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2011-2184-F

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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13487
Folder ID Number: 13487-004

Folder Title:
Martin Luther King Commission, 5/17/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 17, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING
DURING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LEGISLATION
SIGNING CEREMONY

The East Room

1:20 P.M. EDT

MRS. KING: President Bush, Vice President Quayle, members of the Cabinet and the Congress, and to all of my friends and supporters, ladies and gentlemen, this is a great occasion for those of us who have struggled to make a reality the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., and this is a continuing effort in that direction to institutionalize his teachings and his great legacy. It is a great honor to join with you on this historic occasion in this ceremony today.

First, I want to thank Congressman John Conyers on the House side, and Senator Sam Nunn on the Senate side for all of their outstanding leadership as sponsors of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Legislation Extension Act, and all of the Congressional cosponsors from both sides of the aisle who helped to pass this legislation extending the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission.

I can say that it was genuinely a great bipartisan victory in the spirit of President Bush's inaugural address, and I want to thank all of the members who have cooperated so beautifully. With pride and the highest hopes for the future, it gives me greatest pleasure to thank our President for his outstanding leadership in helping to make our newest national holiday all that it should be, all that it must be if we are to fulfill the promise of democracy.

The observance of this holiday is both an important learning experience and a call to action to address injustice anywhere. Through the holiday, we can learn about the values and responsibilities of our democracy. We can learn about how a great vision and a great nation began to confront and nonviolently challenge institutional racism. We can honor our obligation to protest evil and injustice as one of the highest traditions of our American heritage. We can learn about the values of tolerance and compassion and develop a greater sense of responsibility to the poor and suffering and even to each other.

We can learn about the values of brotherhood and sisterhood, love, peace, reconciliation, community service, honesty, courage, freedom, and self-discipline. These values transcend politics, ideology, and national boundaries, for they speak to the essence of the human soul in a way that can only be universally uplifting and challenging.

May the Almighty God bless this occasion and all that it represents. May he enable us to apply the gifts and talents he has given us in the service to others. May His grace strengthen us to work with order and patience, with forgiveness, gratitude, and joy as we seek to make this a better nation and world, so that generations yet unborn will continue to sing with pride: America, God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood and sisterhood from sea to shining sea. (Applause.)

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: Coretta, thank you for those inspiring words. I know I speak for everybody in paying tribute to you for your steadfast support of this most worthwhile Commission.

I planned on welcoming you all to the tropical rain forest -- (laughter) -- that we call the Rose Garden. But the East Room has an advantage -- leak-proof, if anything in the White House can be leak-proof. (Laughter.) At least it's dry. (Applause.) And we're delighted that Coretta Scott King and Dexter and so many others are here.

I want to welcome the members of the Commission, the King Federal Holiday Commission; the members of Congress that are here, the leadership in the Senate and in the House. And I'm just delighted that you all are here, and thank you for your important role in all of this. I salute the Party leaders that are here -- I see Lee and others, Lee Atwater -- and everybody joining in a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his ideals.

The bill that I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American hero, Martin Luther King, Jr. And all of us know his creed of faith, centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in the words of Thomas Jefferson: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

And he was a reformer and a crusader. His mission was to move America closer to the ideal, to bring the promise of equality and liberty and justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission -- Federal Holiday Commission -- plays a central role in preserving a great national treasure. And over the past five years, the Commission's done a great deal to make observance of the holiday, of the King holiday, a national and international event. And our agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning, to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal, and rededication to the ideals of Dr. King, those that he upheld -- a day dedicated to the memory, if you will, of a man who campaigned for peaceful change, of a man who stood for human dignity, and certainly the fulfillment of individual excellence; of a man determined -- committed mind and heart to march, to live, and to die for those ideals -- America's ideals.

So Reverend King once wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And simple words expressing a great truth. Justice is indivisible. And all of us must draw on the best in ourselves to make justice for all our cause.

We've made great progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done. So let's continue his work towards a society that treats all men and women, whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin, with dignity and respect. Let's ensure that our communities where our children can learn, live, and grow, are free from the fear of violence and, yes, the lure of drugs. And let's work together towards a society that extends great opportunities and awakens hope to build a better America for all of us.

And let's pass the King legacy on to our children, whose ideals and attitudes will shape our society into the next century.

I want to share with you a few words from the prize-winning essay on Martin Luther King, written by a young man -- in this case, a fifth-grader in Seattle. He writes: I am only 11-years-old, so I cannot really stop the racism. But I can control what happens in my heart and what I do with my life.

That kid may only be 11, but there's wisdom in those words for all of us -- a truly free society is within reach if, in our hearts, we abolish bias and bigotry and discrimination. And so

let's make that society, one with freedom and equality for all, our living memorial to a great man and a great American.

And now, Coretta, Mrs. King, if you will join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. (Applause.)

END

1:31 P.M. EDT

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/16/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1989

REC'D MAY 15 PM 5:15

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAN MCGROARTY *DMG*

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

I. SUMMARY

At 1:15 p.m., on Wednesday, May 17, you will sign legislation reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission. There will be about 200 people here for a Rose Garden ceremony, including Mrs. King and members of Congress. We are still waiting to hear from several black leaders and celebrities.

II. DISCUSSION

The reauthorization and federal funding of the King Federal Holiday Commission is a matter of great interest to black Americans. This event provides an opportunity to underscore your commitment to Reverend King's ideals and to recognize him as an American hero.

McGroarty/Dooley
May 15, 1989
3:50 pm
Draft 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 pm

[Good afternoon and welcome to the White House....

Acknowledgements: members of the MLK Federal Holiday Commission,
Lee Atwater, Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional
sponsors, Mrs. Coretta Scott King.]

The bill I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance
of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American
hero: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

All of us know the creed of Martin Luther King -- a faith
centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the
steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in
the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self
evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. King was a reformer, a crusader. His mission was to
move America closer to the ideal -- to bring the promise of
equality, liberty, and justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission
plays a central role in preserving a great national treasure.
Over the past five years, the Commission has done a great deal to
make observance of the King holiday a national and international
event.

Our agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning -- to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal and rededication to the ideals Dr. King upheld: A day dedicated to the memory . . .

of a man who campaigned for peaceful change....

of a man who stood for human dignity -- and the fulfillment of individual excellence....

of a man determined -- committed mind and heart -- to march, to live and to die for those ideals -- America's ideals.

The Reverend King once wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Simple words, expressing a great truth.

Justice is indivisible -- and all of us must draw on the best in ourselves to make justice for all our cause.

We've made great progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done.

So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's ensure that our communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- are free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends great opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let's pass the King legacy on to our children, whose ideals and attitudes will shape our society into the next century.

I want to share with you a few words from a prize-winning essay on Martin Luther King written by a young man, a fifth grader in Seattle. He writes: "I am only 11 years old, so I cannot really stop the racism -- but I can control what happens in my heart, and what I do with my life."

He may only be 11, but there's wisdom in those words for all of us. A truly free society is within reach, if -- in our hearts -- we abolish bias, bigotry and discrimination.

Let us make that society -- one with freedom and equality for all -- our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

#

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 PM**

**GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO THE TROPICAL RAIN
FOREST WE CALL THE ROSE GARDEN. WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE
MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING HERE WITH US.**

- 2 -

**I ALSO WANT TO WELCOME MEMBERS OF THE KING FEDERAL
HOLIDAY COMMISSION, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND THE MANY
DISTINGUISHED MEN AND WOMEN HERE IN TRIBUTE TO DR. KING
AND HIS IDEALS.**

- 3 -

THE BILL I'LL BE SIGNING SHORTLY UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF HONORING THE MEMORY AND THE SHINING IDEALS OF A GREAT AMERICAN HERO: THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ALL OF US KNOW THE CREED OF MARTIN LUTHER KING -- A FAITH CENTERED FIRMLY IN THE GREAT HERITAGE OF AMERICAN IDEALS.

- 4 -

ON THE STEPS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, DR. KING ISSUED HIS CHALLENGE IN THE WORDS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON: "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."

- 5 -

DR. KING WAS A REFORMER, A CRUSADER. HIS MISSION WAS TO MOVE AMERICA CLOSER TO THE IDEAL -- TO BRING THE PROMISE OF EQUALITY, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL.

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN PRESERVING A GREAT NATIONAL TREASURE.

- 6 -

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE COMMISSION HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL TO MAKE OBSERVANCE OF THE KING HOLIDAY A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENT.

OUR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS MUST BE TO BUILD ON THAT BEGINNING -- TO SEE TO IT THAT THE THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY JANUARY BECOMES A DAY OF HOPE, RENEWAL AND REDEDICATION TO THE IDEALS DR. KING UPHELD: A DAY DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY . . .

OF A MAN WHO CAMPAIGNED FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE....

OF A MAN WHO STOOD FOR HUMAN DIGNITY -- AND THE FULFILLMENT OF INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE....

OF A MAN DETERMINED -- COMMITTED MIND AND HEART -- TO MARCH, TO LIVE AND TO DIE FOR THOSE IDEALS -- AMERICA'S IDEALS.

THE REVEREND KING ONCE WROTE: "INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

- 9 -

SIMPLE WORDS, EXPRESSING A GREAT TRUTH.

**JUSTICE IS INDIVISIBLE -- AND ALL OF US MUST DRAW
ON THE BEST IN OURSELVES TO MAKE JUSTICE FOR ALL OUR
CAUSE.**

**WE'VE MADE GREAT PROGRESS. BUT THE MEMORY OF ALL
THAT DR. KING STOOD FOR REMINDS US THAT OUR WORK IS NOT
DONE.**

- 10 -

**SO LET'S CONTINUE HIS WORK, TOWARDS A SOCIETY THAT
TREATS ALL MEN AND WOMEN -- WHATEVER THEIR ORIGIN,
WHATEVER THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN -- WITH DIGNITY AND
RESPECT.**

**...LET'S ENSURE THAT OUR COMMUNITIES WHERE OUR
CHILDREN CAN LEARN, LIVE AND GROW -- ARE FREE FROM THE
FEAR OF VIOLENCE AND THE LURE OF DRUGS.**

- 11 -

...LET'S WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A SOCIETY THAT
EXTENDS GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AND AWAKENS HOPE -- TO
BUILD A BETTER AMERICA FOR ALL OF US.

AND LET'S PASS THE KING LEGACY ON TO OUR CHILDREN,
WHOSE IDEALS AND ATTITUDES WILL SHAPE OUR SOCIETY INTO
THE NEXT CENTURY.

- 12 -

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU A FEW WORDS FROM A PRIZE-
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11 YEARS OLD, SO I CANNOT REALLY STOP THE RACISM -- BUT
I CAN CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS IN MY HEART, AND WHAT I DO
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- 13 -

HE MAY ONLY BE 11, BUT THERE'S WISDOM IN THOSE WORDS FOR ALL OF US. A TRULY FREE SOCIETY IS WITHIN REACH, IF -- IN OUR HEARTS -- WE ABOLISH BIAS, BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION.

LET US MAKE THAT SOCIETY -- ONE WITH FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL -- OUR LIVING MEMORIAL TO A GREAT MAN, AND GREAT AMERICAN.

- 14 -

NOW, IF MRS. KING WILL PLEASE JOIN ME, I WILL SIGN THIS BILL FORMALLY REAUTHORIZING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL HOLIDAY COMMISSION.

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THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 PM**

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#

McGroarty/Dooley
May 16, 1989
12:40 am
Draft 2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 pm

Good afternoon and welcome to the tropical rain forest we call the Rose Garden. We're honored to have Mrs. Coretta Scott King here with us. I also want to welcome members of the King Federal Holiday Commission, Members of Congress, and the many distinguished men and women here in tribute to Dr. King and his ideals.

The bill I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American hero: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

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So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's ensure that our communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- are free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends great opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

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#

But the East Room has ~~an~~ a double layer - it's leakproof. [Pause] Well would you believe it dry!

McGroarty/Dooley
May 16, 1989
12:40 am
Draft 2

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SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 pm

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Martin Luther King
Commission Signing Ceremony

The draft remarks for the Martin Luther King Commission signing are appropriate for the Rose Garden ceremony. We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. 5/15/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (ext. 2930, Rm. 122) with an info copy to my office by 1:00 P.M., MONDAY, 5/15/89. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 12 PM 0

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
2:45 pm
Draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 pm

[Good afternoon and welcome to the White House....

Acknowledgements: members of the MLK Federal Holiday Commission,
Lee Atwater, Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional
sponsors, Mrs. Coretta Scott King.]

The bill I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance
of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American
hero: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

All of us know the creed of Martin Luther King -- a faith
centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the
steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in
the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self
evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. King did not seek to break with our system, but to
perfect it -- to bring the promise of equality, liberty, and
justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission plays
a central role in preserving a great national treasure. Over the
past five years, the Commission has done a great deal to make
observance of the King holiday a national and international
event.

observance of the King holiday a national and international event.

Your agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning -- to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal and rededication to the ideals Dr. King upheld:

A day dedicated to the memory of a man who campaigned for peaceful change....

A man who stood for human dignity -- and the possibility of individual excellence....

A man determined -- committed mind and heart -- to march, to live and to die for those ideals -- America's ideals.

The Reverend King once wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Simple words, expressing a great truth.

Justice is indivisible -- and all of us must draw on the best in ourselves to make justice towards all our cause.

I firmly believe we've made progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done.

So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's cultivate communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let us make that society our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAN MCGROARTY *DMG*

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

I. SUMMARY

At 1:15 p.m., on Wednesday, May 17, you will sign legislation reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission. There will be about 200 people here for a Rose Garden ceremony, including Mrs. King and members of Congress. We are still waiting to hear from several black leaders and celebrities.

II. DISCUSSION

The reauthorization and federal funding of the King Federal Holiday Commission is a matter of great interest to black Americans. This event provides an opportunity to underscore your commitment to Reverend King's ideals and to recognize him as an American hero.

McGroarty/Dooley
May 15, 1989
3:50 pm
Draft 2

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SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 pm

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hero: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

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centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the
steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in
the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self
evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. King was a reformer, a crusader. His mission was to
move America closer to the ideal -- to bring the promise of
equality, liberty, and justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission
plays a central role in preserving a great national treasure.
Over the past five years, the Commission has done a great deal to
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event.

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of a man determined -- committed mind and heart -- to march, to live and to die for those ideals -- America's ideals.

The Reverend King once wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Simple words, expressing a great truth.

Justice is indivisible -- and all of us must draw on the best in ourselves to make justice for all our cause.

We've made great progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done.

So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's ensure that our communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- are free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends great opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let's pass the King legacy on to our children, whose ideals and attitudes will shape our society into the next century.

I want to share with you a few words from a prize-winning essay on Martin Luther King written by a young man, a fifth grader in Seattle. He writes: "I am only 11 years old, so I cannot really stop the racism -- but I can control what happens in my heart, and what I do with my life."

He may only be 11, but there's wisdom in those words for all of us. A truly free society is within reach, if -- in our hearts -- we abolish bias, bigotry and discrimination.

Let us make that society -- one with freedom and equality for all -- our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. 5/15/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (ext. 2930, Rm. 122) with an info copy to my office by 1:00 P.M., MONDAY, 5/15/89. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

May 15, 1989

TO: CHRISS WINSTON

The NSC concurs with the Presidential remarks attached, to be given at a signing ceremony in the Rose Garden on May 17.

Brent Scowcroft
Brent Scowcroft

cc: James W. Cicconi

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 12 PM 3

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
2:45 pm
Draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
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MAY 17, 1989
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All of us know the creed of Martin Luther King -- a faith centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. King did not seek to break with our system, but to perfect it -- to bring the promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission plays a central role in preserving a great national treasure. Over the past five years, the Commission has done a great deal to make observance of the King holiday a national and international event.

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Your agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning -- to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal and rededication to the ideals Dr. King upheld:

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Simple words, expressing a great truth.

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I firmly believe we've made progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done.

So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's cultivate communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let us make that society our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. 5/15/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (ext. 2930, Rm. 122) with an info copy to my office by 1:00 P.M., MONDAY, 5/15/89. Thank you.

see comments

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 12 7:10

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
2:45 pm
Draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
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So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's ^{ensure that our} cultivate ^{are} communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let us make that society our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

No Comment
5/15/89

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
2:45 pm
Draft 1

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VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

OK GBW 5/15

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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RESPONSE:

See changes

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 12 11:03

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
2:45 pm
Draft 1

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use a King Statement, Not Jefferson

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Murr 4864

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✓

~~observance of the King holiday a national and international event.~~

Your agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning -- to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal and rededication to the ideals Dr. King upheld:

A day dedicated to the memory of a man who campaigned for peaceful change....

A man who stood for human dignity -- and the ^{fulfillment} possibility of individual excellence....

A man determined -- committed mind and heart -- to march, to live and to die for those ideals -- America's ideals.

The Reverend King once wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Simple words, expressing a great truth.

Justice is indivisible -- and all of us must draw on the best in ourselves to make justice towards all our cause.

[I firmly believe] we've made progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done. Murr
4864

So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's cultivate communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

✓
equal ✓

And let us make that society our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

#

CW's changes

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
12:10 pm
Draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
1:15 pm

[Good afternoon and welcome to the White House....

Acknowledgements: members of the MLK Federal Holiday Commission,
Lee Atwater, Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional
sponsors, Mrs. Coretta Scott King.]

The bill I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance
of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American
hero: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

? (political) All of us know the creed of Martin Luther King -- a
faith centered firmly in the great heritage of American
ideals. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued
his challenge in the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these
truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. King did not seek to break with our system, but to
perfect it -- to bring the promise of equality, liberty, and
justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission plays
a central role in preserving a great national treasure. Over the
past five years, the Commission has done a great deal to make
observance of the King holiday a national and international
event.

Your agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning -- to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal and rededication to the ideals Dr. King upheld:

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I firmly believe we've made progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done.

So let's continue ^{his} King's work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's cultivate communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let us make that society our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King ~~(?)~~ will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission. (X)

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1:00 p.m. 5/15/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION SIGNING CEREMONY

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>2998 Brad N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>coming in 20m</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (ext. 2930, Rm. 122) with an info copy to my office by 1:00 P.M., MONDAY, 5/15/89. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Legislator
Reference OMB

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 12 PM 3

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
2:45 pm
Draft 1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMISSION
SIGNING CEREMONY
THE ROSE GARDEN
MAY 17, 1989
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The bill I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American hero: The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

All of us know the creed of Martin Luther King -- a faith centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal."

Dr. King ~~did not seek to break with our system, but to~~ *was a reformer, a crusader. His mission was to*

move America closer to the ideal --
perfect it -- to bring the promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission plays a central role in preserving a great national treasure. Over the past five years, the Commission has done a great deal to make observance of the King holiday a national and international event.

~~observance of the King holiday a national and international event.~~

^{our} Your agenda for the next five years must be to build on that beginning -- to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal and rededication to the ideals Dr. King upheld:

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Simple words, expressing a great truth.

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~~I firmly believe~~ ^{we've} made ^{great} progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done.

So let's continue his work, towards a society that treats all men and women -- whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin -- with dignity and respect.

...Let's ^{ensure that our} cultivate communities where our children can learn, live and grow -- ^{are} free from the fear of violence and the lure of drugs.

...Let's work together towards a society that extends *equal* opportunities and awakens hope -- to build a better America for all of us.

And let us make that society ^(...) our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

#

[Faint handwritten notes]

And let's pass the King legacy on to our children, whose ideals and attitudes will shape our society into the next century.

I want to share with you a few words from a prize-winning essay on Martin Luther King written by a young man, a fifth grader in Seattle. He writes: "I am only 11 years old, so I cannot really stop the racism -- but I can control what happens in my heart, and what I do with my life."

He may be only be 11, but there's wisdom in those words for all of us. A truly free society is within reach, if -- in our hearts -- we abolish bias, bigotry and discrimination.

Let us make that society -- one with freedom and equality for all -- our living memorial to a great man, and great American.

Now, if Mrs. King (?) will please join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

#

Chriss -

Could add this
insert in MLK remainder
if you wish.

- Dan McG


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON





May 15, 1989


Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton 
Re: MLK Commission Draft

I have only a few stylistic comments:

Page 1, graf 3, lines 4-5 Just curious: did King quote Jefferson word for word? If he did, fine. If he didn't, then the phraseology in this draft is a little unclear. 

1,4,1 In this day and age it is not necessary to defend King against the charge that he was some sort of radical bent on overturning the system. Use of the word "break" sets up a straw man of unreconstructed racism. I'm not arguing that there is no racism any more, but even the civil rights community would agree that it has grown more subtle and more sophisticated. Thus I would simply say that "Dr. King was a reformer, a crusader. His mission was to move America closer to the ideal -- to bring the promise..." 

2,8,2 The normal formulation is "justice for all." This is distinct from "malice toward none"! 

2,11 Good hit on drugs.

3,1,2 Very good hit on building a better America!

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



May 15, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: ROBERT J. PORTMAN
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Martin Luther King
Commission Signing Ceremony

Pursuant to your staffing request of May 12, 1989, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks. We have no legal objection to the contents.

As others may have observed, the first two lines at the top of page two should be deleted.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

1989 MAY 12 PM 3

McGroarty/Dooley
May 12, 1989
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Draft 1

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