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# FOIA MARKER

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

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**OA/ID Number:** 13599  
**Folder ID Number:** 13599-007

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**Folder Title:**  
Martin Luther King Birthday 1/17/92 [OA 6096] [1]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
1/16/92

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

Finn  
07

92 JAN 16 P12:13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

It is an honor to stand at this glorious "living memorial," here in Martin Luther King's hometown, just steps from his birthplace and from his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence; his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream" speech moved us with their hope and love, and with the abiding faith Dr. King had in the American people. As many of you know, I had the privilege.

What you have done, Mrs. King, with this glorious "living memorial," serves to remind us of the courage with which Martin Luther King overcame hatred and mistrust. It is too easy for us, almost a quarter of a century after his death, to forget the loneliness of his struggle. Think of the early days of the civil rights movement, when organizers of the Montgomery bus boycott called him as their leader. In his book "Stride Toward Freedom" he wrote of sitting alone at the kitchen table late one night during that lonely time, and saying aloud: "I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." But almost at once his fear and uncertainty began to melt away; an "inner voice," as he called it, spoke to him. It told him to continue to do what he knew to be right.

And because he could express what he knew with such eloquence and passion, the American people awakened to the

promise of civil rights for all. Today, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King's work, we have a battery of laws dedicated to a colorblind America; we have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. Perhaps most marvelous of all, we've seen a change in the hearts of many Americans, who set aside old prejudices and stereotypes to embrace the values Dr. King beseeched us to embrace, the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

At the heart of these values, as Dr. King knew, is the family. I am struck, Mrs. King, by how often in our conversations together you have stressed the importance of family life. Certainly Barbara and I feel it in our own lives. Think of the problems that afflict so many American communities today -- homelessness, crime, drugs. Yet these are not so much isolated problems as symptoms of one great problem, the decline of family. Far too many of our children pass through life without goals larger than themselves, without a sense of their own worth or the worth of others, without the values that only the love of a parent or a grandparent can instill.

This problem, this terrible diminution of the importance of family, is not just somebody else's problem; it demands something from each of us. Martin Luther King taught us that each of us is called to serve, no matter your personal circumstances. And each of us can serve. On the last night of his life, before that terrible day in Memphis, Dr. King told a story that I think of often. He told of visiting the Holy Land when he was a young

man, with you, Mrs. King. He happened to travel the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the same road where the Good Samaritan stopped, as the Bible teaches, to help a stranger. The road was rocky and full of blind curves, and as he traveled Dr. King realized that the reason others failed to stop to help the stranger was that they were afraid. Others had asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the Good Samaritan asked himself, "If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

The joy of personal service is that it is open to all. The other day I met with Magic Johnson in the Oval Office, and I was impressed with the way this man has dedicated himself to others - not only those with HIV but in educating those who are at risk. He's been very honest and forthright about the issue. He's out there right now teaching kids that lifestyle's important. He's admitted he made some terrible mistakes. But now he wants to get the message out. I want to use this bully pulpit of the White House for the same purpose. Anyone who visits AIDS clinics, as Barbara and I have, can't help but be struck by the dedication of the countless doctors, nurses, researchers and volunteers who understand the human face of AIDS. When Barbara holds an AIDS baby in her arms, she's trying to express that same message -- the message of compassion and service.

There are other ways to serve. With her literacy program Barbara has tried to impress upon people the importance of reading to kids, to broaden their horizons and expand their young

minds. It's important to remember that one of the first goals of the civil rights movement was as basic as can be -- quality education for all. We have made enormous progress, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King, in removing the legal barriers that blocked progress for minority Americans. But other kinds of barriers remain. The dream of quality education is one of them. It still remains an unfulfilled promise for too many of our children. And the hope of economic opportunity -- equal access to the ladder of American advancement --

Yes, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land. As president, I have made a pledge to root out bigotry wherever we find it. Every day, Mrs. King, you and your colleagues here at the King Center train young people that the way to counter hatred and ignorance is peacefully, with non-violence, compassion, love and service to others. It is the continuation of your husband's work, who taught us the difference one man can make in a country dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He saw an America that was like the "welcome table" the spiritual speaks of, where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and never be thirsty. With your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King.

Thank you all, and I now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

# # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 1/16/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 1/16/92 3:00pm

REVISED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
 SUBJECT: ATLANTA - Friday, 1/17/92 10:00 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	—
SKINNER	—	✓	MCCLURE	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	✓	<u>FINDLAY</u>	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	<u>SNOW</u>	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	_____	—	—
GRAY	✓	—	_____	—	—
HOLIDAY	✓	—	_____	—	—

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 p.m., TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See comment on p.3. Thanks.  
 Elizabeth<sup>EL</sup> Luttig  
 01/16/92*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12:13

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
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(CCP)

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Thank you all, and I now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF  
SPEECHWRITING

FROM: NELSON LUND *Nelson*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Revised Presidential Remarks: Martin Luther King  
Birthday

At the request of Phillip D. Brady, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned remarks. Comments are marked on the attached hard copy.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these revised remarks.

Attachment

cc: Phillip D. Brady

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12:13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

lacuna  
It is an honor to stand at this glorious "living memorial," here in Martin Luther King's hometown, just steps from his birthplace and from his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence; his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream" speech moved us with their hope and love, and with the abiding faith Dr. King had in the American people. As many of you know, I had the privilege.

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lucuna? {

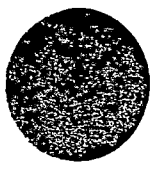
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Thank you all, and I now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

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# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 1/16/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 1/16/92 3:00P

REVISED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
 SUBJECT: ATLANTA - Friday, 1/17/92 10:00 a.m

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	—	✓	HORNER	—	—
SKINNER	—	✓	MCCLURE	✓	—
SCOWCROFT	—	—	PETERSMEYER	✓	—
DARMAN	✓	—	PORTER	✓	—
BRADY	—	✓	ROGICH	✓	—
BROMLEY	—	—	SMITH	✓	—
CARD	—	✓	<u>FINDLAY</u>	—	✓
DEMAREST	✓	—	<u>SNOW</u>	—	✓
FITZWATER	—	✓	_____	—	—
GRAY	✓	—	_____	—	—
HOLIDAY	✓	—	_____	—	—

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 p.m., TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comment on p. 3. Thanks.  
 Elizabeth<sup>EL</sup> Luttig  
 01/16/92

Additional HHS  
 comments also.

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12:13

HHS  
General Comment:  
Should refer to MLK  
as Martin Luther King, "Jr."

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
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**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

92 JAN 16 P2:34



DATE: 1/16/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 1/16/92 3:00pm

REVISED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY

SUBJECT: ATLANTA - Friday, 1/17/92 10:00 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 p.m., TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*glo comment*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12: 13

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And because he could express what he knew with such eloquence and passion, the American people awakened to the

promise of civil rights for all. Today, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King's work, we have a battery of laws dedicated to a colorblind America; we have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. Perhaps most marvelous of all, we've seen a change in the hearts of many Americans, who set aside old prejudices and stereotypes to embrace the values Dr. King beseeched us to embrace, the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

At the heart of these values, as Dr. King knew, is the family. I am struck, Mrs. King, by how often in our conversations together you have stressed the importance of family life. Certainly Barbara and I feel it in our own lives. Think of the problems that afflict so many American communities today -- homelessness, crime, drugs. Yet these are not so much isolated problems as symptoms of one great problem, the decline of family. Far too many of our children pass through life without goals larger than themselves, without a sense of their own worth or the worth of others, without the values that only the love of a parent or a grandparent can instill.

This problem, this terrible diminution of the importance of family, is not just somebody else's problem; it demands something from each of us. Martin Luther King taught us that each of us is called to serve, no matter your personal circumstances. And each of us can serve. On the last night of his life, before that terrible day in Memphis, Dr. King told a story that I think of often. He told of visiting the Holy Land when he was a young

man, with you, Mrs. King. He happened to travel the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the same road where the Good Samaritan stopped, as the Bible teaches, to help a stranger. The road was rocky and full of blind curves, and as he traveled Dr. King realized that the reason others failed to stop to help the stranger was that they were afraid. Others had asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the Good Samaritan asked himself, "If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

The joy of personal service is that it is open to all. The other day I met with Magic Johnson in the Oval Office, and I was impressed with the way this man has dedicated himself to others -- not only those with HIV but in educating those who are at risk. He's been very honest and forthright about the issue. He's out there right now teaching kids that lifestyle's important. He's admitted he made some terrible mistakes. But now he wants to get the message out. I want to use this bully pulpit of the White House for the same purpose. Anyone who visits AIDS clinics, as Barbara and I have, can't help but be struck by the dedication of the countless doctors, nurses, researchers and volunteers who understand the human face of AIDS. When Barbara holds an AIDS baby in her arms, she's trying to express that same message -- the message of compassion and service.

There are other ways to serve. With her literacy program Barbara has tried to impress upon people the importance of reading to kids, to broaden their horizons and expand their young

minds. It's important to remember that one of the first goals of the civil rights movement was as basic as can be -- quality education for all. We have made enormous progress, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King, in removing the legal barriers that blocked progress for minority Americans. But other kinds of barriers remain. The dream of quality education is one of them. It still remains an unfulfilled promise for too many of our children. And the hope of economic opportunity -- equal access to the ladder of American advancement --

Yes, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land. As president, I have made a pledge to root out bigotry wherever we find it. Every day, Mrs. King, you and your colleagues here at the King Center train young people that the way to counter hatred and ignorance is peacefully, with non-violence, compassion, love and service to others. It is the continuation of your husband's work, who taught us the difference one man can make in a country dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He saw an America that was like the "welcome table" the spiritual speaks of, where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and never be thirsty. With your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King.

Thank you all, and I now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

# # #



92 JAN 16 P4:03  
**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 1/16/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 1/16/92 3:00pm

REVISED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY

SUBJECT: ATLANTA - Friday, 1/17/92 10:00 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 p.m., TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE!*  
*DS*

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12:13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

It is an honor to stand at this glorious "living memorial," here in Martin Luther King's hometown, just steps from his birthplace and from his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence; his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream" speech moved us with their hope and love, and with the abiding faith Dr. King had in the American people. As many of you know, I had the privilege.

What you have done, Mrs. King, with this glorious "living memorial," serves to remind us of the courage with which Martin Luther King overcame hatred and mistrust. It is too easy for us, almost a quarter of a century after his death, to forget the loneliness of his struggle. Think of the early days of the civil rights movement, when organizers of the Montgomery bus boycott called him as their leader. In his book "Stride Toward Freedom" he wrote of sitting alone at the kitchen table late one night during that lonely time, and saying aloud: "I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." But almost at once his fear and uncertainty began to melt away; an "inner voice," as he called it, spoke to him. It told him to continue to do what he knew to be right.

And because he could express what he knew with such eloquence and passion, the American people awakened to the

promise of civil rights for all. Today, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King's work, we have a battery of laws dedicated to a colorblind America; we have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. Perhaps most marvelous of all, we've seen a change in the hearts of many Americans, who set aside old prejudices and stereotypes to embrace the values Dr. King beseeched us to embrace, the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

At the heart of these values, as Dr. King knew, is the family. I am struck, Mrs. King, by how often in our conversations together you have stressed the importance of family life. Certainly Barbara and I feel it in our own lives. Think of the problems that afflict so many American communities today -- homelessness, crime, drugs. Yet these are not so much isolated problems as symptoms of one great problem, the decline of family. Far too many of our children pass through life without goals larger than themselves, without a sense of their own worth or the worth of others, without the values that only the love of a parent or a grandparent can instill. *DISSOLUTION* *not a GB word*

This problem, this terrible diminution of the importance of family, is not just somebody else's problem; it demands something from each of us. Martin Luther King taught us that each of us is called to serve, no matter your personal circumstances. And each of us can serve. On the last night of his life, before that terrible day in Memphis, Dr. King told a story that I think of often. He told of visiting the Holy Land when he was a young

man, with you, Mrs. King. He happened to travel the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the same road where the Good Samaritan stopped, as the Bible teaches, to help a stranger. The road was rocky and full of blind curves, and as he traveled Dr. King realized that the reason others failed to stop to help the stranger was that they were afraid. Others had asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the Good Samaritan asked himself, "If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

The joy of personal service is that it is open to all. The other day I met with Magic Johnson in the Oval Office, and I was impressed with the way this man has dedicated himself to others - not only those with HIV but in educating those who are at risk. He's been very honest and forthright about the issue. He's out there right now teaching kids that lifestyle's important. He's admitted he made some terrible mistakes. But now he wants to get the message out. I want to use this bully pulpit of the White House for the same purpose. Anyone who visits AIDS clinics, as Barbara and I have, can't help but be struck by the dedication of the countless doctors, nurses, researchers and volunteers who understand the human face of AIDS. When Barbara holds an AIDS baby in her arms, she's trying to express that same message -- the message of compassion and service.

There are other ways to serve. With her literacy program Barbara has tried to impress upon people the importance of reading to kids, to broaden their horizons and expand their young

minds. It's important to remember that one of the first goals of the civil rights movement was as basic as can be -- quality education for all. We have made enormous progress, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King, in removing the legal barriers that blocked progress for minority Americans. But other kinds of barriers remain. The dream of quality education is one of them. It still remains an unfulfilled promise for too many of our children. And the hope of economic opportunity -- equal access to the ladder of American advancement --

Yes, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land. As president, I have made a pledge to root out bigotry wherever we find it. Every day, Mrs. King, you and your colleagues here at the King Center train young people that the way to counter hatred and ignorance is peacefully, with non-violence, compassion, love and service to others. It is the continuation of your husband's work, who taught us the difference one man can make in a country dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He saw an America that was like the "welcome table" the spiritual speaks of, where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and never be thirsty. With your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King.

Thank you all, and I now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

# # #

92 JAN 16 P 3:10 WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 1/16/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 1/16/92 3:00pm

REVISIED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY
SUBJECT: ATLANTA - Friday, 1/17/92 10:00 a.m.

Table with columns for names and checkboxes for ACTION and FYI. Includes names like VICE PRESIDENT, SKINNER, SCOWCROFT, DARMAN, BRADY, BROMLEY, CARD, DEMAREST, FITZWATER, GRAY, HOLIDAY, HORNER, MCCLURE, PETERSMEYER, PORTER, ROGICH, SMITH, FINDLAY, SNOW.

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 p.m., TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Ok - a few thoughts.
Bo for SR

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12:13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

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Needs more transition

Yes, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land. As president, I have made a pledge to root out bigotry wherever we find it. Every day, Mrs. King, you and your colleagues here at the King Center train young people that the way to counter hatred and ignorance is peacefully, with non-violence, compassion, love and service to others. It is the continuation of your husband's work, who taught us the difference one man can make in a country dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He saw an America that was like the "welcome table" the spiritual speaks of, where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and never be thirsty. With your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King.

Thank you all, and I now I ~~will~~ <sup>am pleased to</sup> sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

92 JAN 16 P12:00 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TO:

*Tony Snow*

FROM: C. GREGG PETERSMEYER  
Assistant to the President  
for National Service

*gp*

- For Your Information
- For Your Action
- For Your Files
- As Requested
- For Your Comments and Suggestions
- Let's Discuss
- Please Return

Comments:

*Maybe useful?*

The story I want to tell you today -- a story that Martin Luther King, Jr. told in his speech he made the night before that terrible day in Memphis, 22 years ago. It's a story about serving others and the courage that it takes. It's a familiar story about the Good Samaritan and the stranger he helped. But there's another part of the story we don't always remember.

Before the Good Samaritan stopped that day, two other men saw the injured stranger and passed him by. And Dr. King thought long and hard about it, and he used to ask himself: Why didn't the others stop to help? And Dr. King came up with some good reasons: They didn't stop because they were too busy, had more important work waiting in Jerusalem of far more consequence than helping one unfortunate man; and so on they went.

And then one day, Martin Luther King put himself in their shoes. At the age of 30, on his very first visit to the Holy Land, he and his wife, Coretta, travelled that road from Jerusalem to Jericho. And Dr. King saw the story of the Good Samaritan in a new light.

That road starts off more than 1000 feet above the sea level and ends in Jericho 2000 feet below sea level. A twisting road, full of blind curves. He imagined the road 2000 years ago, each curve a perfect ambush for robbers. And at that moment, Dr. King realized why the two men didn't stop. It had nothing to do with the reasons he had imagined. They didn't stop because they were afraid.

The way Dr. King imagined it, one asked himself: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' And he went on about his way. But then the Good Samaritan came along, and asked himself a different question: 'If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?' And he asked himself that question and he found the courage to stop; the courage to help; the courage to serve.

So which question, then, do we ask ourselves? About going down to the soup kitchen in that dangerous neighborhood. About stopping on a dark street to help a homeless man. About reaching out to those desperate kids out there -- kids who have no home life, who are hooked on drugs, who live a nightmare we can't begin to imagine. Doing any of these things isn't easy. Every one takes an act of courage. But unlike the Good Samaritan, we don't have to act alone. Each one of you understands the power of collective action -- how much we can get done when we work together, pool our resources, combine our talents.

And don't think that it won't take courage. It's going to take courage to go back to your member organizations, back to their CEOs and Boards of Directors and suggest that they place community service at the center of their agenda. It's going to take courage to insist that community service has a place at the very heart of every organization. It will take courage to make one believe that from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. But that's just exactly what I'm asking you to do.

-- March 6, 1990  
Remarks to the American Society of  
Association Executives  
Quote #186

*Copied to Don*

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/15/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE COMMENT DUE BY: THURS. 1/16/92 11:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY

SUBJECT: ATLANTA, GA - FRIDAY, 1/17/92

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 a.m., THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 15 , 1992  
Draft 3  
KING

92 JAN 15 All: 47

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

It is an honor to stand at this glorious "living memorial," here in Martin Luther King's hometown, just steps from his birthplace and from his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence; his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream" speech seared our souls with their anguish, and with their hope and love. Dr. King articulated the deeper yearnings of his countrymen better than any American since Lincoln.

Even so, it is hard for us, almost a quarter of a century after his death, to comprehend fully the hostility that confronted Martin Luther King during his life, or the courage with which he surmounted hatred and mistrust. We might forget, too, the loneliness of his struggle. Think of the early days of the civil rights movement, when organizers of the Montgomery bus boycott called him as their leader. In his book "Stride Toward Freedom" he wrote of sitting alone at the kitchen table late one night during that lonely time, and saying aloud: "I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." But almost at once his fear and uncertainty began to melt away; an "inner voice," as he called it, spoke to him. It told him to continue to do what he knew to be right.

And so he did. America is a different country today -- a better country, because of the faith Martin Luther King had in the American people. Dr. King faced a nation disfigured by a kind of homegrown apartheid that twisted the force of law to segregate some Americans from others, depriving them of even the rudiments of common citizenship. Jim Crow was quite simply un-American, an insult to the American creed, and Dr. King knew it.

But he also knew that if he expressed this truth forcefully, in the passionate language of the Bible and the Declaration of Independence, the American people would come around. And sure enough, in time most of those legal barriers he had labored against came tumbling down. Martin Luther King's era was a tumultuous period for his country. To a large extent he was the architect of the best of what was left when the tumult was through. Today we have a battery of laws dedicated to a colorblind America; we have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. Perhaps most remarkably of all, we've seen a change in the hearts of many Americans, who set aside old prejudices and stereotypes to embrace the values Dr. King beseeched us to embrace, the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

Unfortunately, we can overstate this spiritual change in our national life, as some are prone to do. Racism and bigotry, blind hatred and intolerance still exist in our land. Even Martin Luther King's memory has been perverted in their service. A recent popular music video intersperses footage of Dr. King's

nonviolent struggle for equal rights with scenes of paramilitary assaults and the assassination of public officials.

There is no place in America for this kind of vulgar and outrageous exploitation. I salute the work of you, Mrs. King, and of all your colleagues at the King Center in training young people in Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and peaceful change. As president I have dedicated myself and my administration to rooting out discrimination wherever it exists. We will continue to do so. But the struggle for civil rights cannot stop there. Yes, most of the legal barriers that blocked Dr. King and other black Americans for hundreds of years have been swept away. But other intractable barriers remain. Even now, many Americans aren't given a fair chance to make good on their dreams.

In his landmark desegregation decision, Brown versus Board of Education, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: "The road to progress for the victims of past discrimination is equal and excellent education." Can any of us -- within government or without -- say that we have truly cleared this road to progress? Education forms character, disciplines the mind, and bestows the virtues of citizenship. It provides the child with the skills necessary to gain access to the ladder of economic advancement. Yet this kind of "equal and excellent" education is today beyond the reach of most of our children.

That is why I have made the top-to-bottom transformation of American education the priority of this administration. Yes, it's

a question of economic competitiveness in the global economy, as others have said. But it's something more, too. Martin Luther King believed that civil rights is at bottom about equal opportunity in this, the land of opportunity. That means educational excellence must be an essential goal of all who care about civil rights. As Dr. King himself wrote: "... education is more than ever the passport to decent economic positions."

How do we get there? Here's one way. Last spring, we launched our comprehensive America 2000 strategy for changing America's schools. This was our first goal: By the year 2000, every American child must start school ready to learn.

Accordingly, in the budget I will submit later this month, I will ask Congress to fully fund Head Start for the first time in the program's history. Fully funded, Head Start will get at disadvantaged children early and bring them up to the educational starting line, right along with advantaged kids who haven't faced some of the same difficulties. By preparing them for the often traumatic transition to elementary school, it will provide them with an equal shot at receiving an excellent education.

There are other ways. We must establish and maintain the highest educational standards. Let our kids know what we expect from them, and you can be sure they won't let us down. This is a task not only for schools but for parents, too. Dr. King spoke often of the need to set high standards and stick to them. "We must constantly stimulate our youth to rise above the stagnant level of mediocrity," he wrote, "and seek to achieve excellence

in their various fields of endeavor." Just as important, we must ensure that our schools are places where educational excellence can be achieved. We must liberate every last one of them from the scourge of violence and drugs.

But educational excellence, by itself, isn't enough. Our children must emerge from school into a vibrant and growing economy. Economic growth, the steady expansion of economic opportunity for all our citizens, is no less a civil rights issue than education. It "makes real the promises of democracy." A truly free marketplace -- free of needless government mandates and high taxes, free of bureaucrats vainly trying to pick winners and losers -- doesn't recognize skin color or gender or ethnic origin. It rewards diligence, initiative, perseverance, good will. And as Dr. King knew, these are qualities not restricted to a few but liberally granted by God to all his children.

There is an unfortunate irony here. The civil rights movement began with the basics -- quality education and economic opportunity. These are the two essential keys to the American dream of strong families and wholesome communities. Yet for all our success in conquering the legal barriers to equal rights -- though more work is needed here as well -- these basic hopes remain unfulfilled. Our schools fail our children. Our economy doesn't provide sufficient opportunity for all our citizens.

This is the unfinished business of civil rights. Our country is not yet the "welcome table" Dr. King dreamed it could be, where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and

never be thirsty. But with your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King.

Thank you all, and now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday proclamation.

# # #



(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 15 , 1992  
Draft 3  
KING

92 JAN 15

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

It is an honor to stand at this glorious "living memorial," here in Martin Luther King's hometown, just steps from his birthplace and from his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence; his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream" speech seared our souls with their anguish, and with their hope and love. Dr. King articulated the deeper yearnings of his countrymen better than any American since Lincoln.

Even so, it is hard for us, almost a quarter of a century after his death, to comprehend fully the hostility that confronted Martin Luther King during his life, or the courage with which he surmounted hatred and mistrust. We might forget, too, the loneliness of his struggle. Think of the early days of the civil rights movement, when organizers of the Montgomery bus boycott called him as their leader. In his book "Stride Toward Freedom" he wrote of sitting alone at the kitchen table late one night during that lonely time, and saying aloud: "I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." But almost at once his fear and uncertainty began to melt away; an "inner voice," as he called it, spoke to him. It told him to continue to do what he knew to be right.

And so he did. America is a different country today -- a better country, because of the faith Martin Luther King had in the American people. Dr. King faced a nation disfigured by a kind of homegrown apartheid that twisted the force of law to segregate some Americans from others, depriving them of even the rudiments of common citizenship. Jim Crow was quite simply un-American, an insult to the American creed, and Dr. King knew it.

But he also knew that if he expressed this truth forcefully, in the passionate language of the Bible and the Declaration of Independence, the American people would come around. And sure enough, in time most of those legal barriers he had labored against came tumbling down. Martin Luther King's era was a tumultuous period for his country. To a large extent he was the architect of the best of what was left when the tumult was through. Today we have a battery of laws dedicated to a colorblind America; we have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. Perhaps most remarkably of all, we've seen a change in the hearts of many Americans, who set aside old prejudices and stereotypes to embrace the values Dr. King beseeched us to embrace, the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

Unfortunately, we can overstate this spiritual change in our national life, as some are prone to do. Racism and bigotry, blind hatred and intolerance still exist in our land. Even Martin Luther King's memory has been perverted in their service. A recent popular music video intersperses footage of Dr. King's

nonviolent struggle for equal rights with scenes of paramilitary assaults and the assassination of public officials.

There is no place in America for this kind of vulgar and outrageous exploitation. I salute the work of you, Mrs. King, and of all your colleagues at the King Center in training young people in Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and peaceful change. As president I have dedicated myself and my administration to rooting out discrimination wherever it exists. We will continue to do so. But the struggle for civil rights cannot stop there. Yes, most of the legal barriers that blocked Dr. King and other black Americans for hundreds of years have been swept away. But other intractable barriers remain. Even now, many Americans aren't given a fair chance to make good on their dreams.

In his landmark desegregation decision, Brown versus Board of Education, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote: "The road to progress for the victims of past discrimination is equal and excellent education." Can any of us -- within government or without -- say that we have truly cleared this road to progress? Education forms character, disciplines the mind, and bestows the virtues of citizenship. It provides the child with the skills necessary to gain access to the ladder of economic advancement. Yet this kind of "equal and excellent" education is today beyond the reach of most of our children.

That is why I have made the top-to-bottom transformation of American education the priority of this administration. Yes, it's

a question of economic competitiveness in the global economy, as others have said. But it's something more, too. Martin Luther King believed that civil rights is at bottom about equal opportunity in this, the land of opportunity. That means educational excellence must be an essential goal of all who care about civil rights. As Dr. King himself wrote: "... education is more than ever the passport to decent economic positions."

How do we get there? Here's one way. Last spring, we launched our comprehensive America 2000 strategy for changing America's schools. This was our first goal: By the year 2000, every American child must start school ready to learn.

Accordingly, in the budget I will submit later this month, I will ask Congress to fully fund Head Start for the first time in the program's history. Fully funded, Head Start will get at disadvantaged children early and bring them up to the educational starting line, right along with advantaged kids who haven't faced some of the same difficulties. By preparing them for the often traumatic transition to elementary school, it will provide them with an equal shot at receiving an excellent education.

*See insert A attached (Correctly)*  
~~There are other ways.~~ We must establish and maintain the highest educational standards. Let our kids know what we expect from them, and you can be sure they won't let us down. This is a task not only for schools but for parents, too. Dr. King spoke often of the need to set high standards and stick to them. "We must constantly stimulate our youth to rise above the stagnant level of mediocrity," he wrote, "and seek to achieve excellence

in their various fields of endeavor." Just as important, we must ensure that our schools are places where educational excellence can be achieved. ~~We must liberate every last one of them from the scourge of violence and drugs.~~

See insert  
B (education)

But educational excellence, by itself, isn't enough. Our children must emerge from school into a vibrant and growing economy. Economic growth, the steady expansion of economic opportunity for all our citizens, is no less a civil rights issue than education. It "makes real the promises of democracy." A truly free marketplace -- free of needless government mandates and high taxes, free of bureaucrats vainly trying to pick winners and losers -- doesn't recognize skin color or gender or ethnic origin. It rewards diligence, initiative, perseverance, good will. And as Dr. King knew, these are qualities not restricted to a few but liberally granted by God to all his children.

There is an unfortunate irony here. The civil rights movement began with the basics -- quality education and economic opportunity. These are the two essential keys to the American dream of strong families and wholesome communities. Yet for all our success in conquering the legal barriers to equal rights -- though more work is needed here as well -- these basic hopes remain unfulfilled. Our schools fail our children. Our economy doesn't provide sufficient opportunity for all our citizens.

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# # #



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR ELIZABETH LUTTIG  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

FROM: *for* LESLYE A. ARSHT *LL*  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND  
COUNSELOR TO THE SECRETARY

DATE: January 16, 1992

SUBJECT: Comments on the Martin Luther King for Friday

1) It is MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL REFERENCES TO HEAD START ARE BEING DELETED from this speech and being HELD FOR TUESDAY. If this is not the case, please let me know. Our major point in this section would have been that IF the President is announcing "full funding", he should say so, e.g., "I'm pleased to announce today...."

2) We think that this is a natural place to tie in higher expectations with the new agreement to develop world-class standards and the report that is to be released next week. The following is suggested language:

*insert A*  
*p. 4* (Bottom of page 4, replace lead sentence of final graph.)  
"Unfortunately, however, we have much more to do in order to ensure that our children redeem the promise of excellence as well as equal educational opportunity."

*insert B*  
*p. 5* (Pick up next sentence ... replace final sentence of graph with.)  
"That is why I am so pleased with the report to be issued next week by the National Council on Education Standards and Testing. This report will call for the development of National World-Class Standards in the core subjects and a set of voluntary achievement tests to measure progress of our students in achieving these standards. This report will point this nation in the direction of excellence which Dr. King advocated and so many other Americans aspire."

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 JAN 15 P12:38

DATE: 1/15/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURS. 1/16/92 11:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GA - FRIDAY, 1/17/92

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>WJ</i> PORTER <i>WJ</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 a.m., THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 15 , 1992  
Draft 3  
KING

92 JAN 15 All : 47

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

32 JAN 16 AIO: 59

January 16, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF  
SPEECHWRITING

FROM: NELSON LUND  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Martin Luther King  
Birthday

At the request of Phillip D. Brady, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned remarks. Suggested changes are marked on the attached hard copy.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these remarks.

Attachment

cc: Phillip D. Brady

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 15 , 1992  
Draft 3  
KING

92 JAN 15 All: 47

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
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laws and customs inconsistent with basic American principles — laws designed to segregate and oppress one class of citizens

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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
(Atlanta, Georgia)

For Immediate Release

January 17, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
FEDERAL HOLIDAY PROCLAMATION SIGNING CEREMONY

Freedom Hall  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center  
Atlanta, Georgia

10:29 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for that warm welcome, and thank you, Mr. Hill. And let me just tell you, sir, how pleased I am to be a part of this program today. It's, of course, a pleasure to have flown down here and to be at the site of Coretta Scott King and all this wonderful King family, sitting here, and here. It takes me back to a couple of other visits to this historic Center that I've been privileged to make.

With me also today is one well-known to the Atlanta community; now well-known to the nation -- our Secretary of HHS, Dr. Lou Sullivan. And he is doing a superb job for our nation, and that's all because he -- (applause) -- and after he heard the successful, wonderful rendition of the Morehouse Glee Club, these guys that came and swept into Washington at the Kennedy Center Honors and carried the day in a magnificent national performance, after Lou heard them here today he now is claiming that he, too, was a member of the Morehouse Glee Club. (Laughter.)

And when Maynard Jackson, the distinguished Mayor, and my friend, heard them, he also claims to have been a member of the Morehouse Glee Club. (Laughter.) It's the first time I've heard this. But nevertheless -- (laughter) -- I salute both of them and -- both -- one here in the city of Atlanta, one in Washington, and, thus, across the nation doing a wonderful job for our country.

Let me just say, flying down here with my dear friend, Newt Gingrich, who is with us, a member of the United States Congress -- we talked about the Center and we talked about a lot of things of national interest. And then I said, well Newt, how's it going in Georgia? And he said -- and I don't want to get him in trouble because this is a nonpartisan event -- but he said, Governor Miller is doing an outstanding job for this state. And, Zell, I'm very pleased to see you here, sir. (Applause.)

And Reverend Roberts, I appreciate those words. I do believe that you can't hold this job if you don't look to God for guidance. I feel strongly about that, and I appreciate those kind words of guidance in your invocation.

It is for me an honor to stand here at this living memorial in Martin Luther King's hometown, steps from his birthplace and his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence -- the letter from the Birmingham Jail; and no one will ever forget the "I Have A Dream" speech -- they moved us with their hope and love and with the abiding faith that Dr. King had in the American people. What you have done, Coretta, if I may, with this glorious living memorial, serves to remind us of the courage with which Martin Luther King overcame hatred and mistrust. And it's

MORE

too easy for us, almost a quarter of a century after his death, to forget the loneliness of that struggle. And think of the early days of the movement when organizers of the Montgomery bus boycott called him to be their leader.

In his book, "Stride Toward Freedom," he wrote of sitting alone at the kitchen table one night during the lonely time and saying aloud, "I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." But almost at once, his fear and his uncertainty began to melt away; an inner voice, as he called it -- an inner voice spoke to him and it told him to continue to do what he knew to be right. And because he could express what he knew with such passion and such eloquence, the American people awakened to the promise of civil rights for all.

And today, thanks in large to part to Martin Luther King Jr.'s work, we have a battery of laws dedicated to a color-blind America. We have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. And I'm proud that two significant civil rights bills have become law since I was President -- the ADA, the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights Bill of '91.

Perhaps most marvelous of all -- there's been a sea change -- there's been a change in the hearts of many Americans who set aside old stereotypes and old prejudices to embrace the values that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. beseeched us to embrace; the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

At the heart of these values, as Dr. King knew, is the family. And I am struck, Mrs. King, by how often in our conversations together you have stressed the importance of family life. Barbara and I feel it in our own lives. And think of the problems that afflict so many American communities today -- homelessness and crime and drugs -- and yet, these are not so much isolated problems as symptoms of one great problem: and that's the decline of the family. For far too many of our children pass through life without the goals larger than themselves, without a sense of their own worth or the worth of others, without the values that only the love of a parent or a grandparent can instill.

Yesterday, purely coincidentally, I met with the mayors who lead the National League of Cities. And some were from great, big cities, like Los Angeles; Trenton, New Jersey. Some were from hamlets and tiny cities -- Plano, Texas, a city of 3,000; another one in North Carolina. And some were Democrats and some were Republicans. But every single one of them agreed -- they'd met before I met with them -- that the urban problems stem in large part from the weakening of the family. And this problem, this terrible weakening of family, is not just somebody else's problem. It demands something from each of us.

Martin Luther King taught us that each of us is called to serve, regardless of personal circumstances. And each of us can serve. On the last night of his life, before that terrible day in Memphis, Dr. King told a story that I do think of often -- visiting the Holy Land when he was a young man, with you, Coretta. Happened to travel the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the same road where the Good Samaritan stopped, the Bible teaches, to help a stranger. The road was rocky and full of blind curves. And as he traveled, Dr. King realized that the reason others failed to stop to help the stranger was that they were afraid. Others that asked themselves: If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me? But the Good Samaritan asked himself: If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him? The joy of personal service is that it is open to all.

And the other day I met with Magic Johnson in the Oval Office, and I was impressed with the way that he has now dedicated his life to others. Not only to those with HIV, but in educating

those who are at risk. And he's been very honest, been very forthright about this tragic issue. He's out there right now teaching kids that lifestyle matters, lifestyle is important. He's admitting: Well, I made some terrible mistakes. Now he wants to get the message out.

And I want to help. I want to use the bully pulpit of the White House -- continue to use it for that same purpose, to speak out for strong research so to help people better understand the disease and to speak out for a change of behavior.

Anyone who visits AIDS clinics, incidentally, as Barbara and I have done, can't help but be struck by the dedication, the selfless dedication -- and Lou knows what I'm talking about, Dr. Sullivan does -- of the countless doctors and the nurses and the researchers and the volunteers who understand the human face of AIDS.

And as Barbara holds an AIDS baby in her arms, she's trying to express that same message -- the message of compassion and service. There are so many ways to serve. With her interest in literacy, she's tried to impress upon people the importance of reading to kids, broadening their horizons, expanding their young minds. And it's important to remember that one of the first goals of the civil rights movement was as basic as can be -- quality education for all. We've made enormous progress, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King, in removing the legal barriers that blocked progress for minority Americans.

But let's face it. Regrettably, other kinds of barriers remain. For instance, the dream of quality education remains an unfulfilled promise for too many of our children. And now, our America 2000 education program will help lift up those kids who have been left behind.

I want to stop here also to salute two great leaders in American education -- Dr. Keith of Morehouse and Dr. Cole of Spellman. With leaders like this, we are, in a sense, inspiring new generations.

And I also want to salute and honor Dr. Gloster, who was previously the head of this great institution represented here today -- not only by Dr. Sullivan, but by these magnificent young people.

Yes, too much prejudice, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land. Martin preached something different, but they still exist in our land. And as President, I'm trying, and all of us must try and must pledge to root out bigotry wherever we find it. Speak out in whatever community you are. Every day, Mrs. King, you and your colleagues here at this Center train young people that the way to counter hatred and ignorance and prejudice is peacefully, with nonviolence, with compassion, with love and service to others.

That is the honorable, noble continuation of your husband's work. He taught us the difference one man can make in a country dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He saw an America that was like the welcome table the Spiritual speaks of where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and never be thirsty.

With your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King. And thank you all very much, and now it is my honor for the United States of America to sign this proclamation. Thank you. (Applause.)

(The proclamation is signed.) (Applause.)

END

10:42 A.M. EST

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

92 JAN 16 P3:09



DATE: 1/16/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY, 1/16/92 3:00pm

REVISED PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY

SUBJECT: ATLANTA - Friday, 1/17/92 10:00 a.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 p.m., TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Ferguson/Simon)  
January 16, 1992  
Draft 4  
KING

92 JAN 16 P12:13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: M.L. KING BIRTHDAY  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1992  
10:00 A.M.

It is an honor to stand at this glorious "living memorial," here in Martin Luther King's hometown, just steps from his birthplace and from his pulpit, to talk about the promise of his life. We all know of his eloquence; his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and his "I Have a Dream" speech moved us with their hope and love, and with the abiding faith Dr. King had in the American people. ~~As many of you know, I had the privilege.~~

What you have done, Mrs. King, with this glorious "living memorial," serves to remind us of the courage with which Martin Luther King overcame hatred and mistrust. It is too easy for us, almost a quarter of a century after his death, to forget the loneliness of his struggle. Think of the early days of the civil rights movement, when organizers of the Montgomery bus boycott called him as their leader. In his book "Stride Toward Freedom" he wrote of sitting alone at the kitchen table late one night during that lonely time, and saying aloud: "I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." But almost at once his fear and uncertainty began to melt away; an "inner voice," as he called it, spoke to him. It told him to continue to do what he knew to be right.

And because he could express what he knew with such eloquence and passion, the American people awakened to the

promise of civil rights for all. Today, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King's work, we have a battery of laws dedicated to a colorblind America; we have a renewed commitment from government to enforce the basic rights of its citizens. Perhaps most marvelous of all, we've seen a change in the hearts of many Americans, who set aside old prejudices and stereotypes to embrace the values Dr. King beseeched us to embrace, the values of tolerance and decency and mutual respect.

At the heart of these values, as Dr. King knew, is the family. I am struck, Mrs. King, by how often in our conversations together you have stressed the importance of family life. Certainly Barbara and I feel it in our own lives. Think of the problems that afflict so many American communities today -- homelessness, crime, drugs. Yet these are not so much isolated problems as symptoms of one great problem, the decline of family. Far too many of our children pass through life without goals larger than themselves, without a sense of their own worth or the worth of others, without the values that only the love of a parent or a grandparent can instill.

This problem, this terrible diminution of the importance of family, is not just somebody else's problem; it demands something from each of us. Martin Luther King taught us that each of us is called to serve, no matter your personal circumstances. And each of us can serve. On the last night of his life, before that terrible day in Memphis, Dr. King told a story that I think of often. He told of visiting the Holy Land when he was a young

man, with you, Mrs. King. He happened to travel the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the same road where the Good Samaritan stopped, as the Bible teaches, to help a stranger. The road was rocky and full of blind curves, and as he traveled Dr. King realized that the reason others failed to stop to help the stranger was that they were afraid. Others had asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the Good Samaritan asked himself, "If I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

The joy of personal service is that it is open to all. The other day I met with Magic Johnson in the Oval Office, and I was impressed with the way this man has dedicated himself to others - not only those with HIV but in educating those who are at risk. He's been very honest and forthright about the issue. He's out there right now teaching kids that lifestyle's important. He's admitted he made some terrible mistakes. But now he wants to get the message out. I want to use this bully pulpit of the White House for the same purpose. Anyone who visits AIDS clinics, as Barbara and I have, can't help but be struck by the dedication of the countless doctors, nurses, researchers and volunteers who understand the human face of AIDS. When Barbara holds an AIDS baby in her arms, she's trying to express that same message -- the message of compassion and service.

There are other ways to serve. With her literacy program Barbara has tried to impress upon people the importance of reading to kids, to broaden their horizons and expand their young

Right here in Atlanta, the Reverend Michael Dalton and Dr. King's own Southern Christian Leadership Conference are working heroically to create drug free neighborhoods through the "Wings of Hope" program which I was proud to recognize last year as the 284th Daily Point of Light for the Nation.

minds. It's important to remember that one of the first goals of the civil rights movement was as basic as can be -- quality education for all. We have made enormous progress, thanks in large part to Martin Luther King, in removing the legal barriers that blocked progress for minority Americans. But other kinds of barriers remain. The dream of quality education is one of them. It still remains an unfulfilled promise for too many of our children. And the hope of economic opportunity -- equal access to the ladder of American advancement --

Yes, racism and anti-Semitism and blind hatred still exist in our land. As president, I have made a pledge to root out bigotry wherever we find it. Every day, Mrs. King, you and your colleagues here at the King Center train young people that the way to counter hatred and ignorance is peacefully, with non-violence, compassion, love and service to others. It is the continuation of your husband's work, who taught us the difference one man can make in a country dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He saw an America that was like the "welcome table" the spiritual speaks of, where all Americans can eat and never be hungry, drink and never be thirsty. With your continuing commitment and help, we will meet these great challenges and make real the dream of Martin Luther King.

Thank you all, and I now I will sign the Martin Luther King Holiday Proclamation.

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