The original documents are located in Box D26, folder "NAACP Youth Conference 18 Year Old Vote, Washington, DC, April 22, 1969" of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NOTES FOR

N, A.A.C.P. YOUTH CONFERENCE ON 18-YEAR-OLD VOTE

11:15 a.m. Tuesday, April 22, 1969
Senate Office Building Auditorium

1968 Republican Platform Statement on Vote for 18-year-olds
OUR YOUTH TODAY ARE ENDOWED WITH GREATER KNOWLEDGE WIND
MATURITY THAN ANY SUCH GENERATION OF THE PAST. THEIR
POLITICAL RESTLESSNESS REFLECTS THEIR URGENT HOPE TO
ACHIEVE A MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AS RESPONSIBLE
CITIZENS.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ABILITIES OF THESE YOUNGER CITIZENS, THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE, AND THEIR SERVICE IN THE NATION'S DEFENSE, WE BELIEVE THAT LOWER AGE GROUPS SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE RIGHT TO VOTE. WE BELIEVE THAT

STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET ACTED SHOULD REEVALUATE
THEIR POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO 18-YEAR-OLD VOTING
AND THAT EACH STATE SHOULD DECIDE THIS MATTER FOR
ITSELF. WE URGE THE STATES TO ACT NOW.

####

Michigan Referendum Nov. 8, 1966 on Vote for 18-year-olds

Statewide, Michigam voters voted better than 3 to 2 against lowering the voting age to 18. The vote was 1,267,872 "no" to 703,076 "yes."

In the Fifth Congressional District, voters rejected the proposal by more than 2 to 1. The combined vote in Kent and Ionia Counties was 71,170 "no" to 31,173 "yes."

NOTES FOR N.A.A.C.P. CONFERENCE ON 18-YEAR-OLD VOTE 11.115 a.m. Tuesday, April 22, 1969, Sanate Office Bldg Audit.

- 1. HAVE LONG SUPPORTED GIVING THE VOTE TO 18*YEAR*OLDS.
- 2. SHOULDN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT **EGIVING** THE VOTE TO 18-YEAR-OLDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE EARNED IT.
- 3. THEY HAVE EARNED IT BECAUSE THEY ARE...
- ...FAR MORE MATURE AT THAT AGE THAN AMERICANS OF EARLIER
 GENERATIONS
- ... HAVE SHOWN THEY CAN ACCEPT OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY.

2/ NOTES ON LOWER VOTING AGE

- ...ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR COUNTRY OR EARNING A LIVING
- OR DEBATING THE GREAT ISSUES OF THE DAY IN COLLEGE.
- ...ARE IN MANY CASES BUYING A HOME, RAISING A FAMILY
- AND PAYING TAXES.
- 4. HAVING ACCEPTED THE OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES AND

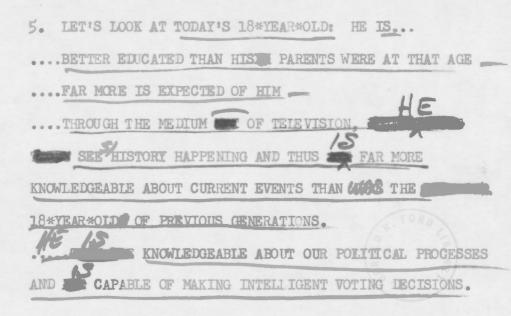
RESPONSIBIDITIES OF CITIZENSHIP, 18*YEAR*OLDS SHOULD

HAVE...ARE ENTITIED_TO...THE BASIC RIGHT# OF CITIZENSHIP.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE.



3/ NOTES...NAS.A.C.P. LOWER VOTING AGE



4/ N.A.A.C.P. NOTES ON LOWERING VOTING AGE

- 6. WHAT IT ALL ADDS UP TO IS THAT OUR 18-19-and-20 YEAR OLDS HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD THROUGH THE BALLOT.
- 7. TODAY THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD, BY RIGHT, BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK AT THE POLLS.

 I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE THEY HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE REST OF THE NATION.

NOTES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER
PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASH, D.C.

APR. 22, 1969 Hersel R. Ford

TUESDAY 11:15 A.M.

N.A.A.C.P. YOUTH CONFERENCE

18 YR. - OLD VOTE

