Who Said It?

"We have had corruption before in our history, but never before in our history have we seen corruption defended and condoned by those in high places. If they won't recognize or admit that corruption exists, how can we expect them to clean it out?

"Can the Republicans do a better job? We can, and we must. Our greatest responsibility when we come to power is to restore again the moral integrity of our national government. And let me say this, that wherever we find immorality, wherever we find a breach of public trust, those who are guilty should be removed from the positions they hold whether they are in our party or in the other party.

"Let's begin by declaring right now that the Republican Party will not ask for and will not accept any political contributions from questionable sources. There are plenty of honest God-fearing Americans who have a vital enough interest in getting a new administration in Washington that they will make the contributions necessary to put on an effective campaign. . . .

"In establishing the standard of conduct for officials of our administration, let us as Republicans recognize this principle—that the greatness of a free people depends not upon whether its public servants meet the legal minimums for conduct set by the law, but it depends upon the extent to which public servants exceed those minimum standards in their conduct. It we raise such a standard, we shall restore again the faith of the people in the honesty, morality, and integrity of their government officials, and we shall set an example for all the world to see of the heights free men can reach in governing themselves."

—Sen. Richard Nixon, addressing Young Republican National Federation, Boston, Mass., May 29, 1951.

Postal Registration Alive Despite Loss

Post card voter registration remains a "live possibility" despite a razor-thin loss in the House, as efforts now turn to adding the thrust of the Senate-passed measure to the Election Reform bill, according to Richard Murphy, Service Employees Legislative-COPE director.

Stressing that arbitrary and needless barriers now block large numbers of potential voters from the polls, Murphy said that "a federal registration law would fit very nicely with reform legislation." But, he said, "the Republican party is dead-set against the legislation," and President Nixon's veto threat and GOP National Chairman George Bush's stiff pressure on House members are major roadblocks to passage this year.

Questioned by reporters on the network radio interview Labor News Conference, Murphy predicted that if post card voter registration doesn't pass in the current session of Congress, it will be "picked up and passed very readily" early next year. He added that if the November elections "produce the Congress that we think is going to be produced . . . we will have post card registration next year—over any veto."

Murphy said that arguments against easing voter registration—such as apathy is a greater barrier to registration than red tape, that it would increase fraud and "produce an administrative nightmare and a great deal of work"—just don't stand up. He said that even those studies showing that "lack of interest" does keep many people from registering also show that "one of the greatest barriers to voter registration is state registration laws as they are now set up." He pointed out that studies of registration-by-mail in Texas and Minnesota have not turned up any "added fraud" resulting from making it easier for citizens to get on the voter rolls.

The fact is, he asserted, post card registration would make it possible for poor people and blue-collar workers to qualify as voters, without being forced to "take time off from work, go down to the city hall, pay a parking fee," as is now the case.

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