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STATEMENT OF JOHN CLAY SMITH, JR.
ON OCCASION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF BEING GRADUATED FROM
OMAHA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

August 9, 1980

My Dear Friends:

I regret that circumstances beyond my control make it impossible for me to attend and to participate in this, the twentieth year class reunion of the graduating class of 1960, from Omaha South High School. I did want to share these brief thoughts with you because class reunions are special and each of you is special to me.

By now the class of 1960 has learned that the greatest days of our lives were spent together under the leadership of Richard C. Krebs, our principal, and the sterling faculty of South High School. All of us were privileged to know each other and, in the environment of learning, to experience love, hatred, sadness, happiness, poverty and the richness of living.

Many significant events have occurred since we were graduated from South High: The Vietnam War, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X.

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Our nation placed a man on the moon. A test tube baby has been born. The world has been reduced in time and space to the extent that a traveller can eat breakfast in Omaha, land in New York City, and have dinner in London. The nations of the world are now more interdependent. However, bubble gum is no longer one cent a lump, and the penny suckers that we silently chewed on in class are now a dime. Yes, the last twenty years have brought changes in the society and into each of our individual lives.

Therefore, this reunion is one of joy. This is so because we are able to laugh with our friends and observe that those who claimed that they would never marry have been married three times; observe the beauty of our greying hair, and protruding middle levels. Oh, the stories that will be told in the next few hours. I'll miss not hearing them.

We all miss those in the class of 1960 who have been called to heaven and who share this reunion in spirit.

In closing, the class of 1960 commenced in a new decade. This reunion is the first of the decade of the 1980's. We must pledge to keep our minds and bodies strong;

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our families together; our spirits high and free from
the slavery of despair; and our country free.

This was the spirit of the class of 1960 and
so it is . . . God bless you all.

John Clay Smith, Jr.

JOHN CLAY SMITH, JR.
PRESIDENT, CLASS OF 1960
OMAHA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL