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Open Letter to Democratic National Committee
Inasmuch as the representatives of my party, considered sufficiently to represent the aims and aspirations of the party to honor me with their nomination for the vice-presidential office, I feel justified in taking the liberty of expressing my ideas as to future organization and work of the National Committee. Knowing as I do the desire of all the members of the National Committee to obtain the views of committee members of the party generally, for their guidance in their deliberations, I feel sure that you will understand the spirit in which this letter is written. Indeed, for any good Democrat possessing more or less definite ideas on the subject, to refrain from laying them before you at this time would be a negligence that would show a lamentable indifference to his party's welfare.

To my mind a political party in a democracy should be a confederation of voters of substantially the same mind in regard to important policies of government, working in close cooperation for the same objects and the same principles throughout the country. It is the proper function of the leaders of the political party to ascertain on the one hand what these beliefs are, and to get them clearly before the voters of the country at large before election day. A party can have no clear definite program behind which its members stand unitedly and whole-heartedly unless its leaders are possessed of some machinery by which they can keep in close touch with the sentiments of the party members throughout the entire country, and even if they possess this knowledge and such machinery is efficiently working, it will be useless unless the leaders also possess sufficient machinery to put such clear issues with equal clearness before every voter in the United States.

A platform hurriedly thrown together in the turmoil of a national convention and representing only too often an eleventh hour
A. The members of the next Congress
B. The leaders of the Democratic House in the Senate and House of Representatives
C. The chairman and chairwoman of the state committees
D. Such other Democrats as in the House of the next Congress are ex officio leaders of our party
compromise, will only by accident truthfully represent the real ideals of the party's rank and file. Hectic efforts and campaign speeches three months before a national election will not be sufficient to clearly present these arguments to the voters of the country generally, particularly in the face of the inevitable misrepresentation and distortion of such principles as other political parties will spread broadcast.

The National Committee, under our form of party organization, is entrusted not only immediately before election, but in the far more important periods between elections, with the duty of correctly voicing the aspirations and beliefs of the party, and of making that voice distinctly heard throughout the entire country.

It seems to me that any improvement in our organization must be along the lines of improving the functioning of the National Committee in these two directions. It is to me, and I feel also to the great majority of democrats, a matter of small importance what personal beliefs and friendships the head of your committee may hold. Your National Chairman should be a man big enough and broad enough to work for the whole party and for no particular faction. It is inconceivable that any other type of man would be the choice of your committee. In this matter I am willing, as I have been in the past, to support whoever may be selected in the future, and I do not at all share the feeling of agitation and alarm which our republican opponents are so loudly proclaiming to exist in our own ranks. I do feel, however, that the time has come for a more efficient organization.

I must sorrowfully confess my conviction that the machinery of our republican opponents is at present more efficient than our own. I am equally convinced, however, that this machinery, which has been founded essentially on a confederation of selfish financial interests investing
their subscriptions with a very clear idea that they would obtain special favors in the future of far greater value than their current gifts, is not only morally wrong, but far less effective, and a really effective application of the general principles I have already outlined. No amount of campaign funds, no flooding of the country by misleading literature, will, in my judgment, offset a clear presentation of our principles of government, and a determination to make such principles effective on the part of our party, provided we get such a clear understanding of our own aspirations and also always provided that having secured it, we get it day after day clearly before the voters' eyes.

The practical suggestion which is the real cause of this letter is this: The first thing is for the National Committee to secure, not every four years, but every year at least, an expression of the beliefs of the members of the entire party on important questions, in order that it may speak clearly for the party to the public. We have no adequate machinery for this at present. To get this information and to outline the plan of battle generally, are two great sources of information available:

First - the belief and feeling of the members of our party in every state. It is impractical to obtain this by a questionnaire or by convention, but, luckily, our organization gives us in chairman of the different state committees a man in close and constant touch with the thoughts of the voters in his state.

Second: The information possessed by the members of our party who actually sit in the halls of Congress and who are in close touch with all our great national problems and various solutions proposed by them.
If I am writing this the actual thing to do becomes comparatively simple. I therefore respectfully submit for your consideration my suggestion that the National Committee, as the mouthpiece of the party, call a conference composed of Washington each year, a conference composed of:

(a) The members of the national committee itself
(b) Five ranking Democrats of the most important senatorial and congressional committees with ten other senators and representatives selected by these five from the membership of the senate and congress.
(c) Chairmen of every state committee and one or more leading Democrats to be selected by their state's delegation from their own states.

The purpose of this conference to be to formulate a statement for the public of the position of our party on the various issues of the day.

With the sources of information at hand, such a formulation of principles should not be difficult, and it is needless to point out the incidental good that will be achieved by the close acquaintance with the heads of the party organization throughout the country with each other's ideas and viewpoints.

I personally hope that this suggestion will be given earnest consideration by your committee. It is a matter of deep regret to me that my recent illness prevents my appearing before you at Chicago and talking this matter over instead of being obliged to resort to the extremely unsatisfactory method of presenting it by correspondence.
I am enclosing a letter to the Ritz Coon. I should be very much obliged if you would be kind enough to introduce me at the meeting on the 25th.

I am sorry indeed that my recent absence removes me from among you all onPERSON(S). But my recovery is progressing as fast as I hoped it. It will be in the near future. As there are in every public office and intended to throw our county on the county and they have done I am sorry. The liberty of going to an advance to the will foreclose in Nov 2.

I trust all will be well with you and yours also and we will meet here next time you come to New York at some time. Many things I want to talk over with you.