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I had to be very candid in the attached report. As you can see, some of this with regard to housing is so sensitive that I would not even discuss this with the S.C. GOP Executive Committee.
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HARRY S. DENT
SUBJECT: SOUTH CAROLINA GOP CHAIRMANSHIP

Attached is an article giving the full text of a speech I made to the South Carolina GOP Executive Committee before the election of Ken Powell over Cordes Seabrook as the new State Chairman. I told Bob Haldeman and the Attorney General I was going to have to take some part in this election.

While I was Chairman (1965-1968), we started making some small breakthroughs with the blacks. A wide open invitation was issued to all, and I spoke and debated before black groups. My successor, Ray Harris, refused to do any of this. Thus, this attitude, plus the Watson mistakes, put the racist tag all over our party in 1970. Our own GOP Mayor of Greenville called us racist.

Harris was convinced to resign as the paid Chairman. However, he was dedicated to continuing his policies so he would not be repudiated. So, he quietly lined up the votes for Powell and then announced his resignation.

There were several problems with Powell: too young, no prestige, three times a loser, he managed a race-tainted county campaign in 1970, and he gained a law partner who planned to make a killing out of the FHA 235 housing program now under investigation by Congress.

Seabrook had run winning campaigns in his area, where he put black and white votes together. Also, he had won election himself and would have no potential conflicts of interest as a successful businessman and community leader.
The new Chairman is to be unpaid again, as it was pre-Harris. Powell had to be subsidized as a County Chairman and now he has taken in a partner who has no law business. Their plan is to attract builders as clients and get for them 235 and 236 allocations (very lucrative). I found Harris already in the housing business and going big when he leaves. The South Carolina Housing Director understands to watch the potential housing conflict very carefully.

A conference was held with Harris and all this was explained. He said he had the votes and would not change to let a moderate be elected. He based his position on fear of repudiation of his leadership and loss of white votes for the party. He was given a post-election poll showing the President (51%) and Thurmond (49%) to be down in approval because of the evolution of more whites into moderates and thus a disdain for the racist party label. The poll showed 88.3% want the party's appeal to be unquestionably to all voters, black and white, and that 93% of the Republicans favor that change. Harris, in November, rammed a resolution through the Committee defending himself and pledging to "seek the votes of all who believe like we do." This position registered 4% approval in the poll.

It was decided that I should make the attached lofty speech to the Committee and give them the poll figures. This I did. However, the pro-race feeling was stronger than expected. So, they voted for Powell. Since then, Powell has said he will try to broaden the party's base. However, he has little credibility among the blacks and the emerging white moderates because he is known as the man who fought election of the first two blacks to get in the Legislature in 100 years.

My statement is receiving good publicity in South Carolina and editorials will be coming from most papers. At least, the President will be free from the taint regardless of what happens to the party and on the side of the 88% who want an open party.

Thurmond was agreeable to either candidate. He is hiring a black staff member and is appointing one to West Point.

Thus, the impression will grow that this fight did get results and removed the President and me from the racist taint in South Carolina.
Broader-Based Appeal
For GOP Urged By Dent

Harry S. Dent, former chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party and now adviser to President Richard M. Nixon, Sunday endorsed the newly-elected chairman and called for a broader based C. G. GOP to appeal to all people.

Dent, apparently endorsed Anderson nanomancer Gov. G. Sandwell Jr., who was defeated for chairman Saturday by Rep. Robert Pettus of North Powell at a meeting of the state executive committee. Dent said of Sunday, "I made a statement of principle to the committee and avoided any discussion of individuals. I set forth the ideal trends of a good chairman.

My prime concern was to see a man elected whose leadership would convince everyone that this party welcomes and seeks the support of all who want Republians to be strong.

Dent made it clear in his statement Saturday that he was speaking as an individual and not as a spokesman for the administration.

"A responsible political party," he said, "is one that is viewed by the voters as being broad enough in its philosophical base to embrace a variety of ideas and ideals. It reaches out to all the people who are not threatened or frightened by those who are innovative or those who are not. It knows that when demands for conformity become absolute they are fatal.

My friends, the voters must view us as being capable of encompassing the needs and aspirations of all of the people of our state. This is true whether all or only part choose to join our cause.

You see, my friends, a political party, like government itself, although we are alive, may be difficult to define.

The reason we are facing such a crucial time is because the decision you will be making here will determine for many years to come the future of the Republican Party in this state and our need standing at a crossroad.

You are in the process of choosing a new chairman for our state party. The choice you make will, in my judgment, determine for a decade whether most of the people will believe we have a responsible and realistic Republican Party as an effective force in this state.

A responsible political party is one that is viewed by the voters as being broad enough in its philosophical base to embrace a variety of ideas and ideals. It reaches out to all the people who are not threatened or frightened by those who are innovative or those who are not. It knows that when demands for conformity become absolute.

BARRY S. DENT
Speaking As Individual
reaches out to all the people.
The complete Dent statement to the committee follows:

I welcome this opportunity to be able to share with you today my deep convictions on a vital matter at a critical time in the history of our state party. I am especially delighted to be here with the people who have meant the most to me during my years of service to the party. You have been my trusted friends and allies in numerous political campaigns.

I have unbounded personal appreciation for what you have done in behalf of responsible government. I hope I have demonstrated this gratitude to you.

What I will relate to you today are my own personal views as a party member and contributor—not as a government employee, although I am alive this may be difficult to differentiate.

The reason we are facing such a crucial time is because the decision you will be making here will determine for many years to come the future of the Republican Party in this state and our need standing at a crossroad.

You are in the process of choosing a new chairman for our state party. The choice you make will, in my judgment, determine for a decade whether most of the people will believe we have a responsible and realistic Republican Party as an effective force in this state.

A responsible political party is one that is viewed by the voters as being broad enough in its philosophical base to embrace a variety of ideas and ideals. It reaches out to all the people who are not threatened or frightened by those who are innovative or those who are not. It knows that when demands for conformity become absolute they are fatal.

I suggest to you that if there is anything at all wrong with our state party it can be improved a thousand times over what it is today. What is needed is a leader who can convince every voter of the Republicans that we, as a group, can do what the Democrats have done, and do it better.

As you know, the late Senator Kennedy has always been a friend to the South Carolina Republican Party. He has my congratulations.

The position we have today is not as we would like it to be, but it is what we have. We must make sure that we are not caught off our guard. We must continue to be active and to be competitive. We must continue to compete.

In this spirit let me add this: In this game of life and in politics, we must live by our principles and our ability to perceive—that is, our knowledge and vision of what is right and just under all circumstances in which we find ourselves.

(Continued From 1-B)