

VP OPTION ~~REDACTED~~ INSERT: FORD

with distinction

I have decided to nominate a man who has served for almost a quarter of a century as a member of the United States House of Representatives, the ~~one~~ institution in our Federal Government that is closer to the pulse of the people and more responsive to ~~their~~ their wishes than any other.

He and I started out together as ~~young~~ young members of the House in the late 1940's, but over the years as my ~~career~~ *on the cutting edge* of representative democracy, career took me elsewhere *he stayed there on the job,* studying *right* the nation's needs and gaining increasing influence and skill in the legislative process through which our Government acts to meet those needs.

As a member of the House Committee ~~on~~ *Appropriations* *for some 15 years,* he ~~earned~~ won wide respect among his colleagues on both sides of the aisle as an authority on *budgetary* domestic affairs. As a member of the *rankings* *Defense Appropriations* Committee, *special* he developed expertise in ~~foreign relations and~~ defense policy *and* *abroad* traveling frequently to meet world leaders and study international problems first ~~hand~~ *hand.*

The 93rd Congress is the ~~the~~ fifth consecutive Congress in which he has been chosen by his *R*epublican colleagues as *M*inority Leader of the house -- a position in which he has always put the national interest above ~~his~~ personal, regional, or partisan concerns in working ~~with~~

foreign affairs,



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closely with Presidents of both parties.

No man knows Washington better, and no man knows America better.
in terms of public service, personal integrity, and good judgment —
No one is better qualified to hold the second highest office in the land

over these next three years than the man I am proud to present

to you now as Vice President-designate, Congressman Gerald R.

Ford of Michigan.

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VP OPTION INSERT: REAGAN

~~REAGAN~~

~~Remarks~~ The next Vice President of the United States at this critical time in our history must be a leader who is not only prepared by his personal qualifications and experience to assume the Presidency at a moment's notice should I myself be unable to continue, but who is also well qualified to carry out the numerous important duties of the Vice Presidency itself, including ~~participating in~~ a major policy-making role within the Administration and a key role in communicating our policies to the Congress, the State and local levels of government, foreign leaders and the American people, and to governments abroad.

This means we need a man who meets three basic requirements. First, he must be a man with solid government experience and proven executive ability. The man I shall nominate has served for more than 6 years as the chief executive of a State government whose budget, range of activities, and diversity of problems are exceeded only by those of the Federal Government itself. He has established an

impressive record in improving the economy and efficiency of his State government while introducing creative new approaches in such areas as welfare reform. Second, we need a man with a world perspective, one ~~who~~ who will be at home in diplomacy and international affairs as America's quest for peace continues. Over the years, The man I shall nominate has visited scores of countries, large and small, in all parts of the world, meeting with their leaders and mixing with the common people. He has traveled abroad as a private citizen, as Governor of a State whose booming economy is a foreign trade power in its own right, and as a personal representa-

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six~~ti~~ve of the President. ⁹ In 1971, when the ^{approaching} end of the Vietnam war and the ~~imminent~~ beginning of a new era in U.S.-Chinese relations were of great concern ^{in the Far East,} ~~throughout Asia,~~ he undertook an extensive ^AAsian tour to talk with key statesmen on my behalf. Last year, when the Moscow and Peking summits ^{posed new challenges for} had ~~put~~ the Atlantic Alliance, ~~in a new light,~~ he traveled ^{at my request} to 12 European capitals for a similar round of ~~meetings~~ consultations.

Third, we need as our new Vice President a man with a deep understanding ^{of} and respect for the American political process -- not politics in the partisan sense, but ~~in~~ the sense of articulating the issues and helping to make the system work to solve those issues. ⁹ The man I shall nominate as Vice President has been that kind of citizen politician ever since the 1940's. He has ~~now~~ worked constructively as a member of both ~~the~~ major political parties. As a Republican Governor in a heavily Democratic State, he has successfully enlisted bipartisan cooperation on major problems, both among the electorate and in executive - legislative relations. He sees the ~~public~~ interest of the common man, the forgotten American, as clearly as anyone in public life today, and he speaks up for that interest forcefully and persuasively.

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In summary, he is a man who I believe would make a major contribution as Vice President to our ~~our~~ work in building a structure of peace, to our efforts at shaping a new prosperity and a better life for all Americans, and to the need for a heightened sense of national unity and purpose in the Bicentennial Era. And he would be equally well fitted to take over the leadership in ~~these~~ each of those efforts ^{(as President,} if my death or disability should ever require him to do so.

I am therefore asking the Congress to confirm as our ~~next~~ Vice President, Governor Ronald Reagan of California.

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