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Dear Doctor;

We Democrats, smarting over our most decisive defeat, need to explore ways to regroup and rebuild our party. We must find out why so many Democrats either left us for the empty promises of Reagan, left us for ideological reasons, or simply stayed home because they thought it really didn't matter, that the election had already been decided by the pollsters and the pundits.

In the days when candidates were selected in smoke filled rooms by political bosses like Tweed, Pendergast, Daley etc. we won elections because the primary consideration was "Is the candidate electable?" We must first of all have candidates who are charismatic and have positive programs. This system, with slight revisions is being used successfully by Republicans.

I have reviewed the reports of the various committees of our party and it seems to me that there is little to be said in support of the fragmented system which attempts to give recognition to each single issue group which is able by political maneuvering to choose delegates to a caucus or a convention.

We are being divided by our obsession with caucuses and quotas. We now have seven official caucuses. Black, Hispanic, Women, (the big three) and the Asian/Pacific, Lesbian/Gay, Liberal/Progressive and Business/Professional. Other groups have indicated interest and might soon join the official list. Native American, Farmer, Israel supporter, Disabled, All American Caucus (WASP) and several European ethnic groups. Of course Labor, which has no official caucus, has great influence in party affairs.

Some of these groups are "reformers", who seem to be divided between Opportunists trying to get power in the party, and Emotionalists, who insist on their particular ideology without regard to consequence. One of the important reasons for the decline of our party is the infighting between these groups for their "fair share" of representation. Some of these have an uncontrollable desire to protect their turf even at the cost of an election.

Sadly each of these single issue groups has acquired more enemies than friends. The ordinary Democrat thinks, "It's not that I want to exclude Asians or Blacks or Gays from my party but I don't want their Caucus Chair speaking for the Democratic party and me, spreading their radical extremist views." Although all of these groups support the goals of equal opportunity and justice for all, the enemies of these single interest groups present a major problem.

Some important groups seem to be without representation in our party. The well educated, well-to-do elite, who make important contributions to successful political organization in this age of expensive electronic communication, and the vast numbers of "Brass Collar" Democrats like myself, who believe in the goals of the Democratic Party.

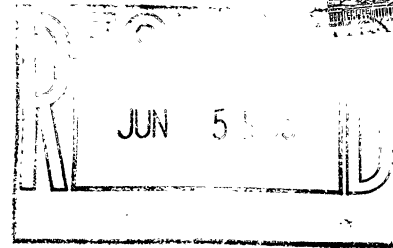
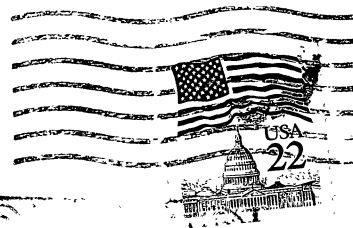
We must attract to our party the Moderates, the Honest Independents, the Repentant Republicans, the Disillusioned and the Cynical who see all politicians as dishonorable, incompetent and greedy. We need a consensus policy. We can do it! We can win back Congress. We can bring our ideas together. We can defeat this affable coprolite who is temporally living at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

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File
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