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OA/ID Number: 13516
Folder ID Number: 13516-004

Folder Title:
Martin Luther King Essay for Washington Times 1/15/90 [OA 4390]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Essay On Martin Luther
King's Birthday

We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and
approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 DEC 14 10:25

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/6/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 PM, THURS. DEC 7SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	PINKERTON	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☒	☐		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, X2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

Grant
Draft four
December 6, 1989
A:MLK

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
TITLE: "COLOR OR CHARACTER: HOW WILL OUR
CHILDREN BE JUDGED?"

Twenty six years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed the famous March on Washington. Overlooking the thousands massed before the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he vowed, "No, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until 'justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.'"

That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" His dream for his children, he said, was that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, the truth of Reverend King's dream was tested when dynamite exploded in Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, killing four innocent children.

A few months ago, in the plaza near the Montgomery church where Reverend King preached during the 1955 bus boycott, a new civil rights memorial was dedicated to those children and so many others. The memorial itself is a testament to their sacrifice, with its black wall standing proudly behind a round black granite table.

Martin Luther King's vow, made that March morning in the shadow of Lincoln, can be seen etched on the wall as water streams over his words like a thousand tears and continues down over the names and brave deeds of so many more who died in the struggle to make his vow a reality.

The civil rights movement is more than the story of our great civil rights leaders. It is a story of the courage of simple Americans whose belief in Dr. King's words gave them the strength to stand up for what is right, many times to the point of sacrificing their own freedom and even their lives.

The architect, who designed the memorial, had those "simple" Americans in mind when she placed the names of the famous and the sometimes forgotten on the granite face -- not in extravagant gold leaf but in modest palladium. And her memorial is asymmetrically balanced, because equality and stability are not always based on identical perspectives and perfect symmetry.

The history of the civil rights movement is one of age-old truths and fundamental rights. Dr. King's vow, carved into the granite of that memorial for posterity, is itself a centuries-old quotation from the Old Testament, and the ideals of the movement are the very foundations of this Republic. The right to think and dream and worship as we please. The right of free expression. The right to equal protection under the law. The right to choose our leaders and our own destinies.

A quarter century has passed since his famous speech. Has Martin Luther King's dream been fulfilled? In most of America,

our children are judged, as he wanted, not by their color but by their character. Yet, "most" isn't good enough.

As far as we've come these three decades, we still have much work to do and far to go. We will continue the fight in the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. and, until his dream is a reality for every child in America, "we will never be satisfied."

But we have learned much since the days of Dr. King. We have learned that education creates economic empowerment. We have learned that free markets work to expand economic opportunities. We have learned that we must not be satisfied with anything less than equal opportunity for all citizens. And we have learned the truth of Dr. King's words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The ideals that inspired the civil rights movement, today, are the ideals inspiring people the world over. From Prague to Pretoria, Dr. King's belief in the inherent dignity of man is a part of the universal dream for mankind. And as these citizens around the world peacefully seek a new world of freedom, the wisdom of Dr. King's words spoken 26 years ago take on even greater meaning and resonance.

Now, the children of Eastern Europe are reaching for the same dreams and hopes that energized a generation of Americans who fought in the great struggle for civil rights. The dignity of man embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr. lives on through Lech Walesa and the millions like him marching for freedom, from Berlin to the beaches of South Africa. At the dedication of the

civil rights memorial, hundreds of Americans sang "We Shall Overcome" in remembrance; a week later, hundreds of East and West Germans stood on the Berlin Wall and sang the same hopeful words. The past truly is prologue.

In his short life, Dr. King changed the world -- as did those whose names are preserved forever on the civil rights memorial. Now, around the world, we see changes that are making Dr. King's words of "justice and righteousness" come true. They were more than a dream. They were a vision of the future.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

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

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Essay on
Martin Luther King's Birthday

Counsel's Office offers a few largely non-legal thoughts regarding the draft essay to be published on Martin Luther King's birthday. We assume that the draft's failure to mention Dr. King's birthday itself is the result of a deliberate choice.

Concerning page 1, paragraph 2, we question whether the Birmingham bombing tested the "truth" of Dr. King's undeniable proposition that people should be judged on the basis of their character, not the color of their skin.

On page 2, paragraph 2, we would suggest changing "freedom" to "well-being," which new term is broader but does not implicate civil disobedience questions. The first comma in the next paragraph is probably a typographical error. Thought might also be given to deleting the word "simple" in paragraph 2, and changing "simple" to "brave" in the next paragraph.

We also suggest adding the words ", unaffected by racial categorization" on page 3, paragraph 2 after the words "equal opportunity for all citizens".

Finally, if acceptable from a foreign policy standpoint, the link between Dr. King and current events in Eastern Europe might be made a bit more clear. On page 3, paragraph 3, the phrase regarding Dr. King's belief in "the inherent dignity of man" might be changed to "the inherent dignity of each individual." Perhaps on page 4 after "The past truly is prologue," we could consider adding "; the chains of government oppression can be cast off," if that wording is consistent with foreign policy concerns.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 12/6/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 PM, THURS. DEC 7SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

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

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Draft four
December 6, 1989
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That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" His dream for his children, he said, was that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, the truth of Reverend King's dream was tested when dynamite exploded in Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, killing four innocent children.

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The ideals that inspired the civil rights movement, today, are the ideals inspiring people the world over. From Prague to Pretoria, Dr. King's belief in the inherent dignity of man is a part of the universal dream for mankind. And as these citizens around the world peacefully seek a new world of freedom, the wisdom of Dr. King's words spoken 26 years ago take on even greater meaning and resonance.

Now, the children of Eastern Europe are reaching for the same dreams and hopes that energized a generation of Americans who fought in the great struggle for civil rights. The dignity of man embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr. lives on through Lech Walesa and the millions like him marching for freedom, from Berlin to the beaches of South Africa. At the dedication of the

civil rights memorial, hundreds of Americans sang "We Shall Overcome" in remembrance; a week later, hundreds of East and West Germans stood on the Berlin Wall and sang the same hopeful words. The past truly is prologue.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----
 PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
 ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

SUBJECT: _____

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☐	☒
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☒	PORTER	☐	☒
DARMAN	☐	☒	ROGICH	☐	☒
BATES	☐	☒	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
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DEMAREST	☐	☒	PINKERTON	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
GRAY	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

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

1989 DEC 15 PM 3:14

December 15, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON^{cw}
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT ^{MKG}
SUBJECT: : PROPOSED ESSAY FOR THE WASHINGTON TIMES
 TO RUN ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

I. SUMMARY

Attached is the draft of an essay under your by-line, to run in a special section of The Washington Times on January 15. The title of the section will be "Color or Character: How Will Our Children Be Judged?", based on a quote from Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

II. DISCUSSION

The Times has been running the special section for several years on Dr. King's birthday, and until now, the essays have been exclusively by black leaders. However, this year the paper decided that running essays by leaders of all races is much more in keeping with Dr. King's dream. In addition to your essay, there will also be ones by Secretary Kemp, teacher Jaime Escalante, Archbishop Eugene Marino of Atlanta, heavyweight prizefighter Leland Hardy, author Shelby Steele, businessman Ragan Henry, and actor Malcolm Jamal Warner of the "Cosby" show.

In addition to discussing Dr. King's dream and what it means to Americans today, the piece places the civil rights struggle in an international perspective -- by comparing the movement to the march toward democracy around the world. In this sense, Dr. King's dream has now come true.

Grant
Draft five
December 15, 1989
A:MLK

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
TITLE: "COLOR OR CHARACTER: HOW WILL OUR
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That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" His dream for his children, he said, was that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, Reverend King's dream was threatened when dynamite exploded in a Baptist Church, killing four innocent children.

A few months ago, in the plaza near the Montgomery church where Reverend King preached during the 1955 bus boycott, a new civil rights memorial was dedicated to those children and so many others. The memorial itself is a testament to their sacrifice.

Martin Luther King's vow was made that March morning in the shadow of Abraham Lincoln. Now it can be seen etched on the wall

with water streaming like a thousand tears over his words like a thousand tears and the names and brave deeds of so many who died to make those words a reality.

The civil rights movement is more than a story about civil rights leaders. It is a story about courage, about determined Americans whose belief in Dr. King's words gave them the strength to stand up for what is right. Many times, it cost them their freedom and sometimes even their lives.

It is a story of age-old truths and fundamental rights. Dr. King's vow is itself a centuries-old quotation from the Old Testament. The ideals of the movement are the very foundations of this Republic: the right to think and dream and worship as we please; the right of free expression; the right to equal protection under the law; and the right to choose our leaders and our own destinies.

A quarter century has passed since his famous speech. Has Martin Luther King's dream been fulfilled? In most of America, our children are judged, as he wanted, not by their color but by their character. Yet, "most" isn't good enough.

As far as we've come these three decades, we still have much work to do and far to go. We will continue the fight in the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. and, until his dream is a reality for every child in America, "we will never be satisfied."

But we have learned much since the days of Dr. King. We have learned that education creates economic empowerment. We have learned that free markets work to expand economic opportunities. We have learned that we must not be satisfied with anything less than equal opportunity for all citizens. And we have learned the truth of Dr. King's words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The ideals that inspired the civil rights movement are the inspiration of people the world over. From Prague to Pretoria, Dr. King's belief in the inherent dignity of the individual is central to the universal dream for mankind. And as these citizens around the world peacefully seek a new world of freedom, the wisdom of Dr. King's words spoken 26 years ago take on even greater meaning and resonance.

Now, the children of Eastern Europe are reaching for the same dreams and hopes that energized a generation of Americans who fought in the great struggle for civil rights. The dignity of man embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr. lives on through Lech Walesa and the millions like him marching for freedom -- in the "people power" we have seen change governments and change history on every continent. At the dedication of the civil rights memorial, hundreds of Americans sang "We Shall Overcome" in remembrance; a week later, hundreds of East and West Germans stood on the Berlin Wall and sang the same hopeful words. The past truly is prologue.

In his short life, Dr. King changed the world -- as did those whose names are preserved forever on the civil rights memorial. Now, around the world, we see changes that are making Dr. King's words of "justice and righteousness" come true. They were more than a dream. They were a vision of the future.

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DATE: 12/6/89ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 PM, THURS. DEC 7SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

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SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	☒	☐
DARMAN <i>initial rec.</i>	☒	☐	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	☒	☐
BATES <i>N/C</i>	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, X2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

Grant
Draft four
December 6, 198903
A:MLK

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TITLE: "COLOR OR CHARACTER: HOW WILL OUR
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That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" His dream for his children, he said, was that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, ~~the truth of~~ Reverend King's dream was ^{threatened} ~~tested~~ when dynamite exploded in ^a ~~Birmingham's Sixteenth Street~~ Baptist Church, killing four innocent children.

A few months ago, in the plaza near the Montgomery church where Reverend King preached during the 1955 bus boycott, a new civil rights memorial was dedicated to those children and so many others. The memorial itself is a testament to their sacrifice, ~~with its black wall standing proudly behind a round black granite table.~~

Martin Luther King's vow^{was} made that March morning in the shadow of^{Abraham} Lincoln^{Now it} can be seen etched on the wall^{with} as water streams^{ing} over his words like a thousand tears and ~~continues down~~^{and} over the names and brave deeds of so many ~~more~~ who died ~~in the~~ struggle to make ~~his~~^{those words} vow a reality.

The civil rights movement is more than ~~the~~^a story of ~~our~~^{about} great civil rights leaders. It is a story ~~of the~~^{about} courage, of ~~simple~~^{determined} Americans whose belief in Dr. King's words gave them the strength to stand up for what is right, many times, ~~to the point~~^{it cost them} of sacrificing their ~~own~~ freedom and ~~even~~^{sometimes} their lives.

The architect, who designed the memorial, had those "simple" Americans in mind when she placed the names of the famous and the sometimes forgotten on the granite face -- not in extravagant gold leaf but in modest palladium. And her memorial is asymmetrically balanced, because equality and stability are not always based on identical perspectives and perfect symmetry.

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Scowcroft

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FITZWATER	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
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RESPONSE:

no comment

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

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The history of the civil rights movement is one of age-old truths and fundamental rights. Dr. King's vow, carved into the granite of that memorial for posterity, is itself a centuries-old quotation from the Old Testament, and the ideals of the movement are the very foundations of this Republic. The right to think and dream and worship as we please. The right of free expression. The right to equal protection under the law. The right to choose our leaders and our own destinies.

A quarter century has passed since his famous speech. Has Martin Luther King's dream been fulfilled? In most of America,

our children are judged, as he wanted, not by their color but by their character. Yet, "most" isn't good enough.

As far as we've come these three decades, we still have much work to do and far to go. We will continue the fight in the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. and, until his dream is a reality for every child in America, "we will never be satisfied."

But we have learned much since the days of Dr. King. We have learned that education creates economic empowerment. We have learned that free markets work to expand economic opportunities. We have learned that we must not be satisfied with anything less than equal opportunity for all citizens. And we have learned the truth of Dr. King's words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The ideals that inspired the civil rights movement, today, are the ideals inspiring people the world over. From Prague to Pretoria, Dr. King's belief in the inherent dignity of man is a part of the universal dream for mankind. And as these citizens around the world peacefully seek a new world of freedom, the wisdom of Dr. King's words spoken 26 years ago take on even greater meaning and resonance.

Now, the children of Eastern Europe are reaching for the same dreams and hopes that energized a generation of Americans who fought in the great struggle for civil rights. The dignity of man embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr. lives on through Lech Walesa and the millions like him marching for freedom, from Berlin to the beaches of South Africa. At the dedication of the

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In his short life, Dr. King changed the world -- as did those whose names are preserved forever on the civil rights memorial. Now, around the world, we see changes that are making Dr. King's words of "justice and righteousness" come true. They were more than a dream. They were a vision of the future.

#

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/6/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 PM, THURS. DEC 7

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	ROGICH	☒	☐
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMEYER	☐	☐
CARD	☐	☒	ROGERS	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	PINKERTON	☒	☐
FITZWATER	☒	☐		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, X2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

see comments

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

Grant
Draft four
~~December-6, 1989~~ 03
A:MLK

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
TITLE: "COLOR OR CHARACTER: HOW WILL OUR
CHILDREN BE JUDGED?"

Twenty six years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed the famous March on Washington. Overlooking the thousands massed before the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he vowed, "No, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until 'justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.'"

That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" His dream for his children, he said, was that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, the truth of Reverend King's dream was tested when dynamite exploded in ^a~~Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist~~ Church, killing four innocent children.

A few months ago, in the plaza near the Montgomery church where Reverend King preached during the 1955 bus boycott, a new civil rights memorial was dedicated to those children and so many others. The memorial itself is a testament to their sacrifice, with its ^{granite?} ~~black~~ wall standing proudly behind a round ~~black~~ ^{stone} granite table.

2

Martin Luther King's vow ^{was} made that March morning in the shadow of ^{Abraham} Lincoln, ^{Now it} can be seen etched on the wall, ^{with} water streaming ^{^ chose ^} over his words, ~~like a thousand tears and continues down~~ and over the names and brave deeds of so many more who died in the struggle to ^{those words} ~~make his vow~~ a reality.

The civil rights movement is more than ^a the story ^{about} of our great civil rights leaders. It is a story ^{about} of the courage, ~~or~~ ^{determined} about simple Americans whose belief in Dr. King's words gave them the strength to stand up for what is right, ^{it cost them} Many times ~~to the point~~ of ~~sacrificing~~ ^{sometimes} their own freedom, and even their lives.

The architect, who designed the memorial, had those ~~simple~~ Americans in mind when she placed the names of the famous and the sometimes forgotten on the granite face -- not in extravagant gold leaf but in modest palladium. And her memorial is asymmetrically balanced, because equality and stability are not always based on identical perspectives and perfect symmetry.

What does
this mean

The history of the civil rights movement is one of age-old truths and fundamental rights. Dr. King's vow, ~~carved into the granite of that memorial for posterity~~, is itself a centuries-old quotation from the Old Testament, and ^{the} the ideals of the movement are the very foundations of this Republic: ^{and,} the right to think and dream and worship as we please; The right of free expression; The right to equal protection under the law; ^{and,} the right to choose our leaders and our own destinies.

A quarter century has passed since his famous speech. Has Martin Luther King's dream been fulfilled? In most of America,

3

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But we have learned much since the days of Dr. King. We have learned that education creates economic empowerment. We have learned that free markets work to expand economic opportunities. We have learned that we must not be satisfied with anything less than equal opportunity for all citizens. And we have learned the truth of Dr. King's words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The ideals that inspired the civil rights movement, today, ~~are the ideals~~ ^{the} ~~inspiring~~ ^{from} people the world over. From Prague to Pretoria, Dr. King's belief in the inherent dignity of man is a ~~central~~ ^{central} ~~part~~ of the universal dream for mankind. And as these citizens around the world peacefully seek a new world of freedom, the wisdom of Dr. King's words spoken 26 years ago take on even greater meaning and resonance.

Now, the children of Eastern Europe are reaching for the same dreams and hopes that energized a generation of Americans who fought in the great struggle for civil rights. ~~The dignity of man embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr. lives on through Lech Walesa and the millions like him marching for freedom, from Berlin to the beaches of South Africa.~~ At the dedication of the

4

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 7, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Re: MLK Draft

Overall, I think this is pretty good. I especially like the linkage to shared aspirations for freedom in Eastern Europe, as well as South Africa.

A few specifics:

2,3,1 I'd be careful throwing the word "simple" around, even if you mean well.

As for the whole description of the memorial, I think there's a little too much of that. I'm still trying to weigh in my head the relative merits of symmetry and asymmetry!

Also, I'd be somewhat careful about comparing the water flowing over the names of the martyrs to tears unless you're sure that that's what Maya Lin and the builders intended. You know how artists are: they tend to get very touchy about people interpreting the allegorical significance of their work. It's not worth leaving this in if we think there might be a refutation from the Memorial people.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/6/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 PM, THURS. DEC 7

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, X2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Please see suggestions, p. 2

12/7/89

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

Grant
Draft four
December 6, 1989
A:MLK

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
TITLE: "COLOR OR CHARACTER: HOW WILL OUR
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That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" His dream for his children, he said, was that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, the truth of Reverend King's dream was tested when dynamite exploded in Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, killing four innocent children.

A few months ago, in the plaza near the Montgomery church where Reverend King preached during the 1955 bus boycott, a new civil rights memorial was dedicated to those children and so many others. The memorial itself is a testament to their sacrifice, with its black wall standing proudly behind a round black granite table.

Martin Luther King's vow, made that March morning in the shadow of Lincoln, can be seen etched on the wall as water streams over his words like a thousand tears and continues down over the names and brave deeds of so many more who died in the struggle to make his vow a reality.

The civil rights movement is more than the story of our great civil rights leaders. It is a story of the courage of ^{unsung? average?} simple Americans whose belief in Dr. King's words gave them the strength to stand up for what is right, many times to the point of sacrificing their own freedom and even their lives.

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HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, X2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK
Bruce Zame for Sig Rogich

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

Grant
Draft four
December 6, 198903
A:MLK

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
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REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, X2930, no later than 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comment
12/7/89

89 DEC 8 4:25

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

Grant
Draft two
November 15, 1989
A:MLK

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ESSAY
TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES
ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
TITLE: "COLOR OR CHARACTER: HOW WILL OUR
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That day, millions heard Dr. King tell of his dream, one that he said was "deeply rooted in the American meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" He said it was his dream for his own children that they would one day live in a nation where they were judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Days later, Reverend King's dream was threatened when dynamite exploded in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four innocent children.

In the plaza near the Montgomery, Alabama church where Reverend King preached during the 1955 bus boycott, a new civil rights memorial was dedicated a few months ago to those children and so many others. The memorial itself is a testament to their innocence and sacrifice, with its black wall standing proud behind a round black granite table.

Martin Luther King's vow that the struggle would continue "until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream" can be seen on the wall as the water streams over his words like a thousand tears and continues down over the names and brave deeds of so many more who died in the struggle to make his vow a reality.

The civil rights movement is more than the story of our great civil rights leaders. It is a story of the courage of Americans whose belief in those words gave them the strength to stand up for what was right, many times to the point of sacrificing their own freedom and even their lives.

Its a story of age-old truths and fundamental rights. Dr. King's vow, carved into the granite of that memorial for posterity, itself is a centuries-old quotation from the Old Testament, and the ideals of the movement are the very foundations of this Republic. The right to think and dream as we please. The right of free expression. The right to equal protection under the law. The right to choose our leaders and our own destinies.

A quarter century has passed since his famous speech. Has Martin Luther King's dream been fulfilled? In many ways, his dream has been met. For most of America, our children are judged by their character, not by their color.

But as far as we've come these three decades, the dream is not yet fulfilled. We still have much work to do, and far to go. We will continue the fight in the memory of Martin Luther King,

Jr. and until his dream is a reality for every child in America, "we will never be satisfied."

We have learned much since the days of Dr. King. We have learned that education creates economic empowerment. We have learned that free markets work to expand economic opportunities. We have learned that we must not be satisfied with anything less than equal opportunity for all citizens. And we have learned the truth of Dr. King's words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The ideals that inspired the civil rights movement -- and Reverend King's belief in the inherent dignity of man -- today are ideals inspiring people the world over. From Prague to Pretoria, Dr. King's belief in the inherent dignity of the individual is a part the universal dream for mankind. And as these citizens around the world peacefully seek a new world of freedom, the wisdom of Dr. King's words spoken 26 years ago take on even greater meaning and resonance.

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