equal opportunity in farm programs

AN APPRAISAL OF SERVICES RENDERED BY AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL MARCH 1, 1965

A Report of the United States Commission on Civil Rights

1965

[book pages not scanned,
see pdf properties for info] -

EXECUTIVE

FG1
FO3-2
FI4
HU2

Foreign Aid

American foreign aid is not a give-away program. Neither is it an instrument for United States imperialism, economic or political. It is nothing more or less than a program in the great American tradition to help our neighbors and friends who need help and are willing to use it cooperatively and constructively.

The Presidency: The Succession

I do not believe that there should be a moment of time when this nation is without the protection of a successor to the President who is prepared and qualified to take on its great responsibilities of tragedy should overtake the President.

Under our law, the Speaker of the House of Representatives is now the potential successor to the Presidency. I am asking him, along with his duties as Speaker, also to work closely with me; to become a member, ex-officio, of the National Security Council and otherwise to become as familiar with the problems of the Nation and the Presidency as if he was Vice-President.

(Reasons in addition to those stated: Closer liaison with the House; strengthening House leadership; Catholics; Massachusetts.)

Fiscal-Economy-The Budget

I believe-I have always believed, in a balanced notional budget. I pledge to you that I shall continue to work for this with all my strength and dedication.

But a balanced budget cannot be obtained by a stroke of the pen, nor can it be secured overnight.

We do not want to balanced budget at the price of our national security, or of our prosperity; or at the cost of depriving any segment of our people of an opportunity for employment, good housing, or education for their children, or of a rising standard of living. We do not want a balanced budget by bleeding our nationalof its strength or by failing to conserve and build its resources. This generatian of Americans does not want to balance its budget at the expense of future generations.

How, then, shall we seek it? We must move, rapidly and forcefully in two directions: First, to accelerate the growth of our economy by encouraging business, both domestic and export and to increase the income of all of our people; and Second, by the practice of the strictest economy in all of our government activities.

Fiscal-Economy-The Budget (contd)

I am calling on all Federal personnel -- from the Cabinet members and heads of departments and agencies to those performing the humblest tasks -- to cut expenditures to the bone. I am asking that each activity of the Federal government reduce its costs of

EXECUTIVE

HU2

Mo

April 13, 1965

Bill for last name

Dear Mr. Gordon Walker:

I have just read your very warm and inspiring note on the manner in which we in this country are approaching our civil rights problem. It is most reassuring to have your good words.

Sincerely,

LBJ

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

ok per AB.

Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker
22, South Square
London, N. W. 11, England

LBJ:LCW:McGB:ab

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Walker:

I have just read your very warm and inspiring note on the manner in which we in this country are approaching our civil rights problem. It is most reassuring to have your good words.

I am pleased that the peculiar turn of your own personal life has in no way diminished your interest in important problems facing mankind in every portion of the world and I hope that you will continue to make a significant contribution to the understanding and the solution of those problems.

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker
22, South Square
London, N. W. 11

17
pa

3/30

22, SOUTH SQUARE,
LONDON, N. W. 11.
SPEEDWELL ~~[illegible]~~ 2289

22 March 1965

Dear Mr President,

May I as a private citizen who met you not so long ago in a public capacity, say how deeply I admire the stand you have made on the civil rights issue. It has filled millions outside your country with new hope. It could not have been better or more nobly done.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Gordon Walker

EXECUTIVE
PR6-1 IA*
HU 2

April 9, 1965

*American Seeking Knowledge

Dear Mr. Paul:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter. He appreciates the interest which prompted you to let him have your comments and is pleased to know that you are in accord with his recommendations. It is especially helpful for him as he charts the nation's course to a more prosperous and peaceful society to have the views of his fellow citizens on matters of interest and concern to our country.

Although I must return your enclosure unsigned, I am pleased to enclose a signed White House card.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Juanita D. Roberts
Personal Secretary
to the President

Mr. Peter F. Paul
7990 Montgomery Drive
Miami, Florida

Enclosures: WH card, signed: "Lyndon B. Johnson." and writer's copy of P's telegram to Governor Wallace ret'd.

mo

Back to Buzz

THE WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1965

H/4 2
FG 100
PR 15-4

Mr. President: DNC

At your suggestion, I asked Louis Martin to distribute your statement at the last Cabinet meeting to the Negro press. I have thanked him for the attached well done job. I thought you might like to see it.

Horace Busby

Boon
Tom

news release

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE PUBLICITY DIVISION 1730 K STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON 6, D.C. FEDERAL 3-8750

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 31, 1965

B - 4003

President Johnson Warns Cabinet, Agency Heads of Their Civil Rights Responsibility

President Johnson in an unprecedented meeting of his Cabinet and Agency heads last Thursday warned that "...there must be equal treatment, equal respect, equal service--and equal support--for all American citizens, regardless of race, or sex, or region, or religion."

The President said that he wanted this message communicated "to every office and officer, whatever their rank or position, of the Federal service and to take all appropriate measures to assure full compliance with the spirit of the law that governs and guards us all."

The President told his Cabinet that "regional custom, local tradition, personal prejudice or predilection are no excuse, no justification, no defense in this regards."

The text of the President's remarks to the heads of the Executive Branch of government follows:

"I want to make one thing unmistakably and indelibly clear to every Department, every Agency, every office and every employee of the Government of the United States.

"The Federal service must never be either the active or passive ally of any who flout the Constitution of the United States.

"Regional custom, local tradition, personal prejudice or predilection are no excuses, no justification, no defense in this regard.

"Where there is an office or an officer of this Government, there must be equal treatment, equal respect, equal service -- and equal support -- for all American citizens, regardless of race, or sex, or region, or religion.

"Public service is a public trust. I would call upon every Federal civilian employee to remember that he bears a high and solemn trust to the Constitution under which he serves. If all about him -- neighbors, friends, fellow townsmen, even family -- falter or fail in respect for the Constitutional rights of others, the public servant in the service of his country has a duty to protect, defend and uphold those rights by word and deed.

"The Federal service asks no conformity -- no uniformity of thought and no unanimity of vote. But where Constitutional rights are concerned, the country can ask no more -- and accept no less -- than uncompromising devotion to the Constitution itself.

"I am asking the heads of each Department and Agency to communicate this to every office and officer, whatever their rank or position, of the Federal service and to take all appropriate measures to assure full compliance with the spirit of the law that governs and guards us all."

# # #

gch/

EXECUTIVE (2)+

ME3/Y*

HU2

Marsh, Leo B.

NIGHT LETTER April 8, 1965

Admiral Chester C. Wood
Y. M. C. A. Conference
1964 Civil Rights Legislation
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Please extend my greetings to all participants in the YMCA Conference on the 1964 Civil Rights Legislation.

Those of you who work with the youth of America bear a great responsibility. It is by your word and deed in all of your activities that you transmit to the future leaders of our nation America's commitment to the basic principle of equality of opportunity. It is the task of organizations such as the YMCA to uphold not only the letter of the civil rights law but the spirit as well.

We should look to the Civil Rights Act to determine our minimum response to this great national concern. We need to look to our consciences for guidance if we are to uphold the spirit of the Civil Rights Act.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

LBJ: FLH: MB

CC: Mr. Holborn and Central Files PR Unit and Mr. Reedy

EXECUTIVE (3)
PR 18
Hu 2
Pu 2-2/S*

April 8, 1965

Dear Mr. Stanley:

I have placed the corrected copy of your statement in the President's file. We deeply appreciate your sending both the statement and your tribute. Your thoughtfulness in doing so is just another fine example of the encouraging support you continue to give the President.

Sincerely,

Jack Valenti
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. Frank L. Stanley
National Newspaper Publishers Association
1503-5 West Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

RECEIVED
APR 9 1965
CENTRAL FILES

JV:PB:mw

pl

BROUGHT FORWARD

EXECUTIVE

HU 2 4/6/65
Previously Filed Date

NAME Interoffice Memo, J. Valenti for L. White

ORGANIZATION NATIONAL LAWYERS CONTE.

EXECUTIVE

HU 2 5/5/65
New File Symbol Date

FINAL ACTION Memo to President for L. White re above Org.

54

Bill

file

April 3, 1965

TO CHRISTINE STUGARD

EXECUTIVE
WHS-1
PP5/Johnson, Mrs L.B.
HU
PR3

Attached is a draft reply which yoim might consider.

-Paul M. Popple

(RSG "Answer on behalf of Mrs. Johnson" to letters "opposing President's Civil Rights stand."

gah/R

EXECUTIVE

HU 2

APR 2 - 1965

Dear Mr. Tillson:

I am grateful to you for your letter supporting my stand in the quest for civil rights. As you say, there are encouraging signs of fairness and reconciliation throughout the Nation.

With the help of men and women such as yourself and Mrs. Tillson, we will bring this long struggle to a just resolution.

Sincerely,

LBJ

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Mr. John B. Tillson
Treasurer
The Protestant Episcopal
Diocese of Massachusetts
One Joy Street
Boston, Massachusetts

LBJ/HCM/net

RECEIVED
APR 3 1965
CENTRAL FILES

The Protestant EPISCOPAL Diocese of Massachusetts

ONE JOY STREET, BOSTON / TELEPHONE CApitol 7-5210

March 30, 1965

The Honorable Lydon B. Johnson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Having sent you a wire right after the bloody events in Selma, I wish to write and congratulate you upon the strong stand you have taken regarding the matter of Civil Rights and personal liberties. It has been an inspiration to the entire nation, and I am sure you are encouraged by the signs of reconciliation which are beginning to show in the south. Having married a fellow Texan of yours who is deeply involved and committed to this whole matter we can appreciate to some degree the personal torture that these decisions have involved for you and Mrs. Johnson. Please be assured of our continued support and best wishes.

Cordially yours,

John B. Tillson

John B. Tillson
Treasurer

vt

THE WHITE HOUSE
RECEIVED

1965 MAR 31 PM 1 09

GER:

The attached research compiled by DNC is attached as you authorized. I would like to call to your specific attention pages 323, 324 and 325, all excerpts from the 1949 speech on FEPC, etc.

dt

4/2/65

sent April 2, 1965

EXECUTIVE

PR 15-4
PA 1/FG 296
HU 2
SP

AGENCY

65

The United States Information Agency is preparing a magazine-type pamphlet on President Johnson and Civil Rights. We plan to use extensive quotations from Mr. Johnson's statements on Civil Rights, not only during the time he has been President but going back over the years to his earliest days as a Congressman.

I would appreciate it greatly if you could request Dorothy Territo to compile as complete a set of such quotations as possible. These quotations are needed by March 30.

Sincerely,

Lloyd

Lloyd Wright
Director
Press and Publications Service

Mr. George Reedy
The White House

RECEIVED
APR 5 1965
CENTRAL FILES

April 1, 1965

Dear Bill:

Sam F. Jim Lance

I have a good letter from Bishop Creighton on my desk. He expresses his concern for the civil rights struggle and acknowledges our efforts to achieve its just resolution.

I am very grateful to you, Bill, for discussing the matter with him.

The issue is not this Administration's commitment to civil rights. I believe that is understood. As always, the real question is the degree of understanding among men of good will whose goal is the same: a free and orderly society. All that we do depends on that understanding, and you broadened and deepened it last week-end.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

The Reverend William M. Baxter
St. Mark's Church
Third and A Streets, S. E.
Washington 3, D. C.

LBJ/HCM/net

P.S. See LIFE and Dean Sayre this week. I'm glad to have his assistance but do wish he could know what I've been doing.

gah/P

EXECUTIVE
HU 2
PR 4/ST 41

April 1, 1965

Dear Mrs. Wallner:

I was very happy to receive your message indicating your approval of the many difficult decisions that have had to be made in the past few weeks on one of the most important domestic issues facing the Nation. I have made every effort to consider each of these matters as they arise as fully and fairly as I know how and I want you to know that it is most encouraging to receive messages such as the one you sent.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Mrs. Frank H. Wallner
Democratic National Committeewoman
for South Dakota
Sioux Falls, South Dakora

LBJ:LCW:kn

The White House
Washington

1965 MAR 27 PM 2 38

WA222 PD

SIOUX FALLS SDAK 27 1054A CST

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY CONCUR WITH ALL OF YOUR DECISIONS ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE. SINCERELY YOURS

MRS FRANK H WALLNER DEMOCRATIC NATL COMMITTEE WOMAN FOR SDAK.

Mr. Hopkins

For information
and
Dispatch

Sergeant Dale

RD

EXECUTIVE
HU2
HE5

(2)

March 30, 1965

Dear Dr. Cobb:

It was gratifying to learn of the support you gave to my civil rights policies in the current issue of the Journal of the National Medical Association.

"The White House Keeps the Faith" authored by you was a clear statement of the kind of policies I am sure we will maintain during this Administration.

As you know, racial discrimination in hospitals will be eliminated whenever possible. We intend to utilize Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, not as a club, but to employ it as a means of ending discrimination in those medical facilities receiving Federal aid.

Your understanding and support of our accomplishments in this vital field is heartening and encouraging.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Dr. W. Montague Cobb
President
National Medical Association
1830 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C., 20009

RECEIVED
MAR 31 1965
CENTRAL FILES

LBJ:CLA:smm

For release on receipt.

National Medical Association
Office of the Administrative Secretary
1830 Fifteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

March 15, 1965

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HEAD PRAISES PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S ACTIONS AGAINST HOSPITAL DISCRIMINATION

Dr. W. Montague Cobb of Washington, D. C., President of the National Medical Association, praises the steps President Johnson has taken to secure compliance with Federal court decisions and the Civil Rights Act in respect to hospital practices in the United States involving racial discrimination. Dr. Cobb's comments appear in the President's Column in the current March 1965 issue of the Journal of the National Medical Association. The article is entitled, "The White House Keeps the Faith," and reads as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE KEEPS THE FAITH

Since the tragic day on which he first took office, President Lyndon Baines Johnson has kept the faith. And he is fighting the good fight. The bold, imaginative programs for the Great Society require the cooperation of the entire nation and we are on the way. In a rough game in which the tackling is hard and bruising, there will be stops and set-backs. Maintaining the forward progress of the ball is what counts. The ball is moving toward the goal, though the pace is bound to be uneven.

In respect to racial discrimination in hospitals, Civil Rights, and Medicare, areas of special concern to the N.M.A., the record is clear and consistent. The Federal Court decision of November 1, 1963, upheld by the Supreme Court on March 2, 1964, and the Federal Court decision of April 1, 1964, duly reported in this Journal (v. 55, p. 558, 1963, and v. 56, p. 282-285, 1964), established the unconstitutionality of discrimination in Federally aided hospitals. On May 19, 1964, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare promulgated regulations implementing these decisions (J.N.M.A., v. 56, p. 349, 1964).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act signed on July 2, 1964, broadened the scope and connotations embraced by the court decisions. On July 27, 1964, under White House auspices, the Secretary of H.E.W. held a top-level conference of representatives of six organizations representing the hospital power structure of the country and the interested parties (A.M.A., N.M.A., A.D.A., N.D.A., A.H.A. and A.N.A.), also reported in this Journal (v. 56, p. 445-446, 1964), at which the meaning of the law was fully explained. The government officials stated that the law would be enforced and asked the cooperation of the organizations represented in securing voluntary and speedy compliance with the law. On December 4, 1964, the Federal Register published the Federal rules and regulations

implementing the Civil Rights Act. Those affecting medical areas appear on p. 157-163 of this issue of the Journal.

On January 28, 1965, the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights held a National Conference on Title VI in Washington, key-noted by Vice President Humphrey. The addresses of the Secretary of H. E. W. and the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service at this meeting appear on p. 164-165 of this number of the Journal. Again the appeal to reason was set forth, along with the Government's "resolve to obtain the absolute justice that the law - and our own principles - require."

On February 24, 1965, your N. M. A. President was a consultant at a meeting of officials of the Public Health Service in preparation for a larger meeting on March 15, 1965, at which program officials of the P. H. S. would be fully oriented as to their responsibilities under the Civil Rights Act.

Moreover, the White House has called for prompt investigation of and action upon 22 complaints of violations of the law in hospital practices now on file.

In response to a request from your N. M. A. President as well as other sources, an inventory of Federally-aided hospitals and pledges of compliance will be made available as soon as compiled. This will be periodically supplemented.

The foregoing portrays beyond doubt that the Executive Branch is moving sincerely and swiftly toward securing full compliance.

Two responses are significant. The lead article in the November 1964 number of "Hospitals,"official organ of the American Hospital Association, has the emblazoned title, "The Civil Rights Act of 1964." The import of this article was to deplore and consider unfortunate the fact that the Civil Rights Act was to obtrude upon hospital areas. By contrast, in December 1964, the Board of Trustees of the Hospital Council of the National Capital Area passed unanimously a broad resolution urging complete integration at all 24 of the major voluntary hospitals in the metropolitan area.

The rocky nature of the road ahead is obvious. President Johnson's efforts must receive the full support of every member of the N. M. A. Individual vigilance as to hospital practices everywhere and prompt, accurate reporting of violations are essential to their success.

MEMORANDUM

(2)

EXECUTIVE
HU2

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 27, 1965

FOR MR. WATSON

The President asked me to see Bishop Creighton today. Creighton made a foolish statement yesterday about the civil rights situation. He left this morning at seven o'clock for a funeral in New Jersey and will be back this evening. Bill Baxter and I will see him this evening or tomorrow. When you get a chance, please pass this on to the President.

Harry

Harry McPherson

Nothing else sent to Central Files as of 6/28/65

[front]

[back]

WASHINGTON BUREAU
1028 CONNECTICUT AVENUE

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

March 24, 1965

Dear George -

Attached is the story about Melvin Winters, which I hope will be okay.

I talked with Winters on the telephone when we were in Austin. He seemed to have no objection to the story being told, provided of course that the President had no objection.

It seems to me that the story is constructive and illustrative of national progress on civil rights, and that it ought to come out.

Best regards,

Bill

HH
BB

(25)

EXECUTIVE
HU2
PR18
PR
Post Dispatch
Winters, Melvin

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr. President:

Wm. K.

Bill Wyant asked me whether it would be all right for him to carry this story.

_____YES

_____NO

But it was off the record and I think interviewing Winters & writing the story breaks faith with me & 30 other reporters - Don't you

GER
March 24
1:55 p.m.

RECEIVED
MAR 27 1965
CENTRAL FILES

original to Mas Tennis

MELVIN

Washington, March -- (wyant) In discussing his Administration's efforts to win full justice and equal treatment for all Americans, President Lyndon B. Johnson sometimes tells the story of a homeric struggle that took place between two white men in the streets of his beloved Johnson City, Tex., a good 35 years ago.

It was a battle of fisticuffs over whether Negro workers on a road construction gang would be tolerated in Johnson City, which like many Texas towns of that period had no Negro residents. The man who held they would stay was the winner of the fight.

The story's hero is and was Melvin Winters, a friend of the President's. Winters is now 56 years old, the president of the City State Bank at Johnson City and a well-to-do Texas contractor with an air strip in his backyard.

At the time of the fisticuffs incident, which has a western-style "High Noon" quality to it, Winters was a young construction superintendent who had brought a crew from south Texas to build a state road from Johnson City to Marble Falls. The year was about 1928.

In Winters's 70-man crew there were about 35 Negroes. They were skilled at handling mules and operating the "fresnoes" or mule-drawn scoop shovels that were used to move dirt before the day of the tractor.

"They were good, hard-working people -- awfully good workers," Winters recalled recently in an interview with the Post-Dispatch.

(more)

In any event, as the story is told, Winters got his men established at a construction camp outside of Johnson City and went to town for a haircut. A man came in the shop and told him to get rid of the Negro workers.

Winters, then about 19, is reported to have said quietly that he would not, and that there was plenty of work for anybody who wanted a job on the project. When he got out of the barber chair, the man hit him.

What followed, as the President tells it, was a battle royal between the young foreman and his challenger. It is said the dusty street outside the shop, then unpaved, was roped off and the two battlers had at it for an hour and a half.

Finally, it is said, Winters got his antagonist down in the dust and muttered, "Do they stay?", and the answer came back, "They stay."

At present Winters, who came from the bush country of south Texas around Carizo Springs and Eagle Pass, along the Rio Grande, comments modestly that as he recollects it the fight "was about a draw" with neither man a clear winner.

"I don't remember that they roped the streets off but they gave us plenty of room," he said. Pressed as to the outcome, he said he must have come out ahead because the Negro workmen stayed and were accepted in the town.

##

gah/BB

EXECUTIVE
HU 2
PR 4/7G216

MAR 23 1965

Dear Mr. Coopersmith:

Thank you for your very warm letter. I am deeply grateful for your generous comments and for your moving offer of service.

I hope that our meeting gave all of us a deeper understanding of the nature of this great moral cause. I know that it did for me.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
Carbons stamped in
Mr. Thomas' Office

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Mr. Brant Coopersmith
1012 14th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

LBJ:BM:HR:toi
2

RECEIVED
MAR 23 1965
CENTRAL FILES

(20)

Mr. President,

Mr. Coopersmith was in the group with Rev. Walter Fauntroy

10:10 a.m. to 12: 10 p.m. on Friday, March 12 in the Cabinet Room.

mjdr
Mar 16

Hayes reply

11ex

3/15

BRANT COOPERSMITH
1012 - 14TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

March 12, 1965

Message to pass on to friends

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I was among those persons from the District of Columbia to whom you gave so much of your time this morning.

I was so moved by the experience that I felt compelled to write to you and say that within the limits of conscience I am prepared to serve you in any way that you may ask - from shouldering a rifle on these middle aged shoulders to making a deep personal sacrifice.

This is not to say that I ask for such a call but rather to tell you of the response you evoked from me.

Sincerely yours,

Brant Coopersmith

P.S. I consider this note so personal that I did not dictate it and therefore I hope you forgive the typing.

THE WHITE HOUSE

MAR 15 2 27 PM '65

RECEIVED

EXECUTIVE
SOS
HU2

March 17, 1965

TO: Mrs. Elizabeth Abell

FROM: Hobart Taylor, Jr.

Let. to the President from Governor Charles L. Terry, Jr., Dover, Delaware, expressing support on behalf of the President's stand on civil rights and accepting the invitation for he and Mrs. Terry for the reception on March 22nd., 3/16/65.

EXECUTIVE
SP/FG/65
HG 2

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE JACK J. VALENTI

SUBJECT: Title VI-Civil Rights Act of 1964

While civil rights emphasis is currently on voting rights, all indications are that attention will focus shortly on the progress we are making under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in relation to schools, hospitals, health and welfare programs.

We have been working intensely in this area. In order to assure an effective and consistent department-wide effort in eliminating discrimination in programs for which we are responsible, we called in our top level headquarters and regional program administrators for two and a half days of intensive discussion.

I met with them personally to underline the importance of this area of their responsibility and we invited Whitney Young and other representatives of outside groups to participate. A copy of my remarks is attached.

(s) Anthony J. Celebrezze
Secretary

Attachment

EXECUTIVE

FG 634
FI 1-2
HU 2
ST 4
ST 18
ST 31
ST 36
ST 43
MC

Memo from the Desk of...

EARLE CABELL, Member of Congress
5th District of Texas

March 12, 1965

TO: Marvin Watson

FROM: Earle Cabell, M. C.

Pursuant to our conversation of yesterday, attached is a copy of the memorandum regarding the Southwest Regional Meeting on Title VI and Conference of State Advisory Committees.

MEETING POSTPONED TO MAY 2

Nothing else sent to Central Files as of 8-25-65

RECEIVED AUG 11 1965 CENTRAL FILES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

gen/ w

EXECUTIVE
HU2
PL 6-2

March 11, 1965

To: Governor David L. Lawrence

From: W. Marvin Watson

The President was pleased that you notified him of your meeting on March 23rd. He has asked that we keep in touch on matters of this type.

Committee against Discrimination of the Democratic National Committee

(22)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 10, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, March 23, the Committee Against Discrimination of the Democratic National Committee will hold its first meeting here in Washington.

This special committee, which I chair, was appointed by Chairman Bailey pursuant to a National Committee resolution adopted on January 19, 1965 which, in turn, stemmed from the Credentials Committee report adopted by the 1964 Democratic Convention.

Basically, the special committee's function is to assist State Democratic parties in meeting their responsibilities and assurance required under the call for the 1968 National Convention. Specifically, our work is to do everything we can to see that each State "undertakes to assure that voters in the State, regardless of race, color, creed or national origin, will have the opportunity to participate fully in party affairs...."

It seemed sensible and wise to me to move promptly on this matter, and to prevent any suggestion from being raised that the National Committee, at the worst, was ignoring the Convention's mandate or, at the least, being dilatory in setting up implementing machinery.

We have asked all the State Chairmen to furnish the special committee with copies of party rules and State statutes which might bear on the problem. Also, we have requested the Attorney General and the Counsel of the Civil Rights Commission to give us any pertinent data they may have.

At the March 23 meeting, we would expect to designate a task force to review this material and ascertain what impediments exist so the special committee can determine the actions it can and will take to encourage changes necessary to comply with the 1968 Convention call.

I think it is imperative that we do all we can to prevent another battle on credentials in 1968; and it is for that reason we are trying to get to the heart of the matter early enough to develop remedial steps in ample time.

David L. Lawrence

David L. Lawrence

Jean MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE
HU4
HU2
RM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 11, 1965

To: Mr. Watson

From: Mary Jo Cook

Ex

The Reverend George Davis called and said he -- and other ministers -- are being asked to make statements from the pulpit next Sunday morning in support of the Civil Rights demonstrations.

He plans to make a statement but says he is not in favor of the demonstrations; therefore his statement is not and cannot be what he has been asked to make and what they are expecting him to make. (do not know specifically who 'they' are-- mjc)

Rev. Davis wants to talk with you about this -- I told him it probably would be two hours or more before you could call.

x Strictly as a matter of interest, I called my pastor, Dr. J. T. Ford (1st Baptist, Alexandria) and asked him if he had received a similar call. He has not.

yellow copy was sent to C Files as of 6/18/65

EXECUTIVE

HU2-7/ST1
PU2-2
PR8-1
HU2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1965

TO: JACK VALENTI

A good article that you may be able to use when visiting with Negro leaders.

Marvin Watson

Attachment

Copies of the attached were sent to the following: Lee White, Bill Moyers, George Reedy, and Jack Valenti with the following notation:
"A good article that you may be able to use when visiting with Negro leaders."

rgm
3/11

POST
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EXECUTIVE
FG 11-8-1
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In the House, Congressman after Congressman cnndemned Alabama's troopers and Governor and demanded action ranging from the sending of Federal troops to cutting the state's congressional delegation in half to shutting down all military installations there.

But even as the White House was taking its action and Congressmen were making demands on Capitol Hill, Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach was telling the Women's National Press Club about the Federal Government's nonintervention stand.

"The use of force is a serious step, one that has been rarely taken in history," he said.

"The primary job in this area should and does rest with local authorities," and the power to send Federal troops develops only when there is a "total breakdown of law and order or a total unwillingness by state officials

Negro leaders joined the protest and there were incidents of protest picketing and sit-ins in many cities.

And Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, bitterly assailed the court order banning the new Selma march yesterday issued by Federal District Judge Frank M. Johnson, who has consistently upheld desegregation laws.

Despite the court order, there was another march in Selma yesterday, this time led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State troopers again stopped the marchers outside the city but this time there was no violence.

The judge's order, said Wilkins, has made the Federal Government "a partner of the Wallace storm trooper machine."

sent off a bristling telegram to Wallace condemning him. AFL-CIO President George Meany wired the President to pledge full support for every effort made by the Federal Government.

But the demands for Federal action continued to increase.

Voting recommendations — "secure that right for every American" will be ready this weekend, said Mr. Johnson, and he will send a special message to Congress as soon

which violate our

TO NEGRO LEADERS

Post 3/10/65 at LBJ assembly

Optional Form No. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : THE PRESIDENT

DATE: March 4, 1965

FROM : Lee C. White

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting with Dr. King (Martin Luther) on March 5th.

1. Voting Rights -- There is general agreement that the Constitutional amendment approach would require too much time and thus we have concentrated on a statute. Key elements under consideration by Justice Department:

a. Finding of Discriminatory Actions -- Every effort will be made to stick as closely as possible to the 15th Amendment which prohibits the denial of voting on racial grounds. Under this, the literacy test and any other tests applied in a discriminatory manner would be barred.

b. Federal Registrars -- Where there was failure to register, even with the elimination of discriminatory tests, Federal officers could register otherwise qualified voters.

c. Scope -- These provisions would apply to Federal, State and local elections.

d. General Framework -- Although Federal legislation is probably not appropriate, any message to Congress might also refer to the standard registration and voting difficulties, without regard to discrimination, found to exist in many States by Scammon's Commission -- for example, excessive residence requirements, unreasonable absentee voting or none at all, etc.

2. The King-Farmer-SNCC Memorandum -- The Justice Department has not yet received a copy of the memorandum, but expects to have one by tomorrow (Friday) together with an analysis of where it differs from Justice's present thinking. You may wish to refer to the existence of the memorandum and use that as a starting point to stress the need for some restraint on the part of civil rights groups.

3. Constructive Efforts to Assist the Legislation -- There is considerable national interest in voting legislation, but it can be drained off by mistakes. As pointed out in the meeting Dr. King had with the Vice President and the Attorney General, the failure of the Negroes of Selma to accept and implement the order of Judge Thomas makes it very easy for opponents of the legislation to point out that effective use of existing statutory authority is all that is needed. According to Roy Wilkins, the memo also refers to the 1000 to 2000 sit-ins due to call on the Congress this summer. It is difficult to think of anything that would have more harmful effect on passage of legislation.

4. Basic Strategy -- You may wish to indicate your efforts and those of the Vice President and the Attorney General to check with (a) the Negro leadership, (b) the Republican Congressional leadership of Dirkson, Ford and McCulloch and, (c) Russell Long. The same well planned and intensive effort that resulted in the 1964 bill will be necessary.

5. Governor Collins' Program -- When Dr. King was here last, Governor Collins indicated to him some of the activities that his organization has been engaged in. It may be useful to recall this to Dr. King's attention and indicate that in many ways Governor Collins can help avoid trouble before it becomes ugly and difficult. His people should keep in touch with Collins' people.

6. Appointments -- Among recent appointments are Lisle Carter, formerly of HEW, and Ted Berry, both among the top half dozen in the Poverty Program; Andrew Brimmer, who was promoted to Assistant Secretary of Commerce; Roger Wilkins, Roy's nephew, who is one of Governor Collins' key men; others are in the works. There has begun to be some little external pressure on the appointment of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, authorized by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act -- John Macy is working on this with a number of us and I believe he will soon have a slate of candidates for your consideration.

7. Press Statement -- I presume you will want to discuss what might be the tenor of Dr. King's remarks when he leaves your office.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE (4)
PR 8-1
PR 18
HU 2

March 4, 1965

MR. PRESIDENT:

I have been looking for some good On The Record appointments for you for the week of March 8th. As of now, we don't have but three really good On The Record appointments.

1. Ambassador Lodge at 12 noon on Tuesday, March 9.

2. George Meany, Walter Reuther, Mr. Potofsky and Mr. Dubinsky at 11:30 on Wednesday, March 10.

3. Group of Negro publishers at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11.

I suggest the following appointments as capable of bearing good news fruit.

1. A group of 10 mayors of large cities to come in with Vice President Humphrey at 12 noon on Monday, March 8. Humphrey has called this meeting of mayors to discuss their problems for the afternoon of that day. Would it not be a good thing for you to see these men -- give them a little pep talk on their cities and something on going activities? This should create some favorable news.

Yes ✓ No _____ Well discuss with him

2. Have Lawrence Rockefeller come done at 11:30 on Thursday, March 11. He is in charge of the White House Conference on Natural Beauty which will be held at the White House May 24 and 25. We could announce this Conference at this time and Rockefeller could come out of the meeting saying favorable things about the whole program of Natural Beauty. This too ought to create favorable news.

Yes ✓ No _____

Jack Valenti

orig sent to Mrs Travis

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 4, 1965

Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

Dear Mac:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have sent to Dean Rusk. When the pressures ever allow, please call me and I will join you for luncheon.

With all my best.

Sincerely,

Abe

Abe Ribicoff

Enclosure

Thursday
Apr 18
WH mess

Thanks
Fine
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 4, 1965

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I want you to be informed of the following.

On Monday, March 1, my office received a call from Mr. Myshkow, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, asking to see me. My secretary gave him an appointment for 10:30 a. m. today.

Mr. Myshkow came to talk to me concerning the campaign of American Jewry against persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union. It was his feeling, and that of his Government, that this campaign was being used not so much in behalf of Jews, but as part of an overall campaign of an anti-Soviet plan. This I denied strongly, impressing upon him the concern for the 3 million Jews in the Soviet Union.

To buttress his position, he left with me two documents, one a press release of the Soviet Embassy dated February 18, 1965; the other a copy of the SOVIET LIFE of March 1965. He contended that these represented the truth and that the American press would not use them.

I informed him that I was not aware of the facts stated in either but that I would have them analyzed and give him a reply. I further asked him why the Jews wanting to leave the Soviet Union were not allowed to do so. He replied that over the past five years 9000 had left and that as far as the Soviet Union was concerned

any Jew wanting to leave there could do so. This contention of his does not comport with the information I have.

I will keep you advised of any further conversations I may have with Mr. Myshkow.

In conveying this information to you, may I add my clear impression that the public concern about the situation of Soviet Jewry would appear to have made the Soviet Union very sensitive. This strengthens me in my conviction that the only way to secure an improvement in the condition of the Soviet Jews is to continue to make a full exposition of the situation.

Sincerely,

Abe Ribicoff

Enclosures

EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Press Department

1706 18th Street, N.W. Washington 9, D. C.

No. 5 February 18, 1965

JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

On February 4 The New York Times carried an appeal from the Rabbinical Council of America to the Soviet Government asking that it permit Soviet Jews to bake matzoth for the coming Passover. The news item quoted Rabbi Paul Levovitz as having noted that "the denial of the right to prepare and use matzoth during the Passover festival in 1964 disturbed the conscience of all the religious world."

Rabbi Levovitz's statement does not correspond to the facts. Below are items received by the Press Department of the Soviet Embassy in Washington from the Novosti Press Agency in Moscow. We are publishing them for the benefit of all those interested in the matter.

Moscow, February 11, Novosti Press Agency (APN). We are sending you a copy of the statement representatives of the Moscow Jewish clergy cabled to the editor of The New York Times on February 11.

On February 4 your newspaper carried a statement that the Rabbinical Council of America had raised the alarm that Jews in the USSR allegedly were being deprived of the right to bake and eat matzoth.

"This statement gives rise to great bewilderment among us representatives of Moscow's Jewish clergy. Apparently the Rabbinical Council of America, and in particular Rabbi Paul Levovitz, is profoundly misled. No one in the Soviet Union ever forbade the performance of our religious rites, including, of course, the baking of matzoth. Last year we really experienced certain difficulties owing to an insufficiency of flour. In our country, as you know, there was a great crop failure, and the Soviet people restricted their demand for bakery products. However, the difficulties were overcome, and in all Moscow's synagogues not a single believer was left without matzoth.

"This year our community began to prepare for Passover in January. We organized the baking of matzoth in several places in Moscow and its suburbs. The Lord be praised! We have enough flour now. Every Jew can provide himself with any amount of matzoth. At the beginning the Central Synagogue's matzoth bakery baked 400-500 kilograms (880-1100 pounds) daily. After mechanizing a number of the processes, we now bake no less than 700 kilograms (1500 pounds). Thus we can bake some 45 metric tons of matzoth by Passover. The members of the congregation of Central Synagogue need no more than 15 tons. The remaining 30 tons will provide for the needs of the congregation of Cherkizov Synagogue and, in general, all who want matzoth.

"Approximately the same situation exists in Moscow's other synagogue, in the Maryina Roshcha District. Already on February 11 matzoth were purchased by 520 believers. For instance, the Vinitsky, Chudnovsky, Berezovsky and Vaieman families bought 15 kilograms (33 pounds) each, the Gitlin family 11 kilograms (24 pounds), Yaroslavsky eight kilograms (17.6 pounds), Pavolotsky seven kilograms (15 pounds), etc. In all, 20 tons will be baked by Passover, and the congregation of Maryina Roshcha Synagogue needs no more than six tons. As you can see, not only members of our synagogue congregation but many other Jewish citizens in Moscow will be fully provided with matzoth. It is regrettable that such a venerable organ as the Rabbinical Council of America, without asking us representatives of the Jewish clergy, hastened to come out with a statement distorting the real state of affairs.

" (Signed) YEHUDA-LEIB LEVIN, Chief Rabbi
Central Synagogue of Moscow

NATHAN OLEVSKY, Rabbi
Maryina Roshcha Synagogue

MENASHE MIKHAILOVICH, Chairman
of the Board, Central Synagogue

GEORGE LIEB, Chairman,
Maryina Roshcha Synagogue"

*

Moscow, February 8, Novosti Press Agency. Although more than two months remain till Passover, many Jewish religious communities are actively preparing for the holiday. The Board of the Central Synagogue has organized the baking of matzoth at a house rented in the Moscow suburbs, where 500 kilograms (1100 pounds) are being baked daily. A total of 45 (metric) tons will be baked.

Several tons of matzoth have already been baked for another Moscow synagogue, in Maryina Roshcha. Matzoth are also being baked in Malakhovka, Moscow Region.

Chief Rabbi of Moscow Yehuda-Lieb Levin and Chairman of the Maryina Roshcha Synagogue George Lieb said that the religious Jews of Moscow and the suburbs will be amply supplied with matzoth. They are also being baked in Leningrad and in all religious Jewish communities in Georgia.

*

Moscow,February 13.APN. In connection with the items in the U.S. press on the alleged "prohibition" of baking matzoth in the USSR, a Novosti Press Agency correspondent turned to A.A. Puzin, Chairman of the State Committee on the Religious Cults, for an explanation. Puzin said the following:

"In Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, Tbilisi, Leningrad, Tashkent, Kursk, Kuibyshev, Odessa, Novosibirsk, Alma-Ata and other cities and districts where there are Jewish religious communities, the latter quite freely bake matzoth for the needs of the believers. This is done either on a cooperative basis at bakeries especially rented by the religious communities or by the believers themselves.

"The committee has received no complaints from individuals or religious communities of any violations of the freedom of religion which is guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution. According to the Soviet Constitution every citizen has a right to exercise religious rites, the baking of matzoth included."

*

Moscow, February 12, Novosti Press Agency. Yesterday the well-known American playwright Arthur Miller visited the editorial office of the Jewish magazine Sovetish Heimland in Moscow. In a friendly, sincere talk with Soviet Jewish writers, the visitor expressed what he thought of the culture and national traditions of the Jewish people and their reflection in the works of people in the arts, specifically writers.

At the request of those present Miller spoke of the plot of his new play Incident at Vichy.

The talk ended with questions about the life of the Jewish population in the Soviet Union. Everything pointed to the fact that the visitor was not properly informed. Aron Vergelis, editor in chief of Sovetish Heimland, and other participants of the meeting gave Miller a detailed description of the life of Jews in the Soviet Union, discussing specifically the development of Jewish culture in the USSR.

As of January 1965, Sovetish Heimland is being published monthly. Books in Yiddish are published regularly. A book of documentary essays, for instance,

That Is How We Live, was put on sale a few days ago. An anthology of Jewish poetry will be published shortly. Six other books in Yiddish are in print. Fruitful work is being done also by Jewish artists, composers and actors.

"Perhaps in the sphere of Jewish culture we do much more than our self-styled benefactors demand from us," said the poet Vergelis. "We are making progress," he went on. "Much still has to be done, but we believe in our strength and the opportunities Soviet reality afford us."

Miller got exhaustive information also on another matter of interest to him: the trials of those accused of so-called economic crimes. It was proved by irrefutable facts that, first, all people brought to court for crimes against socialist property were of different nationalities: Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars, Jews and others. Second, those sentenced to death do not even make up one-tenth of a per cent of the total number of persons guilty of large embezzlements of the people's property. Third, as a rule, in all cases only one per cent of those sentenced to death were executed. Fourth, the absolute number of Jews sentenced for crimes against socialist property is smaller than the number of people of other nationalities sentenced for these crimes. Besides, the proportion of sentenced Jews in the country to the total number of Jews in it is smaller than their proportion to other nationalities. Fifth, of late the number of crimes against socialist property in general fell very sharply in the Soviet Union, and trials of such cases are rare. When he asked how Jewish believers were provided with matzoth, Miller was familiarized with the statement of representatives of the Jewish clergy in Moscow of February 11. Among other things, it says that in the Jewish religious communities preparations for Passover started early and that synagogue congregations and all those so desiring would be amply provided with matzoth.

Vergelis, editor in chief of Sovetish Heimland, expressed deep regret that in the United States some persons, pursuing shady aims, disseminated calumniating lies on the position of Jews in the Soviet Union. "We Jewish writers would like to ask our friend Arthur Miller and other prominent public figures in America to end misinformation which inflicts great harm to the common cause in the struggle for peace and friendship among nations."

At the conclusion of the talk, Arthur Miller said: "Had it not been for the Soviet Army, there would be no Jews left on the globe today. This should not be forgotten!" Having expressed his thanks for the cordial welcome and attention, Miller said he was very glad to have had the meeting in the Sovetish Heimland editorial office; many things had now become clear to him.

*

Moscow, February 1, Novosti Press Agency. Bookshops in various districts of Moscow yesterday began selling the book That Is How We Live published in Yiddish.

The book contains documentary items, essays and articles by 19 authors on the present-day life of the Jews in the Soviet Union. Fifteen thousand copies of the edition have been published. A few days ago a Soviet bookselling agency sent the first large consignment to cities throughout all of the Soviet republics. The Russian Federation trade network received about 5,000, the Ukraine 3,000, Leningrad more than 1,000, Minsk more than 3,000. The book aroused great interest among Jewish readers. For instance, the bookshop in Kirov Street, in the center of Moscow, sold one hundred copies in one hour.

* * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO HEBREW BIBLE SINCE 1917?

Dear Sir:

The Los Angeles Times *columnist Paul Coates states in his column of August 25 that "Russian Orthodox Bibles were printed in large numbers in 1957. A Russian language Bible for Baptists was published in 1958. A Koran for Moslems was printed in 1958. No Hebrew Bible has been permitted since 1917."*

Is there any truth to that statement? As far as is known, no religious objects of any kind had been produced in the Soviet Union. What are the real facts about it? Please inform us either by replying in your magazine or privately. If in the publication, kindly mail me the issue in which it will appear. We are having a hot debate on it.

This is an entirely new twist in the long line of canards regarding "Soviet Anti-Semitism."

If you mail the issue, bill me for it.

Daniel Sigal
Los Angeles

Rabbi Natan Olevsky answers at our request

Sir,

I have just read your letter citing Mr. Paul Coates' story that the publication of the Holy Bible for Jews is supposedly banned in the USSR.

Let me describe the real situation.

As a rabbi and a religious person, I very much regret that in the USSR, as elsewhere in the world, the number of Jewish believers has fallen off greatly and tends to keep falling. Hence the lack of interest in the Bible in Hebrew and the lack of demand for it.

It would cost many thousands of rubles to publish the Bible in a printing of 5,000 copies. And the money would be wasted, since it would have no sale.

I am reliably informed that every religious Jewish family in the USSR has one or more copies of the Bible in Hebrew, in Russian or some other language. The Torah is read at all synagogues on the days commanded, with all members of the congregation following the passage from the appropriate book of the Bible. In addition to the Bibles that the members of the congregation own personally, synagogues have dozens, sometimes hundreds, of copies for worshippers to use at services.

In 1927 the Old Testament was published in five volumes in Hebrew in Bobruisk, Byelorussia, and in 1940 it was published—also in Hebrew—in Vilnius, capital of the Lithuanian Soviet Republic. The second publication had a particularly wide distribution, and since then no need has arisen for another printing.

No Jewish congregation has ever raised the question of additional printings of the Bible or the Talmud. However, should the need arise, they could go ahead with publication and encounter no obstacle.

As for Hebrew prayer books, they were published in 1920 in Odessa, in 1922 in Petrograd, in 1924 in Rostov-on-Don, in 1928 in Kiev, in 1934 in Minsk, and in 1939 and 1940 in Vilnius and Riga.

At the end of 1955 the Moscow Jewish community printed 4,000 prayer books. It took more than six years to sell the entire edition, though copies were sent to nearly all Soviet Jewish communities. Even the largest bought only 10 to 25 copies. The reason, as I have said, is that there are fewer believers now, and the devout Jews have enough prayer books.

Religious calendars are published annually by different communities. We have 5,000 copies printed in Moscow every year. They are sold not only in Moscow but generally. Here again sales are very slow.

However, when a Hebrew-Russian dictionary, which also contained a course in Hebrew grammar, was published in a printing of 25,000 copies in Moscow in 1963, it sold out within two or three months. Currently a new edition is being prepared.

This all shows that the declining interest among Jews in the Bible, prayer books and in religion generally derives from the fact that Jewish children, young men and adults seek a higher secular education, not a religious one, as was the case in czarist Russia.

Although there are many Jews in Moscow, Leningrad and other Soviet cities, in the past 20 years not one young man has applied for admission to the theological seminary, and this despite the free tuition, the large scholarship grants (three to four times larger than university stipends) and other benefits.

Soviet Jews stand on an equal footing with all other nationalities, and religious Jews have the same rights as members of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Moslem, Baptist and other faiths.

This is the true picture.

If you, Mr. Sigal, were to come to the USSR and visit our synagogues, you would see for yourself that the cock-and-bull stories about discrimination against Jews or the Jewish faith are, at best, the result of misinformation and, at worst, downright slander.

Natan Olevsky
Rabbi of the Jewish Orthodox Community
Maryina Roshcha, Moscow

EXECUTIVE

WE 9
AR
HU 2
FG 1
FG 999

Mr. Valenti

3:00 meeting
Fri. Pres

March 3, 1965

NH 10

"STEERING Comte."

Memo to: The President

From: Bess Abell

Re: Recruiting entertainers on a volunteer basis to participate in the President's programs of economic opportunity, manpower retraining, plans for progress, etc.

The entertainers who criss-crossed the country last Summer and Fall in behalf of your campaign and those of other Democratic candidates were working not for money, not for publicity, but because they believed in a cause.

They still do. They believe in your program, in your hopes for the Great Society and are eager to participate.

The following memorandum has evolved pretty much from diecussions I have had over the weekend with an attractive young folk singing group -- The Brothers Four. These young men have a great social conscience. They frequently appear at large charity benefits where they find themselves singing for the privileged who pay $50 or $100 for a ticket, when they would rather give a concert in a tiny mining town in Appalachia or a slum area in Chicago -- telling young people the importance of staying in school or helping to gather a crowd for an administration spokesman in much the same way they did during the campaign.

They strongly believe - and, from the limited contact I have had with those in the entertainment fields, I agree - their feelings are typical, i.e., that such people want to and can contribute a great deal by performing in their own fields of specialization.

Nothing else sent to Central Files as of 3/22/65

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 2, 1965

MR. PRESIDENT:

Lee White suggests:

John Bailey and Governor Lawrence have an appointment with the President - to advise him of the work done by the subcommittee headed by Governor Lawrence which was to ensure that all party activities are conducted without regard to racial considerations.

White also suggests that after the appointment Lawrence could say something about the need for registration and voting legislation nation-wide without regard to party.

Would you like such an appointment set up sometime this week?

Yes_____ No ✓

Jack Valenti

Archivist's Note: Document found misfiled in HU 2 on 3/2/98. Original returned to Ex HU 3. CA

EXECUTIVE

HU3

March 2, 1965

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Thank you for the good wishes contained in your letter of February 5.

I continue to be concerned about the questions you raise on the need for an equal rights amendment. You may be interested in the enclosed memorandum on this subject which I have received.

The unanimous recommendation of the President's Commission on the Status of Women was made only after many months of deliberation. In view of this, I think you will agree that, for the time being at least, we should await the outcome of court tests before considering any further steps. I am confident we can rely on your cooperation, and the cooperation of those who agree with you, while we follow this course of action.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, Northeast
Washington 2, D.C.

3
Enclosure LBJ/LCW/hm

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON

February 19, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Lee C. White
Associate Special Counsel
to the President

In response to your request for comment on this matter, I would suggest the President send Mrs. Miller a brief letter along the lines of the attached draft, together with a memorandum we have written on the subject.

(Mrs.) Esther Peterson
Assistant Secretary of Labor

Attachments

OK
please prepare for President's signature

DRAFT

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington 2, D. C.

Dear [redacted] Mrs. Miller:

Thank you for the good wishes contained in your letter of February 5.

I continue to be concerned about the questions you raise on the need for an equal rights amendment. You may be interested in the enclosed memorandum on this subject which I have received.

The unanimous recommendation of the President's Commission on the Status of Women was made only after many months of deliberation. In view of this, I think you will agree that, for the time being at least, we should await the outcome of court tests before considering any further steps. I am confident we can rely on your cooperation, and the cooperation of those who agree with you, while we follow this course of action.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

ROUTE SLIP

(To Remain With Correspondence)

TO Mrs. Esther Peterson
Assistant Secretary of Labor

PROMPT HANDLING IS ESSENTIAL. WHEN DRAFT REPLY IS REQUESTED THE BASIC CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE RETURNED. IF ANY DELAY IN SUBMISSION OF DRAFT REPLY IS ENCOUNTERED, PLEASE TELEPHONE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL.

Date February 11, 1965

FROM THE SPECIAL COUNSEL

ACTION:

Comment XXXXX

Draft reply

For direct reply

For your information

For necessary action

For appropriate handling

See below

Remarks:

GPO 16—76992-1

By direction of the President:

Lee C. White

Lee C. White
Associate Special Counsel
to the President

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

HEADQUARTERS, ALVA BELMONT HOUSE
144 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N. E., WASHINGTON 2, D. C.
TELEPHONE: LINCOLN 6-1210

February 5, 1965

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

In reply to your letter of January 26th in which you write: "the Commission on the Status of Women reported to us the belief that the principle (of equality) is already embodied in the Constitution."

We have always believed it (equality for women) is in the Constitution, but in the long line of decisions by the Supreme Court in interpreting the Fourteenth Amendment, the Court has held to the contrary. Hence the necessity for the Equal Rights Amendment.

With warmest thanks for your good wishes for 1965, and hoping that they come true since I, too, have recovered from the "flu."

Faithfully yours,

Emma Guffey Miller

(Mrs.) Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman
National Woman's Party

THE WHITE HOUSE

FEB 8 2 57 PM '65

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1965

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM ON EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Before making its recommendation on the subject of Equal Rights, the President's Commission on the Status of Women had the benefit of a very carefully prepared brief, written by Miss Pauli Murray who at the time was a Fellow in the Yale Law School. After studying Supreme Court cases, Miss Murray pointed out that "a full discussion of the status of women has not been uttered by the Court since 1908." In her opinion, examination of other types of cases involving the equal protection clause merited the submission of a new case presenting a clear issue as to the scope of the 14th Amendment in respect to differential treatment based on sex.

The Commission gave very careful consideration to all aspects of this proposal. It held an open hearing and sought and obtained technical legal advice from other experts in the field. In its final recommendation the Commission urged interested groups to make a special effort to present a case involving this issue to the Court.

Citizens of the United States live under a constitutional system which permits flexibility in interpretation of constitutional principles to meet developing needs. All those concerned with the poverty program and the need for a legal floor to wages are aware of the fact that the U. S. Supreme Court in 1923 held the D. C. minimum wage law unconstitutional (Atkins v. Children's Hospital 261 US 523) and that the Court subsequently expressly reversed itself in 1937 in a decision upholding the Washington State law (West Coast Hotel v. Parrish 300 U.S. 379).

Other more gradual changes in the Court's interpretations of constitutional rights also support the desirability of bringing the issue of sex discrimination under the 14th Amendment to the attention of the Court in a new case. For example, after a series of cases involving the constitutional right to counsel in State courts under the 14th Amendment the principle was finally established in 1963 (Gideon v. Wainwright, 372 U.S. 335).

While looking forward confidently to the possibility of a new court test on the issue of sex discrimination, the Administration is continuing to press for removal of all types of discriminations through legislation. 1963 saw the enactment of the Federal Equal Pay Bill which became effective on June 11, 1964. The Civil Rights Act which in Title VII prohibits all types of discrimination in employment, including discrimination based on sex, was enacted in 1964, to become effective July 1965.

Copy for Central Files

EXECUTIVE
HU 3
FG 717

JAN 26 1965

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Upon my return from Texas I found your letter on the important subject of the "Equal Rights Amendment." I know how vigorously you have championed the cause of equality of treatment of women and the degree of success you have achieved must, I am sure, be a matter of great personal satisfaction to you. There are, of course, many people who are solidly committed to the principle that individuals should not be discriminated against because of their sex, but feel that unfortunate problems might arise were the Equal Rights Amendment to be adopted. In addition, as you know, the Commission on the Status of Women reported to us the belief that the principle is already embodied in the Constitution. I know that efforts are being made to present a test case, and I have asked for a progress report on this question. I appreciate your continued interest in advancing the status of women.

I hope that things are well with you and that you will have a healthy, happy and productive 1965.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED
JAN 27 1965
CENTRAL FILES

LBJ/LCW/leb

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER INTERESTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 15, 1965

To: Lee White

From: Esther Peterson

Esther

I'm sorry this got side-tracked. The draft is fine. We added a sentence or so to bring in reference to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Attachment

DRAFT/LCW/EP/1/15/65

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Upon my return from Texas I found your letter on the important subject of the "Equal Rights Amendment." I know how vigorously you have championed the cause of equality of treatment of women and the degree of success you have achieved must, I am sure, be a matter of great personal satisfaction to you. There are, of course, many people who are solidly committed to the principle that individuals should not be discriminated against because of their sex but feel that unfortunate problems might arise were the Equal Rights Amendment to be adopted. In addition, as you know, the Commission on the Status of Women reported to us the belief that the principle is already embodied in the Constitution. I know that efforts are being made to present a test case and I have asked for a progress report on this question. I appreciate your continued interest in advancing the status of women.

I hope that things are well with you and that you will have a healthy, happy and productive 1965.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

January 4, 1965

To: Mrs. Esther Peterson

From: Lee C. White

I have tried to be as understanding and as noncommittal as possible. You may have some additional suggestions.

LCW draft of ltr to be sent from the President to Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, Chairman, Woman's National Party, 144 Constitution Avenue NE, Wash., D.C.

DRAFT/LCW/1/4/65

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Upon my return from Texas I found your letter on the important subject of the "Equal Rights Amendment." I know how vigorously you have championed the cause of equality of treatment of women and the degree of success you have achieved must, I am sure, be a matter of personal satisfaction to you. I know that there are many people who are solidly committed to the principle that individuals should not be discriminated against because of their sex but feel that unfortunate problems might arise were the equal rights amendment to be adopted. In any event, I have asked for a review of the question and I can assure you that your own strong interest and the points you have made regarding the proposal will be fully taken into account.

I hope that things are well with you and that you will have a healthy, happy and productive 1965.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1964

MEMORANDUM

FOR: LEE WHITE

It is necessary for me to evidence more than the usual restraint, but I will do so in the interest of unity and concord. I think you know the general situation concerning Mrs. Miller. Personally, I would be as non-committal as possible on this one although I think this is a situation where you can't win for losing. My suggestion is that you check this out with Mrs. Peterson and come through with a strong, unequivocal "I will think about it."

George E. Reedy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dec. 24, 1964

To: George Reedy

Frm: Lee White

George, old friend, I hate to do this to you but the attached note suggests that you may have some information that is not available to me. If you have, I would be delighted to be informed. If not, you may wish to make a suggestion as to how this letter could be handled. I would hope that you would evidence your usual restraint and refrain from any obscene recommendations.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Note	rah to William Hopkins (partially restricted item from Letter from Pres. to Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller)	3/2/65	C

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

HEADQUARTERS, ALVA BELMONT HOUSE
144 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, N. E., WASHINGTON 2, D. C.
TELEPHONE: LINCOLN 6-1210

Chairman, EMMA GUFFEY MILLER, PENNSYLVANIA

December 14, 1964

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

While I realize you must ask others to reply to most of your correspondence, I wish you would not give Mrs. Esther Peterson the privilege of answering letters sent to you regarding the Equal Rights for Men and Women Amendment.

Some of her replies have been sent to me for comment and verification. I regret to say that Mrs. Peterson's letters are strongly slanted against the Equal Rights Amendment and appear to commit you and the Democratic Administration to delaying tactics on the Amendment, if not to her own personal position of active opposition.

Her statements are also extremely inconsistent. For example, her reply on November 25, 1964 to a letter from Miss Elsie Hill states that a "major development of the past year in the legal rights of women is Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" which "prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin by employers, labor unions, and employment agencies." This is puzzling to us in view of Mrs. Peterson's strong statement opposing the inclusion of this word "sex" in Title VII when the measure was up for a vote in the House of Representatives. (See Congressional Record February 8,1964, page 2485.)

In a letter to Miss Mary Kennedy, November 10, 1964, with regard to the Amendment, Mrs. Peterson quoted the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as bearing on the subject. This Act, of course, has to do only with your wonderful drive against poverty; equality of rights for women is not mentioned in the Act.

I am enclosing a copy of President Eisenhower's Message to Congress in 1957 regarding the Equal Rights Amendment, but I know you can make a stronger statement.

Hoping that Mrs. Peterson will not send out any further replies in your name on the Equal Rights Amendment, and earnestly trusting that you will make the Amendment an Administration measure in the coming Congress.

Your ardent supporter,

Emma Guffey Miller

(Mrs.) Emma Guffey Miller
National Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONGRESS RECOMMENDING PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

JANUARY 16, 1957

Congressional Record

United States of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 85th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 103 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1957 *No. 8*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Miller, one of his secretaries.

* * *

THE FEDERAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1958—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 16)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered to be printed:

* * *

To the Congress of the United States:

* * * LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

This year I discussed only a few of the administration's legislative recommendations in the state of the Union message. Therefore, this part of the budget message is devoted to a discussion of other major proposals for legislation on which I recommend that the Congress take action during the present session. The legislative program is one on which the Congress and the executive agencies should be able to work together successfully.

* * *

The platforms of both major parties have advocated an amendment of the Constitution to insure equal rights for women. I believe that the Congress should make certain that women are not denied equal rights with men.

COPY OF LETTER FROM MRS. ESTHER PETERSON

U.S. Department of Labor
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Washington

November 25, 1964

Miss Elsa M. Hill
14 Woodlawn Avenue
South Norwalk, Connecticut

Dear Miss Hill:

The President has asked me to reply to your most interestting telegram of November 9, asking his support for the Equal Rights Amendment. The men and women of this nation are greatly indebted to women like you and Emma Guffey Miller who led the fight for women's rights in spite of jail and ridicule.

President Johnson's record makes clear his deep convictions about equality of rights under the law and his special concern that the government make use of the full abilities of women. His search for highly qualified women for appointment to responsible Federal positions has been widely publicized. Of the 24 top women in the executive branch, 15 have been appointed since January 1, 1964 (list enclosed). Further details of appointments during this period are on Page 1 of the enclosed Progress Report on the Status of Women.

A major development of the past year in the legal rights of women is Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This title prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin by employers, labor unions, and employment agencies. The Act applies to all phases of employment in industries affectiong interstate or foreign commerce. Enforcement of the non-discrimination requirements for employers and unions becomes effective July 2, 1965, for those with 100 or more workers; coverage will be extended each year until July 2, 1968, when employers and unions with 25 or more workers will be covered. Enforcement for all employment agencies becomes effective July 2, 1965.

President Johnson's concern with the problem of assuring equality of rights under the law to all citizens was evident also when he was Senator and Vice President. You are probably aware of his efforts as a Senator to secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Although this legislation is remembered primarily as the first national legislation in the 20th century concerned with civil rights for our Negro citizens, it also significantly advanced the cause of women's civil rights. By deleting a previous requirement that citizens had to be qualified under the respective State jury service law in order to serve on a

Federal jury, this act qualified women to serve on Federal juries in States which prohibited women from serving on State juries and permits women to serve on Federal juries on the same basis as men in all States.

Likewise, he worked closely with the late President in his establishment of the President's Commission on the Status of Women and shared his satisfaction when, through the efforts of that Commission, there was a reinterpretation by the Attorney General of a statute whcih had been held to permit Federal appointing officers to limit appointments in the Federal civil service to "male only" or "female only." The new interpretation permits such matters to be regulated by the President.

Again, he shared the satisfaction of the late President when the Equal Pay Bill was enacted in June 1963, amending the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act to provide equal remuneration for equal work.

The President's Commission on the Status of Women gave careful consideration to various proposed methods of achieving equality of rights under the law for all persons, men or women, including the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. It held an open hearing and sought and obtained technical legal advice from experts in the field, including Mrs. Miller. It was the Commission's thoughtful conclusion that "the U. S. Constitution now embodies equality of rights for men and women" and that "a Constitutional amendment need not now be sought in order to establish this principle." The Commission urged interested groups to give high priority to bringing under court review cases involving laws and official practices which discriminate against women. The President is deeply impressed by the Commission's conclusion and believes that this approach should be explored before considering a new constitutional amendment on this subject.

We appreciate your expression of interest in this important question and I can assure you that in the future, as in the past, we shall be alert to opportunities to remove remaining legal discriminations against women.

Sincerely,

S/ Esther Peterson

Esther Peterson
Executive Vice Chairman
Interdepartmental Committee on
the Status of Women

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Washington

November 10, 1964

Miss Mary C. Kennedy
Vice President
National Woman's Party
144 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington 2, D. C.

Dear Miss Kennedy:

The President appreciates very much your message of October 31 and has requested that I reply to you.

The question of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution was given very careful consideration by the President's Commission on the Status of Women, which made its report on October 11, 1963, after extensive study of the problems confronting women and of measures which might be expected to advance their status. The unanimous conclusion reached was that "the U. S. Constitution now embodies equality of rights for men and women" and that "a constitutional amendment need not now be sought in order to establish this principle." The President's belief is that this approach should be fully explored before considering a new constitutional amendment on this subject.

While it is true that this position would have to be tested in the courts, enforcement of an equal rights amendment would probably also require judicial action.

Time and again the President has expressed his philosophy regarding the equality of opportunity for all Americans. His desire to help achieve such opportunity is implicitly expressed in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, and other forward-looking legislation. Mr. Johnson believes strongly in the principle and practice of equal pay and only a few months ago addressed members of a National Conference on Equal Pay at a special White House meeting. Our Chief Executive, during the early morning of November 4, spoke again of the necessity of a Government which provides equal opportunity for all.

The President is aware of the fine contribution made to the country by women's organizations and by women in their capacities as individuals. In a tribute to new women appointees in the Federal service, he stated: "My whole aim in promoting women and picking out more women to serve in this Administration is to underline our profound belief that we can waste no talent... frustrate no creative power... neglect no skill in our search for an open and just and challenging society. There is no place for discrimination of any kind in American life."

Thank you again, on behalf of our Chief Executive, for your heartwarming good wishes.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Esther Peterson
Assistant Secretary of Labor

Name	Date
Mr. Hopkins	1-24-67
Hopkins & McPherson	1/25/67
Miss Lamer	2-23-67

pr

BROUGHT FORWARD

EXECUTIVE

H42 2/27/65

Previously Filed Date

NAME HANNAH, John A.

ORGANIZATION U S Commission on Civil Rights

EXECUTIVE

H42 2/27/65

New File Symbol Date

FINAL ACTION President's ltr to Secy. Agriculture directing his attention to Report of above Comsn.

pr

BROUGHT FORWARD

EXECUTIVE

HU 2 2/27/65

Previously Filed Date

NAME FREEMAN, Orville L.

ORGANIZATION Secy. of Agriculture

EXECUTIVE

HU 2 4/17/65

New File Symbol Date

FINAL ACTION Presidents ltr to Secy Agric in reply to his ltr. 8/3/66 — (Prez says report in 60 days)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 19, 1965

TO: The President

FROM: Jack Valenti

Fine
L

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON

February 19, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE JACK VALENTI

We have determined that, with one possible exception, all of the hospitals named in the NAACP complaint of February 11, 1965, have received and are receiving Federal funds from our Department.

All of the hospitals involved have been built in whole or in part with Hill-Burton monies. While we lack authority to do anything about expenditures made prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, five of the hospitals have Hill-Burton applications in process at the present time. In three instances, construction is underway. In two, the construction has not yet begun.

All of the hospitals are receiving monies from our Department through vendor payments for patient care under State administered grant-in-aid welfare programs.

Two of the hospitals are currently receiving research grants from PHS and NIH.

Two of the hospitals involved have obtained surplus property within the last month--since the Title VI regulations became effective on January 3, 1965.

Eight of the hospitals named in the complaint have executed the Department's standard assurance (Form 441) asserting that they would comply with all of the nondiscriminatory requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

In summary, on the basis of our preliminary investigation there is prima facie evidence that all but one of the hospitals named in the complaint are currently receiving Federal assistance in one or more forms from our Department. Under our Title VI regulations these hospitals are required to administer their programs which are Federally assisted on a non-discriminatory basis.

We have requested the NAACP to furnish us with any additional information they may have which would indicate the kind or kinds of discrimination which it alleged is occuring in these hospitals. The NAACP agreed to submit all of the backup material they have. This will be reviewed and investigators will then visit each of the hospitals to make on site inspections and interviews to determine the exact factual situation.

Jay

Secretary

EXECUTIVE

HU 2
HE 5
FG 165

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE ANTHONY CELEBREZZE

The President would like a report of the newspaper reports on discrimination in hospitals.

Jack Valenti

Mr Valenti has talked to Celebrezze about this

BB
12:10
Tues / Feb 16

EXECUTIVE
HU2
FG165

ET

February 22, 1965

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The President was delighted with your prompt and comprehensive report that you sent me on February 19. He is very grateful to you.

Sincerely,

Jack Valenti
Special Assistant to the President

Honorable Anthony J. Celebrezze
Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
Washington, D.C.

JV:ny

pA

BROUGHT FORWARD

L. white Memo to J. Valenti
re

EXECUTIVE

#42 2/13/65
Previously Filed Date

NAME BERNHARD, Berl I.

ORGANIZATION NATIONAL LAWYERS COMTE. on Civil Rights

EXECUTIVE

Same 4/6/65
New File Symbol Date

FINAL ACTION

yesm/

EXECUTIVE

FG155-18
FG11-1
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ESIDENT

February 10, 1965

McCormack, John

Mr. Clifford Alexander

This looks all right to me, but Sam Hughes suggests that there may be a few unnecessary inflammatory remarks in a document that would be sent to the Congress.

I would appreciate your going through it to see if you share his view. If so, you might want to suggest some modifications.

Lee C. White

ary 4, 1965

of the proposed

ce.

Hughes

Hughes
irector for
ve Reference

CRS interim report to Congress
Returned to Calvin Kytle 2/12/65

Nothing else sent to
Central Files as of 8/09/65

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE
HU 2
KING, MARTIN L.
CO 142 JORDAN

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1965

MR. PRESIDENT:

1. Martin Luther King will be seeing Humphrey this afternoon. Would it be possible for King to come across the street and see you briefly at 4:00 p.m.? Lee White will have some points that King can make when he leaves and sees the press.

Yes ✓ No _____

2. Bundy wants very much to bring in the Jordan group at 4:30 for final decision-making.

Yes ✓ No _____

Jack Valenti

EXECUTIVE
HU2
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PR 9-1/KK
LG/SOHON
HU 2-7
FG 440
FG 136
FG 155-18

February 8, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting with Martin Luther King

1. Status of Presidential Meeting -- King stuck to his word and released a statement saying that he was going to meet with the Vice President and the Attorney General. To fend off any questions about a Presidential meeting he indicated that although he had been in touch with the White House he was hopeful that circumstances would permit him to meet with the President. Following my discussion with you yesterday I told his lawyer that you would see Dr. King, even if for a very few minutes, but that if word of this got out in advance, all bets were off. Up to now he has honored this understanding completely.

2. Humphrey Meeting -- Present plans are for Nick Katzenbach to meet with the Vice President at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow to brief him on the latest information regarding Selma. In addition, Governor Collins or one of his representatives will be there to give their view of the situation. The meeting with King is set for 3:00 p.m. in Humphrey's EOB office. Assuming it meets with your schedule we would propose to have Humphrey or the Attorney General (Humphrey has a meeting scheduled for 3:30 or 3:45 p.m. with Walter Reuther) bring King across West Executive Avenue and up through the West Basement entrance to the Fish Room where we would wait to find a few minutes tomeet with you.

3. Questions About Your Meeting --

a. Who should be in the meeting with you?

b. Would you perhaps want to let the meeting continue in the Fish Room and simply step into it, or bring King and whomever you wish into your office

orig - nothing else in file 3/13/65

c. Would you want Governor Collins to sit in on the Humphrey meeting?

Also in the meeting with you?

4. Substantive Content of Meeting -- Insofar as one can predict in advance, your own meeting could involve just a brief report of the conversations held with Humphrey and the Attorney General and perhaps some discussion about what King would say when he leaves the White House.

5. Points for King to Make -- The President has had a long record support for securing the right to vote and his commitment expressed in the State of the Union Message has been most reassuring. The meetings with Administration leaders have given King an opportunity to explain what he has seen in Alabama and he is confident that any legislative proposals will be well thought out and that he appreciates how deep the Administration's concern is that the right to register and vote be universal in this country. The President was obviously interested and although his time did not permit him to go into great detail he was obviously conversant with the problem and his determination was clear.

Lee C. White

EXECUTIVE (2) 15

FILED - 2/5/65

HU 2
HU 2-7
PA 2

CIVIL RIGHTS

In view of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, there is no apparent reason or need to advance an Administration Civil Rights Legislative Program in 1965. A tremendous job of digestion faces the Executive Branch. Although no new program is offered Congress, there should, of course, be reference to the Administration's aims and plans for implementing the Act in the Inaugural and the State of the Union addresses.

It can be expected that in the coming months errors, omissions, and refinements in the Act may present themselves, and thus the question of civil rights legislation could well be considered at the end of next year.

Among the items that have already been suggested as worthy of consideration are:

1. Voting -- The voting title is regarded by some as inadequate. It has been proposed that legislation should authorize the appointment of Federal voting registrars (the specific suggestion of using U. S. Postmasters has also been made). Some pending court cases brought by the Justice Department may, if we secure the right decisions, minimize the need for a new approach. In any event, this should be followed carefully through 1965, and any changes considered for proposal in time for the 1966 elections.

2. Grants to Local Communities to Assist Bi-racial Commissions -- Governor Collins is exploring the idea of a grant program to encourage local communities to move into the area of legitimate and effective bi-racial commissions. Many questions are raised by the suggestion, and Governor Collins is exploring them now.

3. Elimination of Poll Tax in State Elections -- The suggestion of a Constitutional Amendment to extend the anti-poll tax provision to state elections has been offered. Obviously, this presents problems.

Rec'd 2/5/65 EF

filed by Nancy Clark

(3) +

February 5, 1965

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I have read with interest your report on the problems involved in coordinating the many and diverse civil rights activities presently being undertaken by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. You have summarized the situation clearly and succinctly, and I hope you will continue to play a key role in working with those department and agency heads involved in civil rights programs to the end that their activities will be consistent and productive.

I believe your recommendation that there be a comparatively simple coordinating mechanism without elaborate staff and organization is wise, and I have today signed the Executive Order creating the Council on Equal Opportunity which you recommended. The direct personal contact with responsible government officers which the Council will provide should prove a most effective means of insuring cooperation, coordination and harmonious working relationships. I will, of course, expect to be kept fully informed of all activities in this area.

As we gain additional experience in implementing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the other related programs, I trust that you will make such suggestions and recommendations for changes and improvements as occur to you. I agree that it will be helpful to you and to others working in these fields to continue to consult with other interested groups and private individuals. The conferences of various governmental and private organizations which you propose to convene from time to time can be a constructive force in promoting our national goals of equal treatment and equal opportunity for all Americans.

There is no remaining question about the determination of the American people to eliminate the injustice and the waste of human resources that have

Executive Order signed + dated: 2/5/65
#11197
E. O. Sent to Archives 8 Feb 65

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 29, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS
OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Once again this year it is my privilege to serve as Honorary Chairman of Brotherhood Week.

Brotherhood Week is, as you know, observed during the week of George Washington's birthday, since it was the Father of Our Country who set forth the principle which guides us still, "To bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

In the period February 21 through February 28, it is my hope that all associated with the Federal Government will make special effort to give Brotherhood Week 1965 added meaning in their offices, communities, neighborhoods and homes. The greater unity of our diverse society is a goal toward which we, particularly, should labor and lead without ceasing.

Strong differences among our people have made our democracy dynamic. But when disagreement degenerates into discrimination, when firm conviction corrodes into bigotry, when healthy differences become the basis for sick divisions, America's strength is sapped and our cause is crippled.

The Honorable W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor is serving as Government Chairman for Brotherhood Week 1965. Secretary Wirtz and the offices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews throughout the country will welcome the opportunity to assist you and your employees in planning for the meaningful observance of this important week this year.

I hope that each Department and Agency will, in its own way, undertake during this week to emphasize the need for all citizens to work throughout 1965 toward the fuller realization of a decent society, respectful of differences of ethnic background, race and religion and responsive to the goal of equal opportunity for every citizen.

Lyndon B. Johnson

34 Copies filed - OVERSIZE ATTACHMENTS

EXECUTIVE
FI 1-2
FG 613
FG 295
WE 9
SP 2-4
492
WE1

JAN 21 1965

Dear Mr. Chairman: James W. Boarn

Following my first address to the Congress a year ago, I wrote to Chairman Macy of the Civil Service Commission about the role of the Federal Executive Boards in meeting the challenges of 1964. I should like to use my recent State of the Union message to the Congress as the occasion for another such letter.

We are on the threshold of attaining the American dream -- the good life for all citizens. The muscle and imagination of the men and women in the Federal work force is needed to make this dream a reality. Each employee must see frugality and economy of operation as his personal responsibility. Each employee must hold civil rights, the war against poverty, and development of our youth as a personal commitment.

I am calling on each member of the Federal Executive Board to personally carry this message to the activity entrusted to his care. The Federal executives must show the way in our united campaign against waste and inefficiency. Federal executives must coordinate their efforts to avoid duplication and achieve unity of purpose in implementing the programs called for by the Great Society.

Chairman Macy has informed me both orally and in writing of the accomplishments of the Federal Executive Boards. Of these, I am pleased. The demands of the future are

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EXECUTIVE
HU2
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FG 160
FF 14
HU2-5

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DRAFT
JMQ 1/15/65

Dear Mr. Aronson; Arnold - Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

This letter is in reply to yours of December 31, 1964, in which you urge two changes in our regulation under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

During the preparation of the regulation the points which you raise were carefully considered, both within this Department and in our discussions with other agencies of the Executive Branch. The conclusion was reached that the regulation, in the form in which it has been issued, will bring an end to discriminatory practices as rapidly as is possible under the terms laid down by Congress.

First, with respect to the continuing State programs, let me assure you that the regulation contemplates no greater delay than is implicit in the statutory requirement of effort to secure voluntary compliance. In the ongoing State programs which we support, Congress clearly intended that the State agencies be afforded a reasonable opportunity to correct discriminatory practices before the institution by us of proceedings to withhold Federal financial assistance. In these programs the immediate recipient of Federal grants (a State agency) is primarily responsible for achieving compliance on the part of subrecipients and contracting institutions--agencies and institutions over which the State agency may have only limited control. To require the State agency to achieve compliance "forthwith" by all such participants in these programs would not comport with either the letter or the spirit of title VI of the Act. Our general requirement is that the States must act as rapidly as the administrative mechanisms of their ramified programs can be made to respond. You can be assured that any delay beyond the administrative necessities will be an exception requiring strong justification.

Public elementary and secondary schools, as you recognize, present a somewhat different problem. I believe that we can do much to speed up the process of desegregation, but I do not believe that we can force an immediate and complete change of pattern in Federally-aided schools that are still segregated in situations where the Federal courts would allow some period for the adjustments to be made. During the debate on what became title VI, its proponents stated that it would not be used in conflict with desegregation plans approved by the courts. This argument was advanced as ground for rejection of a proposed amendment which was subsequently voted down.

In any case, however, it appears to us that progress will be more rapid if the Administration and the courts work together than if they work at cross purposes. The Attorney General is now authorized by title IX to intervene in any private school desegregation suit to seek desegregation or to modify a desegregation order already issued. He has already shown that he

will use the authority of title IX when it is necessary to do so. I believe that the judicial system, with this added prompting, will afford appropriate correction of any undue delay which may have been sanctioned in the past.

It is our best judgment, as I have said, that the regulation in its present form will accomplish our common purpose with as little delay as possible. I can assure you, however, that we will be constantly reappraising the situation, and that if this judgment should prove to be mistaken we will be prepared to take appropriate further action.

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE (2)
442
FG 634
FG 150

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1965

MEMORANDUM

To: The President
The White House

From: Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture

Subject: Civil Rights Commission Report

1. There will be released within a month a Civil Rights Commission Report which is highly critical of the Department of Agriculture. It is particularly critical of our record in the Southern States where alternative employment is limited, there is little turnover, and where Civil Service regulations strictly limit our discretion. Real integration comes slowly there, too. The Extension Service is a special target. Extension programs are financed by a matching funds formula and are administered under local direction. It is difficult to move them although we are beginning to make significant gains.

2. The Report acknowledges strong efforts and considerable progress by the U.S.D.A. Nonetheless the statistical data marshaled in the Report can and I am sure will be used to make the Department look very bad.

3. We do not propose to make any excuses. We will attempt to benefit from the criticism and use it to accelerate our Civil Rights Program.

4. In light of the critical nature of the Report and anticipated widespread criticism it is my judgment it would be timely to take some steps in the next months that will command attention, mitigate criticism by anticipating it, and accelerate our progress toward the humanitarian, democratic goals eloquently set forth by the President and made the law of the land in the Civil Rights Act.

5. Key appointments which will get widespread attention and set an example for the entire Department are those of the ASCS State Committees. These appointments are made by the Secretary. Traditionally they are made after consultation with members of the Congress -- particularly Senators. In the past, Congress has virtually made the appointments. Gradually, with some fuss but in the main amicably, I have been able to restore to the Secretary his responsibility and prerogative to make these appointments, subject to consultation, rather than in effect accepting Congressional dictate.

I would now recommend that I make an announcement prior to the release of the Commission Report that during the year 1965 there will be Negroes appointed to the State Committee in every State in the Nation where there are Negro farmers.

Currently there is a vacancy in Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and will be one soon in Kentucky. There will be other vacancies. All appointments must be renewed next December.

There may be violent reaction to this in the Congress and throughout the South. These appointments are a bellwether within the Department. They will serve notice as nothing else I have been able to do that we will continue to act as well as talk.

6. I am also considering the appointment of an Advisory Committee including some top national Civil Rights leaders. Such a Committee can help us meet your assigned goals internally and also verify to the outside actions taken and progress made.

I will call you about this next week.

EXECUTIVE
FG 634
FG 150
HU 2

January 28, 1965

TO: Lee White

FROM: Bill Moyers

Would you please get on this fast. The President is against such a blanket announcement. We wish to avoid any appearance of a quota system. I would recommend that Freeman should say in response to questions from reporters that he intends to see that Negroes are represented on State Committees.

Attachment
Memo dated 1-15-65 to President
from Sec. Freeman re Civil Rights Commission Report

January 12, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. James M. Quigley
Assistant Secretary
Department of Health, Education,
and Welfare

SUBJECT: Response to Leadership Conference

I wonder if you could give me a little report on how you are coming in preparing a reply to the Leadership Conference complaint about Title VI regulation.

Lee C. White
Associate Special Counsel
to the President

January 6, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. N. Thompson Powers
Department of Labor

I have your memo enclosing a copy of the letter to Secretary Wirtz from Arnold Aronson of the Leadership Conference. I have asked Jim Quigley for HEW's reaction and views and believe it would be desirable if all agencies withheld an answer until HEW's has been framed. In a conversation with Pete Libassi the other day, he indicated he would pass this word on to the other agencies.

Lee C. White
Associate Special Counsel
to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 6, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: LEE C. WHITE

SUBJECT: Memorandum from N. Thompson Powers dated December 31, 1964

Perhaps we should suggest that the Department of Labor carefully consider the objections raised by the Leadership Conference re Title VI. regulations. Then, for their own benefit, they might wish to prepare a brief summary of their reasons for putting the regulat ions in their present form.

If you feel that Secretary Wirtz should respond to Arnold Aronson's letter, the following might be a possible draft:

"Dear Mr. Aronson:

"Thank you for your letter of December 31, 1964, and the attached petition concerning regulations under Title VI. of the Civil Rights Law.

"As you know, the Department of Labor and other Government agencies exercised great care in drafting the present regulations. It is our objective in the Department to unequivocally support the intention of the Congress in our application of Title VI. of the Civil Rights Law. Our personnel will be conscientious in their efforts to this end. We will, however, carefully consider the objections which you have raised, and, if our experience proves that changes should be made in the best interests of enforcement of this legislation, we will recommend said changes to the President.

"Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

W. W. W."

Cliff

Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

DEC 31 1964

MEMORANDUM TO LEE WHITE

Secretary Wirtz received the attached letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. I assume other agencies issuing Title VI regulations received similar letters. We would appreciate your advice concerning a reply.

N. Thompson Powers

N. Thompson Powers

Attachment

LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
ON
CIVIL RIGHTS

"Cooperation in the Common Cause of Civil Rights for All"
132 3rd St., S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003 phone 547 8700
New York address: 20 West 40th St. New York 18, phone BRyant 9 1400
ROY WILKINS Chairman ARNOLD ARONSON Secretary

December 31, 1964

The Honorable W. Willard Wirtz
Secretary of Labor
U. S. Department of Labor
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirtz:

The regulations that the Labor Department and other government agencies have issued under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 have aroused much concern on the part of many of us in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Our chief objection is that the regulations may lend themselves to unconscionable delays in granting the rights guaranteed by the Act. We feel they may permit court orders to be used as an occasion for delay or even subterfuge. They may also permit government officials to delay in obtaining compliance in a manner that can nullify the intent of Congress.

It is our conclusion that Congress meant these rights to be granted forthwith. We therefore petition your agency to review our objections and consider making the amendments in HEW regulations that we suggest.

While we have not had time to circulate this petition among all of the 87 national organizations that participate in the Leadership Conference, our objections were considered at a regular meeting of the Washington representatives of cooperating organizations and drew unanimous endorsement.

Sincerely yours,

Arnold Aronson

Arnold Aronson
Secretary

Enclosure
tl

December 31, 1964

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

PETITION

Re: Objections To Title VI Regulations

We, cooperating organizations in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, wish to note our objections to and petition amendment of, certain provisions of the regulations issued by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. These regulations appeared in Part II of the Federal Register of December 4, 1964, p. 16298 et. seq. This petition is submitted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1003 (d).

Our chief concern is that the regulations countenance delay in the extension of rights clearly granted under Section 601 of the Act. We believe that such delay has no legal basis in the Act or in the Constitution.

Over ten years ago the Supreme Court in the Brown decision ruled that segregation in public education was unconstitutional. In subsequent decision it has extended this principle to include all public facilities. At the time the Court was asked to require desegregation "forthwith" in accordance with the long established precedent that constitutional rights are personal and immediate. In the exercise of its equity jurisdiction, however, the Court allowed lower Federal courts, in implementing its decision to proceed "with all deliberate speed." It should be noted that this formula was not a constitutional standard, but rather a rule of court administration applicable to the exercise of equitable jurisdiction.

After some eight years of community obstruction and delay, the Court made this principle crystal clear in Watson vs. Memphis (1963), saying: "The basic guarantees of our Constitution are warrants for the here and now, and unless there is an overwhelmingly compelling reason, they are to be promptly fulfilled."

The defiance of state and local authorities, the wide-spread refusal to voluntarily desegregate, and the threat of physical and economic harm have to a large degree frustrated compliance "with all deliberate speed." Because of this more effective means of securing compliance were sought. One of these means selected by Congress was Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The legislative history of the Act leaves no doubt that one of the principal objectives of Congress was to speed up the school desegregation process.

The draft regulations issued by your department would impede the accomplishment of this Congressional intent. Section 80.4 (c) prevents the Department from taking any action under Title VI where there is an outstanding court order involving school desegregation. This opens up the possibility that the standards of someone like Judge Harold E. Cox, notorious for his obstructionist tactics in civil rights cases, will be substituted for those of Congress and even that state and local officials could subject themselves to court orders to avoid compliance with Title VI.

In elementary and secondary school situations where no court order is involved, the regulations allow an agency officer to approve a desegregation plan in accordance with the "all deliberate speed" formula. This, too, would allow delay in granting rights that the statute recognizes unequivocally.

If Section 80.4 (b) is interpreted to allow similar delay, it would be subject to the same criticism as 80.4 (c). It should be further pointed out that courts that have allowed delay in desegregation of public schools have not tolerated it in other public facilities. Thus the Department could be permitting a desegregation process that would be even slower than that tolerated by the Courts in cases not involving schools.

In order that the intent of Congress be carried out, we suggest the deletion of Section 80.4 (c) from the regulations and addition of the word "forthwith" at the end of Section 80.4 (b).

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EXECUTIVE

MEMORANDUM

LE1
FA
HU2
PU1-3
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FG155
FG260
FG105-4
FG291
FG223
FG11-6
FG11-15
FG135
FG11-1
FG634

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 4, 1965

TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Lee C. White

Attached are the regulations of eight additional agencies implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. They are approved by the heads of the agencies and have been carefully reviewed by an informal committee containing representatives of Justice, Budget Bureau and Civil Rights Commission.

There was no announcement when the second batch of regulations were published in the Federal Register on December 31, and I assume there is no reason for a White House announcement regarding the issuance of these regulations. When you have approved the attached regulations, I propose that they be published in the Federal Register issue of January 9 since there is likely to be less newspaper attention to a Saturday publication.

The first major criticism of the regulations has been received from the Leadership Conference that worked on the passage of the bill. They take issue with that portion of HEW's regulations which provide that, insofar as schools are concerned, there would be no withholding of funds so long as there is either a final court order fixing a desegregation plan or the Commissioner of Education has approved a desegregation program. The Leadership Conference contends that Congress meant "now" and that any gradualism introduces possibilities for delay and procrastination. This criticism has just been received; HEW is exploring the matter and will have some information available on the issue shortly.

8 Copies Regulations files - Oversize Attachments

Encls.

Signed - Dated 1/7/65

original + one to Archives 1/7/65

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1965

PPL
H12
Jones, J. Raymond
Jackson, J. H.

MEMORANDUM FOR

Paul Popple

I have discussed the matter of the Presidential reviewing stand with Louis Martin, and we have the following suggestions to make from the Negro business and professional community.

William L. Dawson - Congressman from the First District of Illinois. He is the dean of the Negro Congressmen and this should take care of the matter of Negro legislative representation.

John H. Wheeler - President of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Durham, North Carolina. He is a member of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, former president of the National Business Association, and a member of perhaps 15 or 20 national boards. He is also co-chairman of Governor Collins' Advisory Committee. He would serve to represent the business community.

Frank Stanley - Publisher of the Louisville Defender and President of the National Negro Publishers Association.

- George W. Baber of Washington - A Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

- W. Montague Cobb - President, National Medical Association, and Professor of Anatomy at Howard University.

Theodore A. Jones - Executive Vice President, Supreme Life Insurance Company; a member of the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing and perhaps the rising star among Negro businessmen. He is also a Regent of the University of Illinois and has been active in the President's campaigns.

LE/HU 2
HU 2
FG 155-18
PR 1
JL 7
FG 135
PR 8-2/N
ST 24
KUNSTLER, Bill
FG 440

JAN 14 1965

Harrison

Dear Messrs. Tweed and Segal; Bernard H.

Acting Attorney General Katzenbach and Governor Collins have recently brought to my attention again the excellent work done by the members of the National Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights. Although I am confident you are aware of the high regard that all of us in the Federal Government have for the work of your Committee, I believe it is worth noting formally and would appreciate your relaying this on to the lawyers associated with you in this public service endeavor.

We have now moved into a period in which the basic principles incorporated into the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are generally accepted, but undoubtedly there will continue to be many instances in which the skills and constructive efforts of members of the Bar can make a great difference in individual communities. I hope, therefore, that your Committee will maintain the high level of active participation that has characterized your work to date. We realize and are grateful for the personal sacrifice made not only by you as leaders of the Committee but also by those who devote their time and energy to specific community problems.

The Vice President-elect, who will play a key role in coordinating the activities of the Federal departments and agencies engaged in civil rights programs

Duplicate this sent to [illegible]

w/ Lakile 1/12 memo to the President attached