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# Come Home, Democrats.

The Democratic Party is in trouble. And when the Democratic Party is in trouble — America is in trouble. For the Democrats have provided, over the last 40 years, that great engine for reform which has done so much to make America a more just and more prosperous society — for black and white, young and old, rich and poor and middle-class.

Believing this, a group of us — from the political world, from the academic community, from labor, business and the professions — have decided to do our share in re-forming the Democratic Party. We have just started a new organization called The

## Coalition for a Democratic Majority.

We have listed below some 70-odd of our number who have already sponsored the call to action that appears on this page. That statement clearly details both our bill of grievances and our hopes for the future.

If you believe as we do — that the Democratic Party must find its way again, and win elections, in order to bring progress to America — join with us. For too long now the voices of common-sense liberals have been barely audible in the glare of the New Politics.

Now we want a robust voice. We want to help change the climate of opinion. We want an action group that can help candidates who believe as we do. We want a strong organization continually prepared to battle for those beliefs whenever the need arises. We want the American people to know that there is another, more responsible tradition of progress in America.

To do that requires members and money. If you believe as we do, join with us today. America can't wait.

The 1972 Presidential election has provided the Democratic Party with a stern lesson — and we believe with an historic opportunity as well.

As Democrats we naturally cannot find it in our hearts to applaud the fact that the American electorate has turned its back on our party's candidate for the Presidency. Nevertheless, we do not view the results of this election as the expression of some sweeping, new shift to the Republicans.

We see the 1972 election, rather, as a clear signal to the Democratic Party to return to the great tradition through which it had come to represent the wishes and hopes of a majority of the American people — the

tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Adlai Stevenson, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey.

In nominating these men for the Presidency, the Democratic Party repeatedly proclaimed its earnest intention to build a better nation and a better world along the lines of certain principles. And in electing Democratic Presidents for twenty-eight of the last forty years, the American people repeatedly endorsed these Democratic concepts of progress, which were keyed to six driving ideas:

- An ever expanding opportunity for individuals without regard to race, class, sex, or ethnic origin;
- An ever fairer distribution of the fruits of the

country's vast wealth and productivity;

- A sustained effort, through compensatory action, to give those who have by birth and background been disadvantaged a full opportunity to compete as equals in American life;
- A sober but spirited assumption of America's share of responsibility for the establishment of a more secure international community;
- A knowledge that without democratic order there can be no justice and without justice there can be no democratic order;
- A belief that democracy works and that it works because American voters are wisely and prudently aware of their own self interest.

- In the turbulence and confusion of the past few years, the national Democratic Party has come to be unduly influenced by forces and ideas unrepresentative of traditional Democratic principles.
- The belief that the security of the United States depends upon a stable and progressive world community has been challenged by the idea that the United States must withdraw from its international responsibilities and effect a serious diminution of its own power.
  - The belief that America is a great nation seeking to correct major inequities has been challenged by the idea that American society is sick and guilty, morally bankrupt and inherently corrupt.
  - The idea that social progress is best served by a balancing of the conflicting rights, needs, and demands of many different kinds of people has been challenged by the claim of one small group that it knows what is best for others.
  - The principle of individual merit without regard to

Now the voters have spoken. In the weeks and months ahead many interpretations will be offered as to what they have said. There will be talk of a "realignment" of political forces, of a large-scale shift in political sentiment. It will be argued that the American people have been "morning to the right". Or the defeat will be attributed to the ineptitude of the candidate rather than to a rejection of the ideas and forces he was thought to represent.

We do not believe that these alibis are valid. We believe that in repudiating the Democratic/"New Politics" presidential candidacy in this election while re-electing a Democratic Congress, the voters were

## The "New Politics" Has Failed

- inherited status has been challenged by the idea of proportionalism in accordance with birth and group origin.
- The belief that order is essential to justice has been dilted by a cavalier attitude toward the tens of millions of Americans who are genuinely and correctly concerned about public safety and respect for law.
- In the service of such new forces and ideas a "New Politics" has developed—a politics new in its contempt for "the very" people and institutions on which the Democratic Party has built its electoral strength. It is a "New Politics" that has derided the organized labour movement, driving it from its traditional place in the vanguard of the Democratic coalition. It is a "New Politics" that has sneered at the greatness of America. It is a "New Politics" that has dismissed as morally unworthy the long-range values and daily concerns of tens of millions of ordinary people. And finally, and tragically, it is a "New Politics" that has

## Real Progress Still Can Be Achieved

*speaking with precision and sophistication.* What they said was that American society should continue on in that very Democratic tradition which, abandoned by the forces temporarily in control of the national Democratic Party in 1972, was usurped in some measure by the Republicans.

Accordingly, we founding sponsors of The Coalition for a Democratic Majority issue this call:

- To all who believe this society must end all forms of discrimination against some without recourse to discrimination against others;
- To all who believe in a pluralistic political process in which no single group or class enjoys a special

allowed the Republican Party—a party so long and so accurately known as the party of privilege—to represent itself for the first time as the champion of such values and concerns.

The fact is, however, that it is the Democratic Party—not the Republican—which has always been the natural home of people concerned with the expansion of individual opportunity in America. It is the Democratic Party—not the Republican—which has always been deeply concerned with the basic freedoms of expression and association. It is the Democratic Party—not the Republican—which has always been the most deeply concerned with responsible action abroad in the interest of world peace and security. And it is the Republican Party—as has recently been revealed—which has acquiesced in a cynical undermining of the essential decency of the American political process.

- moral status:
- To all who believe that, regardless of past miscalculations or failures of policy, United States involvement in international affairs continues to be necessary to the establishment of a stable and viable international order;
  - To all who believe that while our society must be vastly improved, it has not failed—
- Join with us in The Coalition for a Democratic Majority, a new organization dedicated to returning the Democratic Party to its rightful role as spokesman for the majority of the American people, as the party of progress, freedom, and security for all.

# The Coalition for a Democratic Majority

Box 28181, Central Station, Washington, D.C. 20005  
Penn Kemble, Executive Director

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(The Coalition for a Democratic Majority is a dues-paying, membership organization chartered in Washington, D.C. It will be active in political formulation and political organization aimed at revitalizing the Democratic Party, and in general encouraging and contributing to all those forces working toward the re-formation of a Democratic majority in America.)

**CHICAGO DAILY NEWS**  
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**THE WASHINGTON POST**  
Humphrey, Jackson Backing Coalition

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**THE EVENING STAR**  
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