



April 12, 2006

Ferrell Blount
Chairman

Linda Daves
Vice Chairman

Mr. Jerry Meek, Chairman
North Carolina Democrat Party
220 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

VIA FACSIMILE 919-821-4778

Dear Jerry,

Forty five years ago this month John F. Kennedy in a message to Congress stated, "The basis of effective government is public confidence, and that confidence is endangered when ethical standards falter or appear to falter."

The Democrat and Republican Parties offer very different solutions to the problems which face our state. Sometimes we disagree strongly but on the need for ethics reform in state government we strongly agree. I greatly appreciate your call for ethics reforms and I am pleased your party appears to have taken this issue for which Republican legislators have been calling.

But reform is only part of the solution.

In the same message to Congress President Kennedy stated, "The ultimate answer to ethical problems in government is honest people in a good ethical environment. No web of statute or regulation, however intricately conceived, can hope to deal with the myriad possible challenges to a man's integrity or his devotion to the public interest."

You and I are in unique positions. As the State Chairmen of the two political parties we are the champions of our parties' respective goals but we also have a duty and a responsibility to the State to make sure that those candidates running under our respective banners are of a caliber worthy to hold the public trust of office. And when we find someone who does not meet that high standard we should call upon them to stand down and if necessary take steps to remove them from office without regard to party registration.

It is with that in mind that I write to you today.



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The use of slush funds, back room deals and purchased alliances is no way to run a government or to obtain honored public positions. The graft and corruption which has been exposed has impacted public confidence. And there are elected officials from both parties with dirty hands.

Michael Decker was defeated in a Republican primary in 2004. I am doing everything I can to see that Speaker Pro Tem Richard Morgan is replaced in the 2006 Republican primary.

Now I am asking you, a fellow state chairman and North Carolinian, to take the courageous step of asking a member of your own party, Jim Black, to resign. I know that this issue has not been easy for you and your silence on the issue evidences the conflict I imagine you must feel.

In your campaign for State Chairman you ran against the established Democrat power structure to represent the grassroots of your party. Represent them now. Working together we can clean up state government and have a fair and open debate about solutions to problems.

I leave you with a quote from one other Democrat President, Woodrow Wilson. He said, "I love the Democrat Party; but I love America a great deal more....When the Democrat Party thinks that it is an end in itself, then I rise up and dissent."

Sincerely,

[original letter was signed]

Ferrell Blount