

STATEMENT BY

MAYOR JOSEPH M. BARR

August 8, 1968

I support Vice President Hubert Humphrey for President because I believe he is the best man.

I support him because he is a liberal, an innovator, a unifier, a leader.

I support him because he is a warmly human, genuinely decent, keenly intelligent person — a man of intellect and compassion, strong in mind, articulate in expression, decisive in action.

I support him wholeheartedly, with confidence and enthusiasm. I have no misgivings about it, and make no apologies for it.

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At the same time, I respect the right of other Democrats to have another choice. While I may not agree with them, I would not and will not abuse them for their opinions or demean, in any way, either their judgment or their favored candidate.

If that judgment should prevail and their candidate succeed in the nomination, I shall support him.

I believe I have the right to suggest that just as I respect the rights of others, they respect mine — without impugning my morality, motives, or mental capacities.

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In many letters I have received — mostly, happily, from reasonable and honorable proponents of a point of view — there runs a theme that is general, if not universal.

It is that because of the vote Senator McCarthy received in the Pennsylvania Preferential Primary last April, it is the obligation of the delegates to be for him.

Let me analyze that suggestion from several aspects:

First, as most of my correspondents know, Eugene McCarthy's name was the only name on the ballot in April. The only alternatives available to Democratic voters were to write-in a name or pass up the opportunity to vote on the Presidential line. Many people voted for McCarthy not as a matter of choice or preference but simply because his was the only name available to them.

He received 428,259 votes, a significant number. Yet it was a minority of the total Democratic votes cast in the Primary, despite the fact that his was the only entry on the ballot.

It constituted 44.6 per cent of Democratic votes cast; it represented 16.7 per cent of the registered Democrats in Pennsylvania.

Second, as most of my correspondents know, there were McCarthy delegates entered in 25 of the 27 Congressional Districts in Pennsylvania, a total of about 150 persons in all. Of the 108 delegates to be chosen, they succeeded in electing only 24 — 3 of whom, incidentally, ran unopposed, for all purposes, in Philadelphia's Third Congressional District.

Third, if one were to follow the suggestion that the winner of the Presidential Preferential Primary automatically earns the delegates' votes — which is an extra-legal concept at the very best — it is to say that Pennsylvania could not have cast a majority of its votes for Adlai Stevenson in 1952. They would have gone, by this theory, to Kefauver, who led the Preferential Primary. Indeed, if Kefauver had withdrawn, Pennsylvania's votes that year next would have been cast for Eisenhower, who was second high man in the 1952 Democratic Preferential Primary.

If the concept has validity in Pennsylvania, then one could assume it should be applied elsewhere. Lyndon Johnson won on write-ins in New Hampshire, yet McCarthy has at least 20 of the 24 delegate votes. Should they be redistributed? How about Wisconsin? Massachusetts? Oregon?

And one last observation along this line. In 1964, George Wallace gathered 40 per cent or so of the votes in Maryland, Indiana and Wisconsin. Is one to suggest that the delegates in those States should have divided their votes to reflect that outcome? The answer is No.

The answer is that is not what the law provides or requires.

That is also the answer to my questions about this year's results in New Hampshire, Wisconsin and the other states.

And that is also the answer in regard to Pennsylvania.

* * *

I intend to cast my vote for Hubert Humphrey in Chicago. Others will exercise a similar conviction.

Still other Pennsylvania votes will go to Eugene McCarthy, who has been cordially received in various parts of the State by many of us who do not count ourselves as his supporters.

Each side hopes to win, naturally enough.

But only one candidate for the Presidential nomination will be selected.

I intend to support him.

I hope every delegate from Pennsylvania will do the same.

Then, having expressed our different viewpoints before and during the Convention, we can join together to win the election, which in my opinion, is far more than a partisan goal. It is imperative for our national well-being and to our common concept of the kind of nation we need to become, and will be — concerned, just, equitable and humane, at home and everywhere else in the world.

Adlai Stevenson

⊗ "Liberation is not the sudden
changed emotional outburst but
the dedication of a
lifetime.

⊗ Mc Carum
Mc Carthy

⊗ Confidential

⊗ Ahead-future
Peace abroad
Peace at home

Pol. Despair
Pol. Top

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