Carl Sandburg Hall Rm. N220A
Box A1432
3400 No. Maryland Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
September 15, 1972

Richard J. Johnson
2402 Willow Lane
Rolling Meadows, Illinois

Answered 9/16/72

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Help!!

I am a second-semester junior at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee majoring in Political Science and I need your help desperately. With a new school year comes new projects that professors assign to their students. One of my projects, which I am presently engrossed in, is concerned with this election year and with the state of Illinois. It is my assignment to predict the outcome of the presidential election in your state.

I have recently read about your unique and thrilling experience in being on the campaign trail with Senator McGovern for a week. I realize that many have asked you for some kind of prediction or other in regard to the presidential outcome. I promise you that I won't even attempt to ask for any predictions from you. What I am hoping for is that you might give me some insight into how the McGovern campaign is going or fairing now in Illinois and in your own community. I am also interested in any problems that might be confronting the McGovern campaign in your state and your community and also any achievements that might have been made since the campaign got under way.

I realize that you could possibly write a book about your experience and your answers to my questions. However, a few lines or a few words will be very helpful to me in completing my project. I would appreciate it very much if you could and would help me. There is only so much information one can acquire from books and the media and so I desperately need your help.

Thank you very much for your time and sincerely hope to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Siebers

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Mr. Richard J. Johnson
2402 Willow ~~Lane~~ ROAD
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

Dear Mr Siebers

Sept 16, 1972

Thank you for your letter received today showing your interest in this election year, concerning particularly the State of Illinois and the status of The Sen. McGovern campaign here in this state.

Regarding my experience last week with Sen. McGovern and his campaign trail I must say it was something that I wish every young American had the opportunity to do. Not so much because it was Sen McGovern but just the fact to be able to be there with a Presidential Candidate and see the whole operation in Action.

I was fortunate to have two interviews with the Senator and found him to be most congenial a very dedicate religious man and someone I admire greatly but honestly I feel that he is too far behind in this Election year to be able to catch up with President Nixon. The Press with whom I was traveling stated the Senator has two main problems - 1 - as like Vice President Agnew in 1968 the Senator is a comparatively unknown and must expose himself to many voters in all the Cities across the country, of course giving his views on the main issues of this election year, mainly, TAXES, Price Wage & food prices and the Viet Nam War. The Eagleton affair greatly hurt him and another problem he is being confronted with is the Apparent Changes he has accomplished in many areas, where he retracts things on occasion. His 2nd big problem is all polls indicate he is very far behind and much effort is needed to close the Gap.

You say you are interested in The State of Illinois concerning McGovern. On my trip last week I had the opportunity to visit Peoria, Ill and Rockford, Ill with the tour and in both Cities much indifference met him especially more so in Peoria downstate as we say it. Mayor Daley of Chgo is trying to mend his differences with the Senator and if Illinois is to go Democrat this year it is a must that Mayor Daley backs Sen McGovern and the Northern Vote of the State heads in McGovern direction. The Southern Part of the State of Ill is traditionally Republican and only a quick change of habit will reflect a Democratic vote from that area.

From my viewpoint I can't possibly see how the Senator can be elected in Nov however. one really never knows for sure. At present I am uncommitted to either Candidate, ~~the~~ I am leaning toward Nixon tho I am a registered Democrat.

Lots ~~Luck~~ of Luck to you at School and I hope I have helped you a little in your course as a second semester Junior.

Very Truly Yours

Mr Richard J John
2402 Willow Ln
Rolling Meadows Ill
60008

P.S- Here are a few clippings for your Keeping.