

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Suggested Items for Discussion with Roy Wilkins.

1. Legislation -- Although the Wednesday statement made crystal clear the intention to press for legislation, so far as the strategy and tactics are concerned, the support, cooperation and joint effort with Wilkins and the other Negro leaders should continue. Although a moratorium on demonstrations is probably not possible, whatever the leadership can do to restrain physical activities or channel energies and interest into such positive programs as education and vocational training should be encouraged.
2. Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity -- The efforts will remain at the present high level intensity. You may wish to indicate your thoughts as to who should succeed to the Chairmanship, for example, Secretary Wirtz. -
3. Commission on Civil Rights -- You may wish to indicate that President Kennedy and Dr. Hannah had reached some accord as to the role of the Commission during the time the civil rights legislation is actively pending in Congress. There are two vacancies on the Commission, and a Staff Director must be appointed. The position taken on these appointments previously was that although a search would be made, no action was likely until the legislation had indicated what the precise functions of the Commission would be.
4. Blaik-Royall Report -- No written report has been received, and it is perhaps just as well that no formal report ever be issued. The purpose of the Blaik-Royall team was not to investigate and make recommendations, but rather to serve as a catalyst to promote communication between the white and Negro communities in Birmingham, a goal that seems to have been achieved at least in part.
5. Voting and Registration -- Strong and somewhat successful efforts are going forward under Louie Martin's watchful eye to register thousands of Negro voters in Mississippi, Alabama and other southern States. In addition, strong efforts are going forward elsewhere to encourage States to simplify and make registration easier.

6. Press Statement -- Although it does not seem desirable, in my view, to issue a Presidential statement on the Wilkins meeting, it may be useful to discuss briefly with Mr. Wilkins what his response will be to inquiring reporters. Certainly it would be appropriate to indicate your long-standing interest and, more importantly, actions toward achieving equality of opportunity and treatment for all Americans. Mr. Wilkins could easily speculate and predict that your Administration will press for these goals with genuine determination and competence.


Lee C. White