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# FOIA MARKER

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**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13515  
**Folder ID Number:** 13515-011

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**Folder Title:**  
Martin Luther King Proclamation Ceremony 1/9/90 [OA 4390]

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<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 9, 1990

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL HOLIDAY, 1990

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As we observe a national holiday in honor of the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we celebrate a life dedicated to the struggle for racial equality and justice. With determination, courage, and a firm commitment to nonviolence, Dr. King worked to free men and women throughout the United States from "the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination."

Martin Luther King, Jr., loved this country and firmly believed in the timeless ideal expressed in its Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Knowing that "a house divided against itself cannot stand," Dr. King devoted his life to striving for racial unity and equality in the United States. He believed our Nation had strayed from the noble course set in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and he was determined to see that America remain faithful to the principles they enshrine.

In his words and deeds, Martin Luther King, Jr., reminded all Americans of the stern admonition issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1858, when he warned the people of Edwardsville, Illinois, of the tragic consequences that continued tolerance of slavery could hold for the United States. President Lincoln, like great Americans of all generations, knew that our Nation's strength lies in the conviction that every human being is of inestimable worth and that the only legitimate end of government is to protect the God-given rights of each individual. "Destroy this spirit," Lincoln warned, "and you have planted the seeds of despotism at your own doors. Familiarize yourselves with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them. Accustomed to trample on the rights of others, you have lost the genius of your own independence and become the fit subjects of the first cunning tyrant who rises among you."

Like President Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., knew that the United States could not remain a free and great nation so long as the rights of any individual are denied. He knew that America's promise of freedom and justice for all is rooted in the magnificent design of our Creator, and he knew that this promise must not be distorted or destroyed by bigotry and discrimination.

more

(OVER)

Dr. King told us that he had a dream. We see now that it was not just a dream but a vision. Recalling the Proverb that states "where there is no vision, the people perish," Dr. King shared with us his hope and foresight. He had "seen the promised land," and he inspired each of us to view it with him.

Today, even though many of the darkest "clouds of racial prejudice" have been dispersed, even though we are closer to that day when people "will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," we must continue working to promote racial unity and equal opportunity in the United States. This is our solemn duty -- and it is the greatest honor we can give to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Public Law 98-144, the third Monday in January of each year has been designated as a legal public holiday in honor of the "Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 15, 1990, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 9, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
COMMEMORATING THE BIRTHDAY OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Room 450  
Old Executive Office Building

10:03 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. Welcome. Please be seated -- and thank you. Well, let me salute Dr. Hooks, the able head of the NAACP; and I see our Director, Bill Bennett, here, and many others. Connie Newman is here somewhere. I see Dorothy -- Dorothy Height; Art Fletcher and Josh Smith and others.

But I want to welcome you to the White House -- pardon the slight delay there -- and bemoan the fact that some of the young people that were to be here couldn't make it because of the bus schedules and the weather. This is an event that celebrates the greatness of a man whose life and legacy helped set America free.

I refer, of course, to Dr. Martin Luther King. He would have been 61 years old next Monday. Since 1986, this day has been a federal holiday, and I will shortly sign this proclamation. But first, just a few words from the heart.

Most of you weren't born yet -- I was addressing myself to young people. I going to have to modify that slightly, looking around. (Laughter.) Certainly, the front row over here -- (laughter) -- but now, there's some that qualify. Let me rephrase it -- many of you weren't born yet when Dr. King was killed. And yet, you know that his life was central to the story of America. Each day, we write new chapters. And as we do, let us recall who Dr. King was, what he did, and what his lessons were. For you remain the trustees of all that he believed.

First, he was a crusader and an evangelist, bore the weight of a pioneer. He was a force against evil. His life was a metaphor for courage. His goal was an America where equality and opportunity could coexist, and where goodness could prevail.

Next, what did he do? Well, he went to cities and towns -- large and small -- places like Selma and Birmingham and Montgomery. Wherever he was needed. And wherever he found hatred, he condemned it. Wherever there was bigotry, he assailed it. And wherever there was segregation, he defied it. He endured death threats and these obscene phone calls in the dead of the night. But he refused to be intimidated. And through his courage, Dr. King changed forever America for the better.

Finally, what did this man teach? Well, he preached "love thy neighbor." He taught that before government there was man, and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights central to all that's good about our country. The right of free expression. Equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. The right to think, dream and worship as we please.

Those lessons did not die with Martin Luther King. But we must recall them daily, for while he did so much, there is much that remains to be done. And particular -- and I know how strongly

MORE

Reverend Hooks feels about this -- particularly when we hear of bombings, obscene phone calls, hate mail -- each one of us must speak out. And there is no place for the baggage of bigotry in the United States of America.

Teddy Roosevelt called this pulpit -- called the presidency the bully pulpit. Well, I will continue to use that pulpit, hopefully with sensitivity, always to denounce and work to bring to justice the bigots who stain this good and decent land.

I am confident that Martin Luther King would support that goal, just as I know he would rejoice today that the civil rights anthem of "We Shall Overcome" has captured the hearts of millions as democracy begins to bloom in Eastern Europe.

And here at home, where Dr. King's call for nonviolent change is making America a better place -- here, too, his lessons live. We see them in our neighborhoods, in our churches and, yes, in students -- in you as students. But you are the dream that Dr. King spoke so movingly about. And you must fight for what he died for: a nation in which no one is left out. And I know you've made that fight your own.

For evidence, Darrell Webster, a graduate student at Catholic University, overcame a troubled childhood to mentor kids in his old neighborhood. Shavonna Brown, of Woodson Junior High, conquered a similar background to become a leader in her school. And then, Linda Lawson. In an age where too many are choosing drugs, Linda's choice was different -- she chose education. Becoming valedictorian of her high school, and today, a junior at prestigious American University. And next semester she's going off to England to study.

Darrell, Shavonna, Linda -- in a sense, I wish that Martin Luther King could see you now. For he often spoke of how education can spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

And that's the lesson that I'd like to emphasize today -- take pride in what you've done, as I know Dr. King would. But remember, too, that we have not finished the work of making Martin Luther King's dream a reality for each child in America: that one day they would live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

So let me address these closing remarks to you, particularly the students. Dr. King loved the young people of America, and so I wanted not only you to be here, but others -- some of whom could not make it -- be here today. For while he's gone now, the children remain. And that, in essence, has become his legacy. For the youth have inherited his mantle and must help realize the dream.

So do right, as he would. Love justice, as he did every day of his life. And next Monday, of course, will be our special holiday. So it is now my privilege to sign a proclamation naming January 15th of this year the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday.

Thank you all very much for being with us. And could you join me when we do the signing? (Applause.)

(The proclamation is signed.)

END

10:12 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

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For Immediate Release

January 9, 1990

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Thank you all very much for being with us. And could you join me when we do the signing? (Applause.)

(The proclamation is signed.)

END

10:12 A.M. EST

**KING BIRTHDAY / ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990 / 10:00 A.M.**

**DR. HOOKS, SECRETARY KEMP, REVEREND LOWERY, DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT, ART FLETCHER, JOSH SMITH, LEE ATWATER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE. AND TO AN EVENT THAT CELEBRATES THE GREATNESS OF A MAN WHOSE LIFE -- AND LEGACY -- HELPED SET AMERICA FREE.**

**I REFER TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SIXTY-ONE YEARS OLD NEXT MONDAY.**

**- 2 -**

**SINCE 1986, THIS DAY HAS BEEN A FEDERAL HOLIDAY, AND I WILL SHORTLY SIGN ITS PROCLAMATION. BUT FIRST LET ME SPEAK FROM THE HEART ABOUT THIS HERO.**

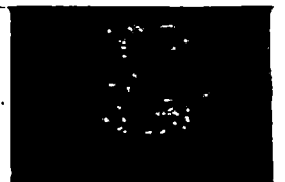
**MOST OF YOU WEREN'T BORN YET WHEN DR. KING WAS KILLED. YET YOU KNOW THAT HIS LIFE WAS CENTRAL TO THE STORY OF AMERICA. EACH DAY, WE WRITE NEW CHAPTERS. AND AS WE DO, LET US RECALL WHO DR. KING WAS, WHAT HE DID, AND WHAT HIS LESSONS WERE. FOR YOU REMAIN THE TRUSTEES OF ALL THAT HE BELIEVED.**

FIRST, HE WAS A CRUSADER AND AN EVANGELIST, AND HE BORE THE WEIGHT OF A PIONEER. HE WAS A FORCE AGAINST EVIL. HIS LIFE WAS A METAPHOR FOR COURAGE. HIS GOAL WAS AN AMERICA WHERE EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY COULD CO-EXIST, AND WHERE GOODNESS COULD PREVAIL.

NEXT, WHAT DID HE DO? HE WENT TO CITIES AND TOWNS -- LARGE AND SMALL -- PLACES LIKE SELMA, BIRMINGHAM, AND MONTGOMERY. WHEREVER HE WAS NEEDED. AND WHEREVER HE FOUND HATRED, HE CONDEMNED IT.

WHEREVER THERE WAS BIGOTRY, HE ASSAILED IT. AND WHEREVER THERE WAS SEGREGATION, HE DEFIED IT. HE ENDURED DEATH THREATS AND OBSCENE PHONE CALLS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT. BUT HE REFUSED TO BE INTIMIDATED. AND THROUGH HIS COURAGE, DR. KING FOREVER CHANGED AMERICA FOR THE BETTER.

FINALLY, WHAT DID THIS MAN TEACH? HE PREACHED "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR." HE TAUGHT THAT BEFORE GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS MAN -- AND GOVERNMENT AROSE TO MEET MAN'S NEEDS.



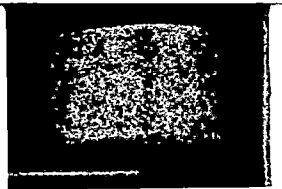
HE DEMANDED RIGHTS CENTRAL TO ALL THAT'S GOOD ABOUT OUR COUNTRY. THE RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION. EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW. THE RIGHT TO VOTE AS WE CHOOSE. THE RIGHT TO THINK, DREAM, AND WORSHIP AS WE PLEASE.

THOSE LESSONS DID NOT DIE WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING. AND WE MUST RECALL THEM DAILY. FOR WHILE DR. KING DID MUCH, THERE REMAINS MUCH MORE TO DO.

IN PARTICULAR, WHEN WE HEAR OF BOMBINGS, OBSCENE PHONE CALLS, AND HATE MAIL, EACH ONE OF US MUST SPEAK OUT. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THE BAGGAGE OF BIGOTRY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. // TEDDY ROOSEVELT CALLED THE PRESIDENCY THE "BULLY PULPIT." WELL, I INTEND TO USE THIS PULPIT TO DENOUNCE -- AND WORK TO BRING TO JUSTICE -- THE BIGOTS WHO STAIN THIS GOOD AND DECENT LAND. //

I AM CONFIDENT MARTIN LUTHER KING WOULD SUPPORT THAT GOAL. JUST AS I KNOW HE WOULD REJOICE THAT TODAY THE CIVIL RIGHTS ANTHEM OF "WE SHALL OVERCOME" HAS CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS AS DEMOCRACY BEGINS TO BLOOM IN EASTERN EUROPE.

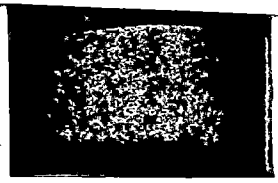
AND HERE AT HOME, WHERE DR. KING'S CALL FOR NON-VIOLENT CHANGE IS MAKING AMERICA A BETTER PLACE -- HERE, TOO, HIS LESSONS LIVE.



WE SEE THEM IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND IN OUR CHURCHES, AND, YES, IN YOU AS STUDENTS. FOR YOU ARE THE DREAM DR. KING SPOKE SO MOVINGLY ABOUT. AND YOU MUST FIGHT FOR WHAT HE DIED FOR: A NATION IN WHICH NO ONE IS LEFT OUT. AND I KNOW YOU'VE MADE THAT FIGHT YOUR OWN.

FOR EVIDENCE, LOOK AT THIS AUDIENCE. DARRELL WEBSTER, A GRADUATE STUDENT AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, OVERCAME A TROUBLED CHILDHOOD TO MENTOR KIDS IN HIS OLD NEIGHBORHOOD.

AND SHAVONNA [SHA-VAH-NA] BROWN OF WOODSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONQUERED A SIMILAR BACKGROUND TO BECOME A LEADER IN HER SCHOOL. THEN, THERE'S LINDA LAWSON. IN AN AGE WHEN TOO MANY ARE CHOOSING DRUGS, LINDA'S CHOICE WAS DIFFERENT -- SHE CHOSE EDUCATION. BECOMING VALEDICTORIAN OF HER HIGH SCHOOL -- AND TODAY, A JUNIOR AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. AND NEXT SEMESTER SHE'S GOING TO ENGLAND TO STUDY.

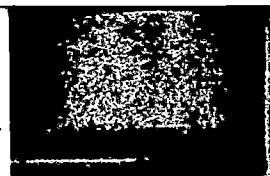


DARRELL AND SHAVONNA AND LINDA -- I WISH MARTIN LUTHER KING COULD SEE YOU NOW. FOR HE OFTEN SPOKE OF HOW EDUCATION COULD SPUR EXCELLENCE -- AND EXCELLENCE, EQUALITY. HE KNEW HOW HIGHER LEARNING COULD BE THE GREAT UPLIFTER. AND HE BELIEVED THAT EDUCATION COULD HELP EACH AMERICAN CLIMB THE LADDER OF SELF-RESPECT AND DIGNITY.

THAT IS THE LESSON I'D LIKE TO LEAVE WITH YOU STUDENTS.

TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE -- AS I KNOW DR. KING WOULD. BUT REMEMBER, TOO, THAT WE HAVE NOT FINISHED THE WORK OF MAKING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DREAM A REALITY FOR EACH CHILD IN AMERICA: THAT ONE DAY THEY WOULD LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WERE JUDGED NOT BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

LET ME ADDRESS THESE CLOSING REMARKS TO YOU, THE CHILDREN. DR. KING LOVED THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA, AND SO I WANTED YOU TO BE HERE TODAY.



FOR WHILE HE IS GONE NOW, HIS CHILDREN REMAIN. YOU ARE THOSE CHILDREN -- AND YOU HAVE BECOME HIS LEGACY. FOR YOU HAVE INHERITED HIS MANTLE, AND MUST HELP REALIZE THE DREAM.

DO RIGHT, AS HE WOULD. LOVE JUSTICE, AS HE DID EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE. NEXT MONDAY, OF COURSE, WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY. SO IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE TO SIGN A PROCLAMATION NAMING JANUARY 15 OF THIS YEAR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL HOLIDAY.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/8/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---  
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PROCLAMATION SIGNING  
 ROOM 450  
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990  
 (1/8 - draft two)

	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"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<del>WINSTON</del>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

January 8, 1990

1990 JAN -8 PM 5:02

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:           CHRISS WINSTON *cw*  
FROM:               CURT SMITH *CS*  
SUBJECT:            MARTIN LUTHER KING PROCLAMATION SIGNING

I.    SUMMARY

On Tuesday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m., you will commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday at a proclamation signing ceremony. The audience will include about 200 area students and civil rights leaders in Room 450. Dr. Benjamin Hooks; Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women; Julius Chambers, Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Funds; Secretary Kemp; Lee Atwater; Josh Smith; and Art Fletcher will also attend.

II.   DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (6 minutes, speechcards) discuss Martin Luther King's life, his legacy, and his struggle to ensure freedom for all. The proclamation you will sign designates January 15, 1990, a federal holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday. This is the first year that the holiday actually falls on Dr. King's birthday.

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft Two  
January 8, 1990  
KING

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990  
10:00 A.M.

Dr. Hooks, Secretary Kemp, Dr. Dorothy Height, Julius Chambers, Art Fletcher, Josh Smith, Lee Atwater, Ladies and gentlemen. I want to welcome you to the White House. And to an event that celebrates the greatness of a man whose life -- and legacy -- helped set America free.

I refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He would have been sixty-one years old next Monday. Since 1986, this day has been a federal holiday, and I will shortly sign its proclamation. But first let me speak from the heart about a hero, and a friend.

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[Sha-VAH-na] Brown of Woodson Junior High School conquered a similar background to become a leader in her school. Then, there's Linda Lawson. Three of her brothers have done time for doing drugs. But Linda's choice was different -- she chose education. Becoming valedictorian of her high school -- and today, a junior at American University. And next semester she's going to England to study.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 8, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

CHRISS WINSTON *W*

FROM:

CURT SMITH *CS*

SUBJECT:

MARTIN LUTHER KING PROCLAMATION SIGNING

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m., you will commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday at a proclamation signing ceremony. The audience will include about 200 area students and civil rights leaders in Room 450. Dr. Benjamin Hooks; Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women; Julius Chambers, Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Funds; Secretary Kemp; Lee Atwater; Josh Smith; and Art Fletcher will also attend.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (6 minutes, speechcards) discuss Martin Luther King's life, his legacy, and his struggle to ensure freedom for all. The proclamation you will sign designates January 15, 1990, a federal holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday. This is the first year that the holiday actually falls on Dr. King's birthday.

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft Two  
January 8, 1990  
KING

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990  
10:00 A.M.

Dr. Hooks, Secretary Kemp, Dr. Dorothy Height, Julius Chambers, Art Fletcher, Josh Smith, Lee Atwater, Ladies and gentlemen. I want to welcome you to the White House. And to an event that celebrates the greatness of a man whose life -- and legacy -- helped set America free.

I refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He would have been sixty-one years old next Monday. Since 1986, this day has been a federal holiday, and I will shortly sign its proclamation. But first let me speak from the heart about a hero, and a friend.

Most of you weren't born yet when Martin King was killed. Yet you know that his life was central to the story of America. Each day, we write new chapters. And as we do, let us recall who Dr. King was, what he did, and what his lessons were. For you remain the trustees of all that he believed.

First, he was a crusader and an evangelist, and he bore the weight of a pioneer. He was a force against evil. His life was a metaphor for courage. His goal was an America where equality and opportunity could co-exist, and where goodness could prevail.

Next, what did he do? He went to cities and towns -- large and small -- places like Selma, Birmingham, and Montgomery. Wherever he was needed. And wherever he found hatred, he

condemned it. Wherever there was bigotry, he assailed it. And wherever there was segregation, he defied it. He endured death threats and obscene phone calls in the dead of night. But he refused to be intimidated. And through his courage, Martin forever changed America for the better.

Finally, what did this man teach? He preached "Love thy neighbor." He said that before government, there was man -- and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights central to all that's good about our country. The right of free expression. Equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. The right to think, dream, and worship as we please.

Those lessons did not die with Martin Luther King. Today, the civil rights anthem of "We Shall Overcome" has captured the hearts of millions as democracy begins to bloom in Eastern Europe.

And here at home, where Dr. King's call for non-violent change is making America a more decent, civil place -- here, too, his lessons live. We see them in our neighborhoods, and in our churches, and, yes, in you as students. For you are the dream Dr. King spoke so movingly about. And you must fight for what he died for: A Nation in which no one is left out. And I know you've made that fight your own.

For evidence, look at this audience. Darrell Webster, a graduate student at Catholic University, overcame a troubled childhood to mentor kids in his old neighborhood. And Shavonna

[Sha-VAH-na] Brown of Woodson Junior High School conquered a similar background to become a leader in her school. Then, there's Linda Lawson. Three of her brothers have done time for doing drugs. But Linda's choice was different -- she chose education. Becoming valedictorian of her high school -- and today, a junior at American University. And next semester she's going to England to study.

Darrell and Shavonna and Linda -- I wish Martin Luther King could see you now. For he often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

**That** is the lesson I'd like to leave with you students. Take pride in what you have done -- as I know Dr. King would. But remember, too, that we have not finished the work of making Martin Luther King's dream a reality for **each** child in America: That one day they would live in a Nation where they were judged **not** by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Dr. King loved the children of America, and so I wanted you to be here today. For while he is gone now, his children remain. You are those children -- and you have become his legacy. For you have inherited his mantle, and must help realize the dream.

Do right, as he would. Love justice, as he did every day of his life. Next Monday, of course, will be a **special** day. So it is now my privilege to sign a proclamation naming January 15 of this year the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/5/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 1/8/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
<i>12:20</i> VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>H/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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>H/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" 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's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Monday, January 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
January 4, 1990  
KING

1990 JAN 5 PM 4: 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990

I want to welcome you to the White House. And to an event that <sup>Celebrates</sup> ~~embodies~~ the greatness of a man whose life -- and legacy -- helped set America free.

I refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He would have been sixty-one years old next Monday. That day is now a national holiday, and I will shortly sign its proclamation. But first let me speak from the heart about a hero, and a friend.

Most of you weren't born yet when Martin King was killed. Yet you know that his life was central to the story of America. Each day, we write new chapters. And as we do, let us recall what Dr. King was, and what he did, and what his lessons were. For you remain the trustees of all that he believed.

First, he was a crusader and an evangelist, and he bore the weight of a pioneer. He was a force against evil. His life was a metaphor for courage. His goal was an America where equality and opportunity could co-exist, and where goodness could prevail.

Next, what did he do? He went to <sup>Cities and towns - large and small - places like</sup> Selma, ~~to~~ Greensboro, ~~to~~ <sup>he found</sup> Montgomery. Wherever he was needed. <sup>And</sup> ~~Wherever there was hatred,~~ <sup>he condemned it. Whenever there was bigotry, he assailed it. And wherever there was segregation</sup> ~~to oppose.~~ Martin Luther King defied segregation. <sup>He endured</sup> ~~He endured~~ <sup>through his windows --</sup> ~~rocks and death threats and obscene phone calls in the~~ <sup>dead of</sup> ~~night.~~ <sup>he defied</sup> ~~He~~ <sup>it.</sup>

forever changed America -- ~~and helped America change the world.~~ <sup>for the better</sup> ~~But he refused to be intimidated.~~

And through his courage Martin

Finally, what did this man teach? He preached "Love thy neighbor." He said that before government, there was man -- and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights ~~as old~~ *Central to all* ~~as the human spirit is young.~~ *that's good about our country.* The right of free expression. ~~And~~ *The right* equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. ~~And~~ to think, dream, and worship as we please.

Those lessons did not die with Martin Luther King. Today, they ~~live in Eastern Europe -- where the civil rights anthem of "We Shall Overcome" is bringing democracy to millions.~~ *has captured the hearts of* ~~Like Gandhi forty years ago -- like Lech Walesa and an entire continent today -- Martin Luther King helped dismantle barriers between people. [And made the walls coming tumbling down.]~~ *two generations* *as democracy begins to bloom in Eastern Europe.*

And here at home, where Dr. King's call for non-violent change is making America a more decent, civil place -- here, too, his lessons live. We see them in our neighborhoods, and in our churches, and, yes, in you as students. For you are the dream Dr. King spoke so movingly about. And you must fight for what he died for: A Nation in which no one is left out. [~~ANECDOTES ABOUT STUDENTS TO COME~~]

Martin Luther King often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help ~~make ours a colorblind society -- not one blind to justice.~~ *And thus help* each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

*The students here today.*

That is the lesson I'd like to leave you with. ~~And ask that you recall in the months and years ahead.~~ Take pride in what you have done -- as I know Dr. King would if he were here today. ~~But, remember, too, that education is a means, not an end.~~ A means to ~~make his dream a reality for each child in America:~~ That one day they would live in a Nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

*See  
Pink  
Comments*

Dr. King loved the children of America, and so I wanted you to be here today. For while he is gone now, his children remain. You are those children -- and you have become his legacy. For you have inherited his mantle, and must help realize the dream.

Do right, as he would. Love justice, as he did every day of his life. Next Monday, of course, will be a special day. So it is now my privilege to sign a proclamation naming January 15 the Martin Luther King National Holiday.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 8, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: JIM PINKERTON

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Draft Speech

We suggest making use somewhere in the draft of the President's phrase: "a New Day for civil rights." Other comments:

pg. 1, para 1, line 1 "And to an event that embodies the greatness of a man...."

Since a mere event cannot embody the greatness of a great man, we suggest changing "embodies" to "celebrates."

1,2,4 "...and a friend."

We must be very careful to be sure this is the correct characterization of the President's relationship with Dr. King, lest the President be criticized for presumption.

2,1,3 "He demanded rights as old as the human spirit is young."

We do not see how the human spirit can be described accurately as "young." If the intention here is to mean "youthful," then the sentence seems to overgeneralize about the human spirit. The sentence, in short, overreaches in order to set up the "young"/"old" contrast.

3,1,4 "But remember, too, that education is a means, not an end."

Since many would argue that education, specifically in the sense of learning, is an end in itself -- worth doing for its own sake -- we would suggest omitting the sentence and substituting something that preserves the flow of the graf, e.g., "But remember, that we have not finished the work of making Martin Luther King's dream a reality for every child in America."

89 DEC 8 PM 2:27

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# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

~~1990 JAN 5 PM 5:24~~

DATE: 1/5/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 1/8/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING 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"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" 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's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Monday, January 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
January 4, 1990  
KING

1990 JAN -5 PM 4: 25

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990

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Next, what did he do? He went to Selma, Greensboro, <sup>cities and towns - large and small -</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>places like</sup>

and Montgomery. <sup>he found</sup> Wherever there was hatred, <sup>he condemned it.</sup> ~~Wherever there was hatred,~~ <sup>he defied it.</sup> ~~And wherever~~ <sup>there was</sup> ~~to oppose~~ <sup>regregation</sup> ~~he defied it.~~ ~~he defied it.~~ <sup>through his windows -</sup> ~~rocks and~~ <sup>dead of</sup> death threats and obscene phone calls in the night. <sup>for the better.</sup>

→ forever changed America.-- and helped America change the world.

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Finally, what did this man teach? He preached "Love thy neighbor." He said that before government, there was man -- and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights <sup>central to</sup> ~~as old~~ *all that's good about our country, self* ~~as the human spirit is young.~~ The right of free expression. ~~And~~ <sup>The right</sup> Equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. ~~And~~ to think, dream, and worship as we please.

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Martin Luther King often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help ~~make ours a colorblind society -- not one blind to justice.~~ And thus help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

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~~you recall in the months and years ahead.~~ Take pride in what you  
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Martin Luther King National Holiday.

# # # #

Please review & comment to  
Chris.

JOE WATKINS  
COMMENTS

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
January 4, 1990  
KING

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ROOM 450  
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Finally, what did this man teach? He preached "Love thy neighbor." He said that before government, there was man -- and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights as old as the human spirit is young. The right of free expression. And equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. And to think, dream, and worship as we please.

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title of  
Ralph  
Abernathy's  
book

And  
the  
walls

come

tumbling  
down!



That is the lesson I'd like to leave you with. And ask that you recall in the months and years ahead. Take pride in what you have done -- as I know Dr. King would if he were here today. But remember, too, that education is a means, not an end. A means to make his dream a reality for each child in America: That one day they would live in a Nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

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DATE: 1/5/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 1/8/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING 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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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Monday, January 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*No comments*

11:6v 6 DEC 88

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM 0102 ✓

~~1990 JAN -5 PM 5-23~~

DATE: 1/5/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 1/8/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING 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"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<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:

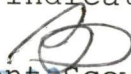
Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Monday, January 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

January 8, 1990

TO: CHRISS WINSTON

NSC clears, with one suggestion as indicated.

  
Brent Scowcroft

62 : 21d 8 / Jan 8 1990

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

90 JAN 5 8 51: 32

RECEIVED



1990 JAN 5 PM 4:25

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
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Those lessons did not die with Martin Luther King. Today, they live in Eastern Europe -- where the civil rights anthem of "We Shall Overcome" is bringing democracy to millions. Like Gandhi <sup>two generations</sup> ~~forty years~~ ago -- like Lech Walesa and an entire continent today -- Martin Luther King helped dismantle barriers between people. And made the walls coming tumbling down.

And here at home, where Dr. King's call for non-violent change is making America a more decent, civil place -- here, too, his lessons live. We see them in our neighborhoods, and in our churches, and, yes, in you as students. For you are the dream Dr. King spoke so movingly about. And you must fight for what he died for: A Nation in which no one is left out. [ANECDOTES ABOUT STUDENTS TO COME]

Martin Luther King often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help make ours a colorblind society -- not one blind to justice. And thus help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

Gandhi  
died in  
1948

That is the lesson I'd like to leave you with. And ask that you recall in the months and years ahead. Take pride in what you have done -- as I know Dr. King would if he were here today. But remember, too, that education is a means, not an end. A means to make his dream a reality for each child in America: That one day they would live in a Nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Dr. King loved the children of America, and so I wanted you to be here today. For while he is gone now, his children remain. You are those children -- and you have become his legacy. For you have inherited his mantle, and must help realize the dream.

Do right, as he would. Love justice, as he did every day of his life. Next Monday, of course, will be a special day. So it is now my privilege to sign a proclamation naming January 15 the Martin Luther King National Holiday.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/5/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 1/8/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING 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"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" 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's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Monday, January 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See comments*

89 DEC 8 11:38

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

1990 JAN -5 PM 4: 25

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
January 4, 1990  
KING

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990

I want to welcome you to the White House. And to an event that embodies the greatness of a man whose life -- and legacy -- helped set America free.

I refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He would have been sixty-one years old next Monday. That day is now a national holiday, and I will shortly sign its proclamation. But first let me speak from the heart about a hero, and a friend.

Most of you weren't born yet when Martin King was killed. Yet you know that his life was central to the story of America. Each day, we write new chapters. And as we do, let us recall what Dr. King was, and what he did, and what his lessons were. For you remain the trustees of all that he believed.

First, he was a crusader and an evangelist, and he bore the weight of a pioneer. He was a force against evil. His life was a metaphor for courage. His goal was an America where equality and opportunity could co-exist, and where goodness could prevail.

Next, what did he do? He went to Selma, to Greensboro, to Montgomery. Wherever he was needed. Wherever there was hatred to oppose. Martin Luther King defied segregation. He endured rocks and death threats and obscene phone calls in the night. He forever changed America -- and helped America change the world.

Finally, what did this man teach? He preached "Love thy neighbor." He said that before government, there was man -- and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights as old as the human spirit is young. The right of free expression. And equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. And to think, dream, and worship as we please.

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And here at home, where Dr. King's call for non-violent change is making America a more decent, civil place -- here, too, his lessons live. We see them in our neighborhoods, and in our churches, and, yes, in you as students. For you are the dream Dr. King spoke so movingly about. And you must fight for what he died for: A Nation in which no one is left out. [ANECDOTES ABOUT STUDENTS TO COME]

Martin Luther King often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help make ours a colorblind society -- not one blind to justice. And thus help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

Holen  
4 5178

7

That is the lesson I'd like to leave you with. And ask that you recall in the months and years ahead. Take pride in what you have done -- as I know Dr. King would if he were here today. But remember, too, that education is a means, not an end. A means to make his dream a reality for each child in America: That one day they would live in a Nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

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# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 8, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: FREDERICK D. NELSON *FDN*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Review of Presidential Remarks: King Ceremony

The Counsel's office has no legal objection to the above-referenced Presidential remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff

89 DEC 8 12:38

Staffed

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
January 4, 1990  
KING

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990

I want to welcome you to the White House. And to an event that embodies the greatness of a man whose life -- and legacy -- helped set America free.

I refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He would have been sixty-one years old next Monday. That day is now a national holiday, and I will shortly sign its proclamation. But first let me speak from the heart about a hero, and a friend.

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Martin Luther King often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help make ours a colorblind society -- not one blind to justice. And thus help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

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Dr. King loved the children of America, and so I wanted you to be here today. For while he is gone now, his children remain. You are those children -- and you have become his legacy. For you have inherited his mantle, and must help realize the dream.

Do right, as he would. Love justice, as he did every day of his life. Next Monday, of course, will be a special day. So it is now my privilege to sign a proclamation naming January 15 the Martin Luther King National Holiday.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

~~1990 JAN 5 PM 5:24~~

DATE: 1/5/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 1/8/90

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING 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"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" 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's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Monday, January 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*N/C ~~see suggestions, p.1~~*

*1/8/90*

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 1-8-90

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO: Speechwriters

I'd like one or two sentences fit in  
soem place to the following effect:

Dr. King did much ,but still muc h  
to do. When we see hate mail bombs  
all of us must speak out....

In other words I want ot  
reiterate that I will use the  
white ohuse to speak out against  
racism, certainly letter  
bombs,.....

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 8, 1990

1990 JAN -8 PM 5:02

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:           CHRISS WINSTON *W*  
FROM:               CURT SMITH *CS*  
SUBJECT:            MARTIN LUTHER KING PROCLAMATION SIGNING

I.    SUMMARY

On Tuesday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m., you will commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday at a proclamation signing ceremony. The audience will include about 200 area students and civil rights leaders in Room 450. Dr. Benjamin Hooks; Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women; Julius Chambers, Director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Funds; Secretary Kemp; Lee Atwater; Josh Smith; and Art Fletcher will also attend.

II.   DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (6 minutes, speechcards) discuss Martin Luther King's life, his legacy, and his struggle to ensure freedom for all. The proclamation you will sign designates January 15, 1990, a federal holiday for Martin Luther King's birthday. This is the first year that the holiday actually falls on Dr. King's birthday.

(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft Two  
January 8, 1990  
KING

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KING BIRTHDAY  
ROOM 450  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990  
10:00 A.M.

Dr. Hooks, Secretary Kemp, Dr. Dorothy Height, Julius Chambers, Art Fletcher, Josh Smith, Lee Atwater, Ladies and gentlemen. I want to welcome you to the White House. And to an event that celebrates the greatness of a man whose life -- and legacy -- helped set America free.

I refer to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He would have been sixty-one years old next Monday. Since 1986, this day has been a federal holiday, and I will shortly sign its proclamation. But first let me speak from the heart about <sup>this</sup> a hero, ~~and a friend~~.

Most of you weren't born yet when <sup>Dr.</sup> ~~Martin~~ King was killed. Yet you know that his life was central to the story of America. Each day, we write new chapters. And as we do, let us recall who Dr. King was, what he did, and what his lessons were. For you remain the trustees of all that he believed.

First, he was a crusader and an evangelist, and he bore the weight of a pioneer. He was a force against evil. His life was a metaphor for courage. His goal was an America where equality and opportunity could co-exist, and where goodness could prevail.

Next, what did he do? He went to cities and towns -- large and small -- places like Selma, Birmingham, and Montgomery. Wherever he was needed. And wherever he found hatred, he

condemned it. Wherever there was bigotry, he assailed it. And wherever there was segregation, he defied it. He endured death threats and obscene phone calls in the dead of night. But he refused to be intimidated. And through his courage, ~~Martin~~ *Dr King* forever changed America for the better.

Finally, what did this man teach? He preached "Love thy neighbor." He said that before government, there was man -- and government arose to meet man's needs. He demanded rights central to all that's good about our country. The right of free expression. Equal protection under the law. The right to vote as we choose. The right to think, dream, and worship as we please.

Those lessons did not die with Martin Luther King. Today, the civil rights anthem of "We Shall Overcome" has captured the hearts of millions as democracy begins to bloom in Eastern Europe.

And here at home, where Dr. King's call for non-violent change is making America a more decent, civil place -- here, too, his lessons live. We see them in our neighborhoods, and in our churches, and, yes, in you as students. For you are the dream Dr. King spoke so movingly about. And you must fight for what he died for: A Nation in which no one is left out. And I know you've made that fight your own.

For evidence, look at this audience. Darrell Webster, a graduate student at Catholic University, overcame a troubled childhood to mentor kids in his old neighborhood. And Shavonna

[Sha-VAH-na] Brown of Woodson Junior High School conquered a similar background to become a leader in her school. Then, there's Linda Lawson. Three of her brothers have done time for doing drugs. But Linda's choice was different -- she chose education. Becoming valedictorian of her high school -- and today, a junior at American University. And next semester she's going to England to study.

Darrell and Shavonna and Linda -- I wish Martin Luther King could see you now. For he often spoke of how education could spur excellence -- and excellence, equality. He knew how higher learning could be the great uplifter. And he believed that education could help each American climb the ladder of self-respect and dignity.

That is the lesson I'd like to leave with you students. Take pride in what you have done -- as I know Dr. King would. But remember, too, that we have not finished the work of making Martin Luther King's dream a reality for each child in America: That one day they would live in a Nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Dr. King loved the children of America, and so I wanted you to be here today. For while he is gone now, his children remain. You are those children -- and you have become his legacy. For you have inherited his mantle, and must help realize the dream.

Do right, as he would. Love justice, as he did every day of his life. Next Monday, of course, will be a special day. So it is now my privilege to sign a proclamation naming January 15 of this year the Martin Luther King<sup>Jr.</sup> Federal Holiday.

# # # #