

shattering crises on the political mind of State and nation. Above all, we wanted to observe the reactions of the contenders for the Presidency and weigh any alterations in their political positions.

I have observed, analysed, weighed, and decided. Consequently the retention of a Favorite Son candidacy would be a travesty of all I believe. Therefore I am releasing Maryland's delegation to cast their votes as they see fit on the first ballot.

I cannot speak for the Maryland delegation, but as an individual delegate months of soul searching thought and days of private discussions with the candidates have led me to the following conclusions:

The 1968 election will revolve around many issues — Vietnam and world peace; the volcanos we call cities; inflation and rising taxes; *civil rights and civil disorders*. But the underlying and ultimate issue is the survival of America's enduring values in a time of troubled and turbulent change.

America and America's Republican Party are fortunate that at this time, when new leadership is so desperately needed, our party offers so many proven leaders.

Each of the three serious contenders for the Republican nomination possesses the qualifications and the capacity to assume the duties and burdens of the Presidency.

Governor Reagan, in his brief tenure as chief executive of California, has masterfully and imaginatively administered America's most populous state.

Governor Rockefeller's record over the past ten years stands as an example and an inspiration to all Governors, present and future. His administration has been one of unprecedented action and achievement.

Vice President Nixon's experience is without peer. He alone has held the awesome power and responsibilities granted the one man a heartbeat from the Presidency. He alone has known the years of legislative seasoning as a Congressman and a Senator. He alone has confronted world leaders and participated in top level national security decisions.

Thus, the difference does not entirely rest in past experience or present preparation, but in each candidate's worth to the future. We need a man of calm strength, a master of strategy able to resist for the good of the country the clamor of those who — some in good