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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

JUSTICE
NOMINATION OF SUPREME COURT ~~JUDGE~~

NOVEMBER 28, 1975

THE NOMINATION OF A JUSTICE TO THE SUPREME COURT OF

THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS A

PRESIDENT HAS TO MAKE.

THE OPINIONS OF THE COURT AFFECT THE COURSE OF OUR SOCIETY AND THE
LIVES OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS FOR DECADES TO COME. THE CONFIDENCE
IN WHICH THE COURT IS HELD IS THE SUM OF THE ESTEEM EXTENDED TO EACH
OF ITS NINE MEMBERS, AND NOTHING IS MORE ESSENTIAL TO OUR SYSTEM OF
LIBERTY UNDER LAW THAN THE INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WITH THIS BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY IN MIND, I HAVE CONDUCTED
A THOROUGH SEARCH AND CONSIDERED AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF
DISTINGUISHED MEN AND WOMEN TO FILL THE EXISTING VACANCY ON THE
SUPREME COURT. THE VIEWS OF A WIDE RANGE OF AMERICANS IN THE
LEGAL PROFESSION, AND IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE, HAVE BEEN
SOUGHT AND ARE APPRECIATED.

I HAVE DECIDED TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS, WHEN IT RETURNS, THE NAME
OF THE PERSON I BELIEVE TO BE BEST QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS AN ASSOCIATE
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT: UNITED STATES JUDGE JOHN PAUL
STEVENS OF THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

JUDGE STEVENS IS HELD IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM BY HIS COLLEAGUES

IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE JUDICIARY, AND HAS HAD AN

OUTSTANDING CAREER IN THE PRACTICE AND TEACHING OF LAW AS WELL AS ON

THE FEDERAL BENCH. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BRING BOTH

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL QUALITIES OF THE HIGHEST ORDER TO THE

SUPREME COURT.

BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY ATTACHED TO THE EARLIEST
CONSIDERATION OF THIS NOMINATION BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE,
IN ORDER THAT THE COURT MAY BE AT FULL STRENGTH IN CONSIDERING ITS
CURRENT CALENDAR, I AM ANNOUNCING MY CHOICE TODAY AND WILL SUBMIT
JUDGE STEVENS'S NAME FORMALLY ON MONDAY.

I BELIEVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE NATION WILL BE SERVED BY PROMPT
CONFIRMATION PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

END OF TEXT