Interview by Lee Nichols
at Republican National Convention

[25 July 1960]
[Chicago, Ill.]
Yes, I think it's very important. As you know the Democratic Party in its plank at least expressed sympathy for the sit-ins, and I think the Republican Party should do the same. In fact, I would like to see the Party come out with an explicit statement endorsing the sit-in demonstration.

There's been a suggestion that the Republican platform not promise more than can be delivered. Do you think that the Democratic plank on civil rights promise more than can be delivered?

Well, this is difficult to say. We will have to wait to see. They have promised to deliver it. We would hope so, and we will certainly demand and urge the leaders of the party to come out with it. Whether this will be done is something else, but the implementation is certainly the important issue now.

Have you had a chance to compare the points of those fourteen points approved by Vice President Nixon and Nelson Rockefeller? How does that point compare to the Democratic platform plank?

Well, I think it's [break in tape] very well. Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Nixon came out with something very significant and important, and I think it [words inaudible] with it very well. Now, whether this will come out as the final statement of the final plank is not known yet, but I think this would be very important if it does emerge.

Well, I thank you very much, Reverend Martin Luther King. This is Lee Nichols in front of the amphitheater with the NBC mobile unit.

The final draft of the 1960 Republican platform reaffirmed "the constitutional right to peaceable assembly to protest discrimination by private business establishments" and applauded "the action of the businessmen who have abandoned discriminatory practices in retail establishments." The platform also pledged "the full use of power, resources and leadership of the Federal Government to eliminate discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin" (Official Report of the Proceedings of the Republican National Convention [Washington, D.C.: Republican National Committee, 1960], p. 256).


As the camera pulls away, the film focuses on a large group of protesters carrying signs that read "End School Segregation—Endorse Supreme Court Decision" and "End Your Equivocation—Oppose Job Discrimination—Support FEPC."