

The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/25/76 - Remarks on Appointing James Baker as Chairman of PFC, Relieving Rogers Morton to Assume Other Campaign Duties” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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August 25, 1976

ROG MORTON ASKED ME TO RELIEVE HIM OF THE DAY TO DAY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PFC. BEFORE I ANNOUNCE WHAT ROG WILL BE DOING, I WOULD LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK HIM FOR DOING AN ABSOLUTELY SUPERIOR JOB UNDER SOME TRYING CONDITIONS. I WILL NEVER FORGET HIS UNSELFISH DEVOTION AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION.

HE IS ANXIOUS TO ACTIVELY CAMPAIGN ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS AN ADVOCATE. UNDER THE STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE ELECTIONS LAW, THE CHAIRMAN MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE DETAIL OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND THE USE OF ITS FUNDS. HE WILL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO GET OUT OF THE HEADQUARTERS.

I HAVE ASKED ROG TO ORGANIZE AND CHAIR A STEERING COMMITTEE WHOSE MISSION WILL BE TO PROVIDE FOR ME AN OBJECTIVE OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN, TO SERVE AS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY AND IDEAS AND TO PROMOTE PARTY UNITY. IT WILL BE COMPOSED OF SENIOR REPUBLICAN LEADERS TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

2.

I HAVE APPOINTED JIM BAKER TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE PFC