

STATEMENT BY: ROBERT MORGAN

UNITED STATES SENATOR-ELECT

DECEMBER 11, 1974

IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS MANY OF MY FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AS WELL AS THE MEDIA HAVE CONTACTED ME SEEKING AN EXPRESSION OF DIRECTION CONCERNING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE PAST TRADITIONS OF OUR PARTY AND MY OBLIGATIONS TO THE PARTY WHICH HAS ELECTED ME TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND WHICH I HAVE SERVED SINCE 1950.

LAST WEEKEND, THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE A CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION. IT WAS A POST HE FIRST ASSUMED AFTER SUPPORTING THE CANDIDACY OF OUR LAST GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE, HARGROVE "SKIPPER" BOWLES.

AS TITULAR HEAD OF THE PARTY AT THAT TIME, MR. BOWLES SUGGESTED HIS CANDIDACY AND SUPPORTED IT. SINCE THAT TIME, MR. BOWLES PUBLICLY DISCLAIMED PARTY LEADERSHIP AND THIS DUTY HAS FALLEN TO THE STATEWIDE DEMOCRATIC ELECTED OFFICIALS INCLUDING MYSELF AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

LAST WEDNESDAY, I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH MR. SUGGS TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING ELECTION BUT DISCOVERED UPON MEETING WITH HIM THAT HIS MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO INFORM ME OF HIS INTENTION TO SEEK RE-ELECTION. I HAD HOPED THAT OUR CONVERSATION WOULD OPEN THE ROLE OF THE PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP FOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE

PARTY LEADERSHIP BUT INSTEAD DISCOVERED IT WAS A CLOSED SUBJECT AS FAR AS MR. SUGGS WAS CONCERNED.

MR. SUGG'S ATTITUDE CAME AS A SURPRISE TO ME BECAUSE HE IS AN OLD FRIEND AND BECAUSE I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW A STATE PARTY CHAIRMAN CAN FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT THE ADVICE AND SUPPORT OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOM THE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF NORTH CAROLINA HAVE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE. FROM MY DISCUSSION WITH MANY OTHERS, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT MR. SUGGS DID NOT DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THEM EITHER.

IT APPEARS TO ME THAT NOW AS NEVER BEFORE THE EFFORTS OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERS SHOULD BE TO UNIFY OUR PARTY. FOR THIS REASON I HAVE HESITATED TO COMMENT ON HIS UNILATERAL ACTION WHICH THREATENS THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH EMERGED AFTER OUR PRIMARY CAMPAIGN AND WHICH WE ASSUMED FOR THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION. THIS CONTINUED UNITY IS MY PRIMARY CONCERN, AND I THINK IT SHOULD BE THE CONCERN OF ALL DEMOCRATS.

I FAIL TO SEE HOW HIS RECENT ACTIONS COULD SERVE THIS
END.

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