

8/15/68

McCarthy For President
The Writers' Project
989 Eighth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Fellow writers,

Sorry not to have been able to respond earlier. If there is any way in which I can help, I will. You can use my name, as you ask.

I am for Senator Eugene McCarthy because he seeks to bring about those necessary changes in national policy first sought by President John F. Kennedy and because he alone of the candidates understands the urgent need to end the undemocratic and antidemocratic excesses of the CIA. He alone had the wisdom and courage to stand in Congress and call for an end to the governing of the government by the spooks. He is the copied candidate, the man who made the frightful war the issue of the campaign, as it is the world issue today.

May I add, however, that unless he and those of us supporting him understand that the one thing that above all influenced wrong national policy, made possible all the terrible things of the past few years, is the assassination of John F. Kennedy and its subsequent official whitewashing, and take the issue to the country and understanding to the people, he and we cannot succeed.

Without the murder of John Kennedy there would have been no President Lyndon Johnson. Without the fraudulent official accounting of that murder, there would have been no legitimization of the Johnson government. And without this official self-sentification, none of those basic changes in what John Kennedy wanted for the country could have come to pass. There would have been no land war in Southeast Asia, no further impoverishment of the poor, no bleeding of the national resources into the pockets of the few at the cost of the many.

Many of the more influential signers of your mailing have either no knowledge of the fact or insufficient knowledge but have taken a contrary position. The issue dominating all others today is the Kennedy assassination and its official whitewashing. Until we do something about that, all else is futility, for all flows from that. And unless we do, unless we make this the central national issue, unless Senator McCarthy speaks out from understanding and with force, he may not survive his candidacy.

The assassinations are not without purpose. That purpose is served by the silence of those who can frustrate it.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

M C C A R T H Y F O R P R E S I D E N T
THE WRITERS' PROJECT
989 EIGHTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY
(212) 757-8715

Senator McCarthy has asked for your help in an urgent and immediate effort to influence the delegates to the National Democratic Convention. You, as creative thinkers, opinion makers, social critics writers, poets, can play an essential role in this fight. Will you join us in the "Writers' Project for Eugene McCarthy", in a national effort to dramatize the strong public support the Senator has shown that he has and help us convince the convention delegates across the country to vote for him. It is of crucial importance to act now. You can make a significant contribution in the following ways:

1. Would you write an article on some phase of today's politics about which you have some special knowledge or conviction? We think it would be effective to stimulate pieces about our candidate, the issues relevant to the campaign, and the advent of the "politics of participation." You may already know of an ideal outlet or perhaps a publication with which you have close ties. Although there are only six weeks left before the Convention, it is not too late to do articles for weekly magazines, Sunday supplements, daily newspapers and feature syndicates. You may have a "work in progress" in which you would like to include something relevant to the campaign. In this regard, call us and we will try to provide you with background material and tell you what themes we are especially concerned about, as well as direct you to helpful sources and interested publications.
2. In any event, please write a "Letter to the Editor", declaring your reasons for supporting McCarthy, or commenting on some aspect of the campaign, or possibly responding to a current article. Such a letter should go to a weekly or bi-weekly magazine, or to your local or home-town or summer community newspaper. Please send us a carbon copy, not only of your letter, but of any work you produce that relates in any way to the McCarthy campaign. At the same time, it would be of crucial importance to send a copy of your letter to the Chairman of your State Delegation to the Democratic Convention.
3. Will you please send us, for publicity purposes, a brief personal statement about why you are for McCarthy.

We hope to make use of your creative efforts immediately and throughout the Convention. We assume that any work you send us, unless otherwise specified, can be used by us for a variety of campaign purposes. If you have any friends or colleagues who would like to join us, will you be kind enough to inform them of our project as soon as you can, and send us their names and addresses for our files.

If you would be willing to let us use your name for campaign purposes, we would again be most appreciative.

We believe that the people want McCarthy. It would be a dramatic affirmation of the public will to see support for him expressed widely and meaningfully in the national press and news media.

If you have any further material, suggestions or questions, will you call us - at the "Writers' Project", McCarthy Headquarters, 757-8715. Ask for Judy Freed, Starry Krueger, Miriam Ungerer, or Eliot Osborn.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Edward Albee	Felicia Lamport
Hannah Arendt	Jeremy Larner
Saul Bellow	Leonard Lewin
Ann Birstein	Oscar Lewis
Robert Brustein	Robert Jay Lifton
Wyatt Cooper	Louis Lomax
Martin Duberman	Stefan Lorant
F. W. Dupee	Robert Lowell
Jason Epstein	Dwight MacDonald
Jules Feiffer	Bernard Malamud
Charles Frankel	Merle Miller
Betty Friedan	Frederic Morton
Eric Fromm	Norman Mailer
John Kenneth Galbraith	Helen Markel
William Gibson	Peter Matthiessen
Natalie Gittelson	Arthur Miller
Herbert Gold	Hans Morgenthau
Elizabeth Hardwick	Lewis Mumford
Mark Harris	Ogden Nash
Alan Harrington	Jack Richardson
Michael Harrington	David Riesman
Robert Heilbruner	Ray Robinson
Joe Heller	Philip Roth
Lillian Hellman	Reginald Rose
Nat Hentoff	David Schoenbrun
James Leo Herlihy	Peter Schrag
Arthur Herzog	Rod Serling
Irving Howe	Wilfrid Sheed
Alfred Kazin	Mark Shorer
Murray Kempton	John Simon
Hans Konigsberger	Terry Southern
Stanley Kunitz	Robert Stein

Daniel Stern
William Styron
Piri Thomas
C. Vann Woodward