

Dear National Committee Member:

During the past four years, prior to each DNC meeting, we have held a Progressive Reform Caucus. The purpose of the caucus was to review the agenda and the action of the DNC Executive Committee. After hearing the reports, we would then go over each issue that was to be voted on at the meeting and come to some consensus as to what action we would take; whether or not we would support, oppose or amend the issues, persons to be nominated, or resolutions to be passed. We feel that these meetings better prepared us as progressive members of the committee for the full meeting of the Democratic National Committee. We also worked as much as possible with the feminist, black and Hispanic caucuses with whom, more times than not, we found ourselves in full agreement. The participants in the Progressive Reform Caucus, in most cases, overlapped the caucuses named above.

Some people may feel that now we have elected a Democratic president there will not be a lot of work to do for the Democratic National Committee. Nor do they feel there is a necessity to carry on the Progressive Reform Caucus. However, it is my feeling, as well as many other members, that we have continued need for our caucus. President-elect Jimmy Carter has stated that he intends to depoliticize the White House staff. With his nomination of Ken Curtis, it is our hope that he is going to use the DNC members for continued political activities.

We have much to do in this coming year. The Winograd Commission is very important to continue the reforms of the Democratic party. We have been given some definite assignments by the Delegates to the 1976 convention. Most pressing is the 1978 Midterm Conference. Some of us have some ideas about how we can make that conference much more successful than the one held in Kansas City in 1974. Because of the Inaugural activities and the early meeting hour of the DNC on Friday, January 21st, it seems impossible for us to have a meeting before our DNC meeting. However, we will have a meeting on Friday, January 21st at 5:00 P.M. with other progressive groups who will be discussing the future of the party. We will meet at the Washington Hilton. Each of you will be provided with further information at our morning DNC meeting.

With the assistance of Mike Bleicher of Wisconsin and Bob Dryfoos of New York, I was privileged to be floor leader for the Progressive Caucus as well as Vice-Chair of the Progressive Reform Caucus. We feel that we just scratched the surface. We're making progress but our work needs to continue with your help. One reason I am sorry we can't meet before our DNC meeting is that I feel we have to do something about the representation on the Executive Committee. The regional caucus will meet to elect permanent members of the Executive Committee from their regions. Four persons will be elected -- 2 men and 2 women. At our last meeting, our temporary Regional Executive Committee members were very unrepresentative of the constituency of the Democratic party. To my knowledge, only one region elected a black. The other regions failed to elect any minority representation. We must correct that situation on the Permanent Executive Committee.

I look forward to meeting each of the new members personally and visiting the old members once again. It is nice to be winners for a change but let's not let it go to our heads by becoming complacent and by believing that our work is completed. In 1978 we have a Mid-term Conference to deal with and Congressional and Senate elections and a presidential campaign in 1980. We must continue the job of getting our house in order to insure future victories, by wider margins, for the Democratic party.

Your fellow committee member,

Billie Carr, DNC, Texas