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Statement of George Meany

October 25, 1972

This presidential campaign has confirmed and strengthened my deep conviction that the best interests of working people, of the Democratic Party, and of the United States call for the repudiation of George McGovern at the polls, November 7.

For the politics and policies of George McGovern threaten all three.

George McGovern has always been a critic of those Americans who stood up to Communism, and an apologist for the Communist world. And the war in Vietnam has been no exception. Today, he compares the President of the United States to Adolf Hitler, and Ho Chi Minh to George Washington. His latest "peace" proposal would surrender to the Communist enemy concessions even they themselves have not demanded. It would disgrace our nation. And while he has a "plan" -- wholesale amnesty -- to bring home the draft-dodgers from Canada and Sweden, he has no plan, no guarantee that we will ever see our prisoners again.

His promise to go "begging" to Hanoi is both insufficient and intolerable.

His unilateral cuts in America's defense budgets -- condemned by Senators Humphrey and Jackson -- would leave America exposed to nuclear blackmail, endanger the security of free nations in Europe and the Middle East, and tilt the global balance of power in favor of the Soviet Union.
While he has dreamed up three gigantic welfare plans, he has nothing comparable for the working men and women of this country, whose jobs are jeopardized by his recommended cuts in space and defense.

Mr. McGovern and the elitists around him seem less interested in the real needs of working people than they do in their own favorite, exotic issues -- like quotas, amnesty, free abortion, thousand dollar giveaways, and marijuana. The so-called intellectuals who have gathered about him from the campus elite are the same individuals who in recent years have shown such contempt for the basic values, principles and beliefs held dear by working men and women all over America. They do not deserve to occupy the White House. And Senator McGovern deserves that fate American voters have always reserved for those politicians who tried to build themselves up by tearing America down.

Just as George McGovern exercised his right to abandon Harry Truman and the Democratic Party for the radicals in 1948, so millions of working people in 1972 are going to vote their beliefs and against him.

I urge working people and Democrats in particular to go to the polls on November 7 and repudiate George McGovern -- and then join hands with the American labor movement and take our party back from the extremists beginning the morning of November Eighth.

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Wednesday's edition of the Washington Post presents the most conclusive evidence of political prostitution of the press in recent memory.

The Post's banner story of that day was and is a phony from beginning to end. It had been floating around town for more than a week that it was coming. Larry O'Brien, Senator McGovern's campaign manager had been publicly promising and predicting its arrival almost to the hour. And, 10 and behold, it arrived the morning of the evening of George McGovern's paid broadcast on the so-called "corruption" issue. Indeed, it arrived precisely at the point where it would do the most to promote the McGovern show -- by forcing networks, wires and afternoon papers to follow up the story with questions and coverage.

As an example of collusion between the McGovernites and the Post, as an example of good P. R. promotion of a McGovern show by the editors of the Post -- it was first-rate. As an example of objective and honest reporting and coverage -- it was a joke.

Mrs. Graham and her obsequious subordinates at the Post have allowed their undisguised hatred of the President of the United States to get the better of them. They should be, frankly, more discreet about their cohabitation with Mr. McGovern.

Here is how the daisy chain operates. The Post puts a banner headline on some unsubstantiated charges by unnamed sources. Within minutes George McGovern is out on the stump accusing the President personally
of being responsible for whatever the Post has alleged and the next morning the Post runs McGovern's repetition of the Post's charges as the hard political news of the day. And on and on and on.

This Post operation is a desperate last-ditch effort to prevent the political humiliation of their radical friend, Mr. McGovern, and to inflict maximum political damage upon the administration and person of the President of the United States.

Like George McGovern, the Post is an imposter and a pious fraud. The former, who promised Senator Eagleton his 1000% support and then stabbed him in the back in one of the most cynical and savage political acts of our time, runs about the country posing as Mr. Morality. The latter, the Washington Post, postures as an objective high-minded, even-handed newspaper while working the gutter for George McGovern.

Mr. McGovern is going down to defeat because his radical defeateest politics would disgrace this nation before the world, his domestic ideas border on the idiotic, and his campaign tactics and rhetoric are among the most vile and filthy in American political history. And the Post, just as it has collaborated and conspired in his campaign, will share with him the nation's repudiation.

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