

The original documents are located in Box C1, folder “Carmichael, Gilbert E.” of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

GILBERT E. CARMICHAEL

POST OFFICE BOX 5673
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39301

*Common
Should go in
the President*

November 3, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

I have had time now to kind of get used to the events of the last few days. The press has called me several times, and I have had to sit down and put my thoughts together. I thought you might like to know how one of your supporters saw it from "down in Mississippi."

You gave us a very strong Republican base to build on in the South. We were so close to carrying the state that we seriously were considering a recount Wednesday. These people in Mississippi, who voted Republican, had to do so after a lot of thought and study, and you gave them excellent reasons for supporting you. You fought gallantly and you had to carry Nixon's pardon, Watergate, the recession and the energy crisis on your back. You also had to put up with the disgruntled Reagan people who really didn't get their motors running in time. You had to build a national constituency for yourself and do your job all at the same time. It was a fantastic performance, and you nearly pulled it off! The odds were impossible. I deeply enjoyed getting to know you and fighting by your side.

Our Republican Party must learn to reach out to the little people, too. I don't think we have to do it by promising more welfare or bigger federal programs, but I think that we should do it by opening up the economic system so that more blacks and more women can participate. Last December, when you and I sat and had coffee together, we talked about my Governor's race and the fact that my Democratic opponent had put together a coalition of blacks and labor and beat us. The same thing happened Tuesday night. This doesn't mean we turn our backs on them; quite the contrary. It means we have to develop a message that fits within our Republican philosophy, but one which speaks to them, personally.



THE REPUBLICAN HAS SEEN
GILBERT E. CARMICHAEL
POST OFFICE BOX 2878
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39301

November 3, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

I have had time now to kind of get used to the events of the last few days. The press has called me several times, and I have had to sit down and put my thoughts together. I thought you might like to know how one of your supporters saw it from "down in Mississippi."

You gave us a very strong Republican base to build on in the South. We were so close to carrying the state that we seriously were considering a recount Wednesday. These people in Mississippi, who voted Republican, had to do so after a lot of thought and study, and you gave them excellent reasons for supporting you. You fought gallantly and you had to carry Nixon's pardon, water-gate, the recession and the energy crisis on your back. You also had to put up with the dismantled Reagan people who really didn't get their motors running in time. You had to build a national consistency for yourself and do your job all at the same time. It was a fantastic performance, and you nearly pulled it off! The odds were impossible. I deeply enjoyed getting to know you and fighting by your side.

Our Republican Party must learn to reach out to the little people, too. I don't think we have to do it by promising more welfare or bigger federal programs, but I think that we should do it by opening up the economic system so that more blacks and more women can participate. Last December, when you and I sat and had coffee together, we talked about my Governor's race and the fact that my Democratic opponent had put together a coalition of blacks and labor and beat us. The same thing happened Tuesday night. This doesn't mean we turn our backs on them; quite the contrary. It means we have to develop a message that fits within our Republican philosophy, but one which speaks to them personally.



Comment in
Journal of
the President

President Gerald Ford

- 2 -

November 3, 1976

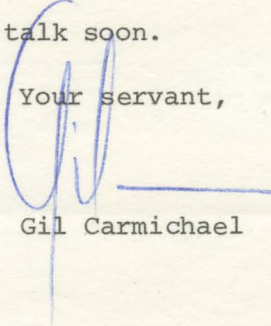
You have established deep friendship in the South, and you are our key political leader now for the development of the Republican Party in the days ahead. I hope that you realize, and the National Committee realizes, our most fertile ground is in the South. I need you to help me develop candidates in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana for the next year. I particularly urge you to take the reins of the National Republican Party and continue to be the dynamic leader you have been for the next two years.

You did something that Nixon never did for the South. You broke our connection with Jim Eastland and the old bogus Conservative Democrats. This is a significant step in the next phase of a Republican South.

I close with this: The message to us in this Presidential race this year is that we must reach out for the little people of our country and for the minorities, but we must not offer them more welfare. Our alternative must be to include them in the economic system--to offer them better jobs, better pay, dignity and equal participation within the system. A true Conservative has several key priorities, the first of which must be to conserve the human beings, and then to preserve our institutions.

I hope we get to talk soon.


Your servant,



Gil Carmichael

GC/hal

President Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.



HA

President Gerald R. Ford - 2 - November 3, 1976

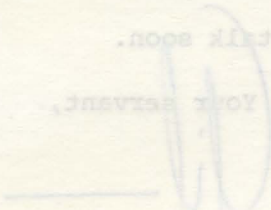
You have established deep friendship in the South, and you are our key political leader now for the development of the Republican Party in the days ahead. I hope that you realize, and the National Committee realizes, our most fertile ground is in the South. I need you to help me develop candidates in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana for the next year. I particularly urge you to take the reins of the National Republican Party and continue to be the dynamic leader you have been for the next two years.

You did something that Nixon never did for the South. You broke our connection with Jim Eastland and the old bogus Conservative Democrats. This is a significant step in the next phase of a Republican South.

I close with this: The message to us in this Presidential race this year is that we must reach out for the little people of our country and for the minorities, but we must not offer them more welfare. Our alternative must be to include them in the economic system--to offer them better jobs, better pay, dignity and equal participation within the system. A true Conservative has several key priorities, the first of which must be to conserve the human beings, and then to preserve our institutions.

I hope we get to talk soon.

Your servant,



Bill Casper

GC/hal

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.



AN