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DRAFT
November 5, 1975

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am gratified that in local elections throughout the Nation Republican candidates have made strong showings and in many cases have won upset victories in previously held Democratic offices.

Where Republicans trailed in incomplete returns, such as the Mississippi Governor's race, our candidate, Gil Carmichael, won a remarkable total of votes in a state which always has been strongly Democratic.

There is also encouraging evidence of a return to the two party system by the voters of New Jersey, where Republican candidates made significant gains in the State Legislature.

Although most of yesterday's elections primarily involved local issues and the results in Republican vs. Democrat contests were mixed, I think it is a fair conclusion from this sampling that the Republican Party is alive and well all across the country.

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CONNECTICUT In Stamford, Louis Clapes
defeated incumbent Dem. Mayor.

64 towns went Republican, a gain of 4 towns

There were 157 elections, which means that 93
went Democratic.

INDIANA ELECTION RESULTS.

Indiana GOP headquarters ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ feels that
Bill Hudnut's victory in Indianapolis represents
a great victory for the Party. Republican Hudnut won
by over 12,000 votes.

In another major city Republican win, Republican Mayor
Russell Lloyd was reelected in Evansville.

Overall, Republicans won 38 Mayor races and lost 77
with one, Fort Wayne, still undecided. This represents
a net loss of 9 Mayors' offices across the state.

KENTUCKY ELECTION RESULTS

With 2,694 of 3,311 precincts reporting in the gubernatorial
race:

Carroll (D)	374,878
Gable (R)	232,845

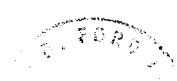
Democrats swept all other statewide offices.

Republicans retained
a handful of seats in the General Assembly with early unofficial
returns last nite showing Democrats winning in 63 of the
100 House seats and in 27 of the 38 Senate seats.

MISSISSIPPI

The final results are not in in Mississippi
and they said that it is still a very close
race.

with 80% counted-
Finch 50.6%
Carmichael 46.4%
Kirksey 2.8%



OHIO ELECTION RESULTS

State GOP Chairman Kent McGough reports that Republicans faired well in yesterdays ~~xxxxxx~~ municipal elections across the state. Republican Mayors were elected in 5 of Ohio's 8 largest cities:

Cleveland	--	Perk	✓
Youngstown	--	Hunter	✓
Canton	--	Cmick	✓
Akron	--	Ballard	✓
Columbus	--	Moody	✓

McGough knew of no elections where Republicans were supposed to win where they did not.

He also reports that an economic package of issues, which were originally promoted by Rhodes, was defeated by the voters. The package, involving such issues as building of roads, capital improvements, housing, etc., would have required additional taxes.

NEW JERSEY

I talked with Webb Todd and he said that before the election they had 14 out of 80 seats in the Assembly. Now they will have 30 or 31 seats. They may pick up between 15 and 17 seats, which is about what was expected.

Some of the counties (Morris) did very well but yet they lost some of the towns.

He said that there would be some recounts.

No one expected to win the Assembly back again.

NEW YORK

They took a 20- county sample in the early hours of the morning and it looks like a trade off. Cities have gone both Democratic and Republican after many years of sustained elections.

The State Headquarters feel that the Democratic tide has been stopped and the Republicans are holding their own,

WASHINGTON ELECTION RESULTS

Secretary of State Bruce Chapman (R) won election to a full term by 53% of the vote in a race he was expected to lose. There was a much larger voter turnout than had been expected. Results in that race:

Chapman (R)	401,000
Kay Anderson (D)	354,000

Death penalty passed - 63%
King County Council went Demo. (Seattle)

11/5/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ron —

For your meeting
with the President.

Margi

POLITICS

November 5, 1975

Mississippi (1,690 of 2,133 precincts)

FINCH (D).....	277,906	50.6%
CARMICHAEL (R).....	255,956	46.4%
KIRKSEY (I).....	14,739	2.8%

Kentucky (97 percent complete)

CARROLL (D).....	453,000	**
GABLE (R).....	350,000	**

** totals are rounded off

FYI

PFC hasn't been asked for reaction on elections and is giving none.

Bo Callaway is in Washington and is giving a Westinghouse interview today.

PFC is announcing two state chairmen.

PFC is being asked about Morton. Kaye is giving on background the Finance offer and turndown by Morton and saying he knows nothing about Morton taking Bo's job in February.

*Revised
5 Nov 1975*

ELECTION RELATION

The President, of course, is disappointed that Republicans were not elected governor in Mississippi and Kentucky. On the other hand, he is pleased at the good showing made by the Republican candidates in both states.

In Mississippi, historically a Democratic state where no Republican has been elected governor in this century, Gil Carmichael ran an extremely good race with only a few percentage points separating him from the winner.

In Kentucky, _____ Gable ran well against an incumbent Governor.

Republicans elsewhere.

Post 11/5

The Shake-Up

ALREADY IT HAS A misnomer—the Sunday Night Massacre—and already the politicians and pundits have invested the President's shakeup of his administration with a superabundance of (often-conflicting) significance. But experience warns us that this kind of instant score-keeping on who's up and who's down in government, and what this means for future policy, is a mug's game requiring more reliable insights than even the most astute Washington-watchers have now. For now, it seems to us enough to ask a few elementary questions: Why not? Why now? And why in such an abrupt and clumsy manner?

The question of "why not" is the easiest. Mr. Ford, after all, did not appoint Secretary Schlesinger or CIA Director Colby to their jobs; nor did he give Henry Kissinger two of the top national security jobs in government. He is certainly entitled to rearrange the policy-making process and to try to install in such critical posts people he would prefer to work with. To have done so, after 14 months of working with the national security team he inherited from President Nixon, is in itself hardly a "massacre."

To acknowledge the prerogative is not of course to pronounce on whether these were politically or substantively wise moves. It makes sense to us, for example, to split up Mr. Kissinger's two jobs; the point of the White House post was always to try to insure that the President be exposed to all sides of the arguments from all departments concerned with national security affairs. But with his hand-picked deputy taking over the White House position, and without the counterweight of Secretary Schlesinger to worry about, it remains to be seen whether the Kissinger hegemony will in fact be weakened. Likewise, it is possible to wonder whether this was the moment to dismiss both Mr. Schlesinger and Mr. Colby.

Which brings us to the question of "why now?" In terms of both politics and policy, for instance, it can be argued that the removal of Mr. Schlesinger at this moment sends all the wrong signals from Mr. Ford's point of view to everyone from the Republican right wing to the Soviet military to the members of Congress currently chewing over his defense budget.

In the case of Mr. Colby, he was himself among those who assumed he would leave his post when he had

completed the painful but necessary exercise going forward on the Hill: an effort to explain, purge, and in the process, pave a way for the rehabilitation of the CIA. He was engaged in a witting and honorable act of self-sacrifice which was price enough, it seems to us, for him to pay, without being unceremoniously and abruptly dumped.

To give the President the best of it, he cannot have been unaware of these problems of timing. So there must have been other pressures at work and here, let us admit, we are operating somewhat in the dark. But it is our best guess that the decision of Vice President Rockefeller to withdraw as a candidate, whatever its precise relation to the job changes, has this in common with the President's other moves: it is all part of a general refurbishing of the presidential image with Ronald Reagan, the early primaries, and the 1976 election all more or less clearly in mind.

We note, without surprise, that this was not the way the President presented it in an accounting of his actions that was as pedestrian as it was implausible. The men who were falling away had done really super work but they were not "my guys" (we had rather thought Mr. Rockefeller was; and that Mr. Kissinger, in fact, was not, but never mind). The point, it seems to us, is that the President was trying to will or wish away problems and conflicts he has been unable to cope with or resolve. The effect of this inability has been to present the unfortunate image of a weak caretaker, presiding over a divided and unruly government, with a domineering Secretary of State, an openly dissenting Vice President and Defense Secretary, and a CIA Director whose compulsion to come clean was above and beyond the call of a supposedly open administration. Now, it is true that the image-polishing might have been a little more successful if the whole complicated story hadn't leaked out in dribs and drabs enhancing the awkwardness and the crudeness, upsetting a careful timetable which might have invested the whole maneuver with a greater appearance of logic and control. But even the most exquisitely programmed presentation could not have disguised the rock-bottom irony of the situation. For the President with this drastic and summary treatment of his problem managed to confirm both the degree of disarray that he had allowed to set in and his own inability to deal with it except by the most abrupt and heavy-handed means.