

A P R O G R A M F O R

T E X A S

D E M O C R A T S

INTRODUCTION

"What is not yet done is only what has not yet been attempted."
(Alexis de Tocqueville)

In recent years, a series of events have sent shock waves through the country. Environmental decay, the Vietnam war, the apparent failure of the social programs of the 1960s, energy shortages and the crisis of Watergate have ushered in a new era in which we face a new and somewhat alien reality.

Just as our geographic frontier reached its limits at the turn of the century, our frontier mentality has now been closed. We are now aware that both human and natural resources are finite, that the economy is not ever-expanding, that all levels of government are strained, that our ever-increasing problems cannot always be solved by an ever-increasing federal bureaucracy.

We enter this new era, not by choice, but because of changed circumstances. In the last quarter of the twentieth century we must make the difficult choices that these difficult times demand. At every level of government, we must seek new responses to our problems.

In this new era, our vision is unchanged, our principles remain firm. Our unswerving dedication to individual dignity and autonomy is unshaken. It is new answers we seek, not new dreams.

In our state, Texas Democrats must formulate a new program to deal with this new reality. We cannot use yesterday's answers for today's questions.