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FOR RELEASE AFTER 6 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1970

STATEMENT PREPARED FOR DELIVERY, ON THE SENATE FLOOR, DEC. 2

PRESIDENTIAL HOUR

Mr. President, after much consideration and considerable observation, both visual and oral, I have concluded that the Senate of the United States would be justified in making a change in its rules, effective at the beginning of the 92nd Congress.

Mr. President, I urge that all the members of the Senate, in recognition of the laudable ambitions of some of our members, set aside during each day we are in session a special period not to exceed one hour. That period, preferably to follow immediately at the close of the morning hour, would be known aptly as the "Presidential Hour."

As I visualize it, the Presidential hour would be reserved for four groups of Senators: FIRST, those Senators who think they are President; SECOND, those Senators who think they should have been President; THIRD, those Senators who think they want to be President; and FOURTH, those Senators who are ready to settle for being Vice President.

Mr. President, there are several advantages to my proposal, and they should be weighed carefully.

FIRST of all, such an hour should effectively separate the campaign rhetoric from the serious debate.

SECONDLY, it would identify for the members, the press and the public which of the Senators has or has had higher ambitions.

THIRDLY, it would lend credibility -- or perhaps incredibility -- to what these Presidential aspirants have to say.

I might add, Mr. President, that such an hour, while it would benefit primarily Democrats for the next two years, would, after President Nixon's reelection, be of equal benefit to some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle.

In any event, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to give this proposal consideration.