

Califano Quits as Democratic Counsel

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Washington attorney Joseph A. Califano Jr. has turned in his resignation as general counsel for the Democratic National Committee.

He notified Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern of his plan in an Aug. 9 letter voicing support for McGovern's election and

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offering help on domestic issues during the campaign.

A key White House aide during the Johnson administration, Califano called his 2½ years with the committee exhilarating and satisfying, but said the job had become "an ever-increasing burden" on his family and his law partners, Edward Bennett Williams and Paul R. Connolly.

"For the past three or four months," Califano wrote, "one-fourth of my firm has been totally committed to performing legal work for the National Committee and doing so . . . without compensation. During the past year, Democratic National Committee legal work has virtually eliminated my own private life and private practice."

Califano said he had planned to leave after the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach last month, but stayed on to help codify new party rules adopted by the convention and to assist

the committee with its special meeting to choose a new vice presidential candidate. He said he wanted to facilitate new committee Chairman Jean Westwood's "difficult task" in assuming command.

Califano recommended that the party hire a full-time staff lawyer and enlist the volunteer help of several law firms to assist the party's new general counsel.