

FROM: BEGUN FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE
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For Immediate Release

Martin S. Begun, Administrative Dean of the New York University School of Medicine, gained the support of former Mayors Beame and Wagner today (Friday, January 6th, 11:30 A.M.) in his campaign for the Congressional seat vacated by Mayor Koch.

Mr. Beame and Mr. Wagner joined Mr. Begun at a news conference in the Warwick Hotel, 54th Street and Sixth Avenue, Manhattan. Mr. Begun, who for twelve years was a Democratic District Leader in Manhattan's 68th A.D., is currently chairman of the city's Mental Health Advisory Board.

On hand also to endorse Mr. Begun were Joel Harnett, Robin Farkas, Dr. Howard Rusk, Charlotte Spiegel, Marion Logan, Marvin and Helene Rosenberg, Frank Karelsen, Sr., Bruno Cappellini, Roxanne Olivo and Bruce Gant, and district leaders Alan Warshauer, Lolly Gershuny and Howard Amron. Also endorsing, but not attending, are Edward Costikyan, Eugene Bockman, Dr. Arthur Hertzberg and Eugene Lang.

In a statement, Mr. Begun said, "in a time of continuing expansion of the Federal government, it is imperative that the congressman from this district make every government agency aware that it is there to serve the needs of individuals and institutions, and aware also of the enormous and urgent needs of our city.

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"The congressman must be a strong advocate of the people before a bureaucracy that too often treats them with indifference."

Mr. Begun said that he has no intention of being a "traditional" congressman who relegates matters affecting his constituents to staff members.

"Rather, I will intervene personally with the bureaucracy in as many instances as possible. This approach will not only help to solve a constituent's particular problem, but also will be of value in parallel situations. When a congressman is personally involved, he teaches the bureaucracy something that will help in other cases," he said.

Mr. Begun said the impact of the Federal government on every aspect of our lives is so great, "that the duty of the congressman must be to insure that the intent of the Congress is carried out.

"The congressman must take the responsibility of making certain that the laws are properly administered and applied in a manner that is consistent with legislative objectives.

"One way in which this could be achieved would be through regular public hearings that would be conducted in New York by the city's congressional delegation. These hearings would be open to all state and local officials and to the public, who would comment on the performance of federal government agencies and discuss their problems--face to face--with their congressmen and the appropriate federal agency officials."

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In discussing the city's fiscal crisis, he said members of Congress must fight for continuation of seasonal financing as well as the creation of an urban bank to deal with future financing problems.

"And while we need more financial aid, the congressmen must make certain that this city spends its money in a timely and productive manner. This is the only way a New York congressman can gain the respect of his colleagues around the country; restore the city's damaged credibility and obtain for the city the Federal funds we so desperately need."

Mr. Begun emphasized, "I believe I am such a person and that is why I am a candidate."

He said, "over the last eight years Ed Koch and I co-chaired the highly productive Congressional District Caucus of public and party officials. We designed the caucus to coordinate the efforts of those who were working together on substantive community issues. It brought together our combined strengths in the search for solutions to a range of issues of local impact.

"It is my intention to sustain this record of achievement and to continue to harness the talents and dedication of all who can contribute their time and effort to community service."

With regard to major issues that will confront Congress in the years ahead, Mr. Begun stressed that "the most important piece of social service legislation since the Social Security Act will be a national health plan."

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Citing his 20-year-career in health and education, he said that "none of the 435 members of the House of Representatives has my expertise or background in the field of provider health care."

"The only exceptions are a handful of physicians who adhere closely to the positions advanced by the American Medical Association."

"I, therefore, believe that I can make an important contribution in the formulation of a national health care plan that will be comprehensive, cost effective and, above all, humane."

Mr. Begun, who is 42 years old, was born in Washington Heights and has resided in the 18th C.D. for the past seventeen years. He was educated at the University of Wisconsin and at Columbia University, where he received a master's degree in public law and government.

In addition to his administrative post at N.Y.U. Medical School, he is an associate professor of medical administration at that institution, and was a lecturer in government at Baruch College of the City University.

From 1971 to 1973 he was secretary of the New York County Democratic Committee; for two years thereafter was chairman of the executive committee for the county organization, and in 1975 he was the reform candidate for County Leader.

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