

NEWS

From The Republican National Committee

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RNC LAUNCHES FUND FOR KANSAS CITY FLOOD RELIEF

WASHINGTON---Delegates and alternates to the 1976 Republican National Convention are being urged by Republican National Chairman Bill Brock to donate disaster aid to the people of the Convention's host city, Kansas City, Mo., and neighboring Kansas City, Kan., devastated by flooding earlier this month.

Supporting the GOP disaster appeal are Sen. Robert Dole (R., Kan.), Sen. James Pearson (R., Kan.), Sen. John Danforth (R., Mo.), Rep. Thomas Coleman (R., Mo.) and Rep. Larry Winn (R., Kan.).

"A year ago, the people of Kansas City opened their homes and hearts to us to help make the 1976 Republican National Convention a memorable event," GOP National Chairman Bill Brock wrote in an appeal letter to all 4,500 delegates and alternates.

"I am writing you this letter because (the people of Kansas City) need our help now.

"When I left Kansas City, I felt a deep appreciation for the hospitality and friendship that had been shown to us. This natural disaster provides us with a unique opportunity to repay a small portion of that kindness and gratitude."

The flood, the worst in Kansas City's history, left more than two dozen people dead and another 20 missing. Hundreds of homes and businesses were destroyed by swirling waters forced above flood levels by rainfall.

Funds donated by the Republican delegates and alternates will be administered by United Way. Checks are to be made payable to "United Way - Flood Relief," with all funds collected to be used for disaster relief effort. The Republican National Committee is bearing the cost of the solicitation.

(NOTE: The text of the Brock letter is attached.)

Dear Friend:

A year ago the people of Kansas City opened their homes and hearts to us to help make the 1976 Republican National Convention a memorable event. I am writing you this letter because it is the fastest way to tell you that our friends in Kansas City, people who went out of their way to help us during the National Convention, need our help now.

As you know, a terrible flood, the worst in the City's history, has killed more than two dozen people in the Kansas City area. Many people are still missing, swept away by waters that mowed down rows of shops and homes we visited, scarred neighborhoods and small businesses with wrecks of twisted automobiles and left deposits of mud, slime, and debris in many sections of the city. The flood waters, caused by rain swollen creeks, led to one of the most severe natural disasters ever in the mid-West. The emotional and psychological trauma imposed upon the citizens of Kansas City will take months, even years, to erase.

As you would expect, there is a critical need for assistance. The Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other groups have come to the aid of Kansas City and its wonderful people during their time of need. To help in the effort, the National Committee has established a special fund to aid victims of the flood. All donations are tax-deductible and will be applied directly to flood relief. There will be absolutely no overhead or other expenses to detract from the help your money can bring to these disaster victims.

Last year we received much from the people of Kansas City. This year, I personally ask you to respond to their needs. Any amount you can afford would be deeply appreciated and help provide critical relief efforts. To be truly effective relief efforts must be undertaken immediately. So, please send a check today for \$25, \$50 or even \$100. Your check should be made payable to the United Way -- Flood Relief and mailed in the enclosed envelope.

When I left Kansas City, I felt a deep appreciation for the hospitality and friendliness that had been shown to us. This natural disaster provides us with a unique opportunity to repay a small portion of that kindness and gratitude. Please mail your contribution right now.

Very truly yours,

BILL BROCK