports your positions.

It will be formally adopted on Monday afternoon by the full Committee and submitted to the Convention on Tuesday evening along with any minority reports.

We expect that several amendments (in the form of Minority Reports) will be offered on the Convention Floor (see Tab A).

PARTICIPANTS

See Tab B.

PRESS PLAN

No press coverage.

TALKING POINTS

See Tab C.

PLATFORM

Overview

The Committee on Resolutions (Platform) adopted its Report last Friday night after a week (about 100 hours) of public hearings and debate. It is a good Platform and we support it.

The proposed Republican Platform will help us defeat the Carter-Mondale ticket by drawing clear distinctions between our principles and programs and theirs.

Our proposed Platform stands for less government, less spending (except for defense), less inflation and less taxes.

Our Position

We support the proposed Platform drafted by the Committee on Resolutions. We believe it should be adopted without amendment by the full Convention.

Specific Issues

The following issues were debated extensively by the Platform Committee and their current language may be challenged on the Convention floor:

Equal Rights Amendment - "The Republican Party reaffirms its support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment..."

President Ford has long supported the ERA as has the Republican Party; the full Platform Committee reaffirmed this support.

Abortion - "The Republican Party favors a continuance of the public dialogue on abortion and supports the efforts of those who seek enactment of a constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life for unborn children."

President Ford feels this is a moral issue and supports restoration of the law to its pre-1973 status.

Education - "We believe, therefore, that a study should be authorized concerning funding of elementary and secondary education, coupled with a study regarding return to the States of equivalent revenue to compensate for any loss in present levels of federal funding."

President Ford supports federal funding for elementary and secondary education and consolidation of categorical grants, and would be prepared to initiate the proposed study.

Energy - "We vigorously oppose such divestiture of oil companies -- a move which would surely result in higher energy costs, inefficiency and under-capitalization of the industry."

This is consistent with the President's proposed legislation to remove unnecessary federal energy regulation.

China - "The United States government, while engaged in a normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, will continue to support the freedom and independence of our friend and ally, the Republic of China, and its 16 million people. The United States will fulfill and keep its commitments, such as the mutual defense treaty, with the Republic of China."

President Ford supports the balance achieved in the Platform language.

Cuba - "We condemn attempts by the Cuban dictatorship to intervene in the affairs of other nations; and, as long as such conduct continues, it shall remain ineligible for admission to the organization of American States."

President Ford opposes normalization of relations with Castro's Cuba as long as it intervenes in other nations, either in this hemisphere or elsewhere, as in Angola.

Panama Canal Zone - "In any talks with Panama, however, the United States negotiators should in no way cede, dilute, forfeit, negotiate or transfer any rights, power, authority, jurisdiction, territory or property that are necessary for the protection and security of the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere."

This is consistent with President Ford's overall objectives of preserving U.S. security and freedom of the seas.

US-USSR Relations - The Platform supports resistance to open aggression (such as the Soviet-sponsored Cuban intervention in Angola); supports the Vladivostok Agreement (placing a ceiling on strategic forces) and Helsinki Agreement (guaranteeing free interchange of information and the right to emigrate, including Soviet Jews); supports self-determination for the people of Central and Eastern Europe; and opposes a shift against us in the strategic balance.

President Ford's policies have been reaffirmed by the full Platform Committee.

TAB B

PARTICIPANTS

Governor Robert Ray (Iowa)	Chairman
Senator Roman Hruska (Nebraska)	Chairman, Subcommittee on Peace, Security and Foreign Policy
Marjorie Parker (D.C.)	Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Resources
Mary George (Hawaii)	Chairman, Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, Natural Resources and the Environment
Representative Marjorie Holt (Md.)	Chairman, Subcommittee on Governmental Concerns and the Consent of the Governed
Mayor Ralph Perk (Ohio)	Chairman, Subcommittee on Community and National Development
Representative Barber Conable (New York)	Chairman, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Business and Economics
Representative John Anderson (Ill.)	Co-chairman, Subcommittee on Community and National Development
Representative David Treen (La.)	Co-chairman, Subcommittee on Peace, Security and Foreign Policy
Charles Pickering (Mississippi)	Co -Chairman, Subcommittee on Human Rights and Responsibilities in a Free Society
Senator Hugh Scott (Pennsylvania)	Member, President Ford Whip
Stan Ebner	
Mike Duval	

TAB C

TALKING POINTS

- The Platform as adopted by the Full Committee on Friday is a good statement of our principles and policies.
- It should be adopted by the Convention without amendments.
- Governor Ray did an excellent job -- the hearings and markup session were open to the public and press, and the results represent the mainstream of the Republican Party.

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