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The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

March 13, 1968

a bill to the Senate under conditions which would permit another long and disruptive filibuster. Please do all you can March 13, 1968 that contingency.

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gerry:

With best wishes for your continued success, I am,

I wanted to write you privately about the civil rights bill which has passed the Senate and been sent back to the House. I know you have been giving much thought to the measure. I think it is absolutely vital that the members of our Party take a strong role in working for final passage. I believe the consensus which emerged in the Senate, where only three Republicans voted against the bill, represents a moral and political victory of which our Party will long be proud.

KWB/np

The importance of this measure has been impressed upon me with special force during the work of the Commission on Civil Disorders. Nothing is so clear to me as the necessity to convince all our people that we are continuing to make progress toward the just and free society to which we are dedicated. The tragic evidence of Detroit and elsewhere is that too many of those trapped in the ghetto have come to doubt that social justice under law will be realized in our country. I have no illusions that the bill which passed the Senate will restore total confidence in the fairness of our social arrangements, but it will be a signal contribution to equal rights for all our citizens.

I feel more deeply than I can say that the nation desperately needs this legislation. And I believe our Party, if it is to move into the future with vigor and effectiveness, must take its stand in support of it. We simply must not adopt a position which brands us as insensitive to the issues affected by this bill, for they are the paramount issues with which our society must deal in the years to come.

I earnestly hope you will find it possible to develop dramatic support for the measure among House Republicans. Those with whom I have spoken certainly appreciate its significance and are willing to work with you for final adoption. I believe it is terribly important to try for House action on the version approved by the Senate, since the parliamentary alternatives all raise the danger of returning

Ford, Gerald R.

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a bill to the Senate under conditions which would permit another long and disruptive filibuster. Please do all you can to save us from that contingency.

If there is any way in which I can be helpful to you in this effort, I hope you will call on me, for there is no more critical business than that in which you are now engaged.

With best wishes for your continued success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Edward W. Brooke

EWB/np