

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE
Series/Staff Member: Subject Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 23365
Scan ID: 258626
Document Number:

Folder Title:
HU010

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	85	1	3	2

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

HU 010

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 01, 1998

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. BORSKI

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES OPINION PIECES ON THE SUBJECT OF
RACE RELATIONSHIPS WRITTEN BY STUDENTS IN HIS
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JOHN HILLEY		ORG	98/01/23	SB	A 98/01/23
REFERRAL NOTE:					
AGENCY REFERRAL		RAR	98/01/23		C 98/01/23
REFERRAL NOTE:	ATTN: PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE				
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230

MAIL USER CODES: (A) D PA (B) (C)

```

*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *      CODE = A      *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *      OUTGOING     *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
*****

```

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

1230
ROBERT A. BORSKI
3D DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING DEMOCRAT—SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE

REGIONAL WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

Knowing of your interest in the problem of race relations in our country, I have enclosed a few opinion pieces on the subject of race relations written by students in my Congressional District.

Enclosed, please find a collection of works written by students of the Samuel S. Fels High School, in Philadelphia. I hope you find these views and concerns of our nation's youth as informative as I did.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



ROBERT A. BORSKI
Member of Congress

RAB/rcs
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Brian Pollock
Social Studies Department
Samuel S. Fels High School

258626
WASHINGTON OFFICE

ROOM 2182
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
(202) 225-8251
FAX: (202) 225-4628

DISTRICT OFFICES:
7141 FRANKFORD AVE.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135
(215) 335-3355
FAX: (215) 333-4508
2630 MEMPHIS ST.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19125
(215) 426-4616

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
SAMUEL S. FELS HIGH SCHOOL

DEVEREAUX AVENUE AND LANGDON STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19111-3899

TELEPHONE (215) 537-2316

COUNSELORS 537-2340
537-2341

12/22/97

Representative Robert A. Borski
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Borski:

Students in my class, Law Review, reacted to President Clinton's recent conference on race held in Akron, Ohio. Enclosed are a few of the comments made regarding President Clinton's statement about the limited effect law can have on racism. As you may already know, the Fels Cluster is the most multi-cultural in the School District and Fels is probably one of the most diverse high schools in the nation. One of the students who attended the Akron initiative was Anso Thomas. He is in my class and his reaction is included.

We thought you would be pleased to see these ideas, especially since Fels is in your Congressional District. We would be happy if you could share them with the President.

Sincerely,



Brian Pollock
Social Studies Department

Can Law Change Racism?

By: Anso Thomas

As a high school student who has gone through racism at its roughest points, I feel that law cannot totally change racism. From being called names at one time, to getting harsh remarks saying to "go back to your country", from my standpoint, laws play a small part in racism. Even though in the past, laws indeed have ended such things as discrimination, where it stopped people from denying a person's rights. Laws that are set for us to follow, however, cannot control the way a person thinks or feels. Laws are meant to serve everyone equally that includes all people from all different races. Our laws cannot force people to change their perception of one another.

To even start ending racism, we really need to understand that it starts with the people themselves. Sometimes we tend to forget that the voices of this great nation are the real keys to locking away racism for good. Having summit meetings on racism or programs initiated on strengthening our respect for others can be a start for us to climbing that ladder in reaching that ultimate goal to end racism. All it takes really is for everyone to join in helping to eliminate racism mind in the minds of people. If I were called upon by anyone to help end racism, I would do it. The reason is because people want to make this world a better place, where we can have harmony and ever-lasting peace.

December 16, 1997

Yolanda West #404
Samuel S. Fels High School
Philadelphia, PA.

Can Law Change Racism?

Laws can be made and laws have been made to change racism, but the laws have not been very effective. The reason why laws against racism are not very effective is because there is not a way to enforce these laws against racism. Most racists don't feel that they are racist and they don't abide by the rules because they think the laws against racism don't apply to them. The majority of racists' act are done in private. If you can't catch the racists how can you enforce the laws against racism?

If new laws against racism are made, the Constitution will also have to be changed. U.S. citizens and residents will lose their freedom of speech and other rights because they will not be allowed to voice or show discrimination. The new laws will change the old laws. Hopefully, people will abide by these new laws against racism and all people of all different races will live in harmony.

It is possible for the law to change racism, but it will be a challenging task to accomplish.

Can Laws change racism in the United States

Laws can and have changed racism in America. For proof that laws have changed racism and racial views in this country, all you have to do is look through history books. From slavery to the emancipation proclamation, the bill that freed the slaves, to Jim Crow or "separate but equal" to affirmative action, everyone of these have two things in common; they deal specifically with law and racism / racial relations.

Laws will continue to affect race relations in this and in the next century. One of the hottest topics and ongoing debates going on right now is over the abolition of affirmative action. Whatever opinions that one may carry over this sensitive and serious topic, race will still come up in the discussion. This topic also may cause friction between the races. Most opinions are affected by the race of the person giving the opinion in the discussion. Although this may be a bit of a generalization, most Caucasian individuals who you may ask their opinion on in this debate might tell you that they believe that white males specifically are getting shafted by affirmative action. At the same time, you may ask an African American their opinion on affirmative action and they might tell you that there is way too much work to be done and we are too far away from being perceived as equals to be fairly for a job or admitted to a college without affirmative action. I don't* think that there is any doubt that people's points of view is affected by what race or ethnic group that they belong to. And in a society in which law affects almost every facet of our life, it is fairly obvious that laws affect race relations.

Bk #409
Fels High School
Philadelphia, Pa

Jackie Yates
December 5th, 1997

Can Laws Change Racism

I'm not sure that laws can totally change racism. After all, there will always be racist people in this world. Laws may help to prohibit racism in the workplace or out in the public. Maybe a law could be made to punish those who are found discriminating against people because of race. This is a big problem with our country today. This should not be, because we have many more serious problems that need to be addressed.

Our country needs to pull together, work together and live together in peace. I think we need to show people that race is not an important issue. It's only what's on the outside. What really counts is on the inside. So maybe after all we really don't need a law-just a way to show that we are equal, we are all human beings and, most importantly, we are all Americans.

Irene Appiah #502 Law Review 12/5/97

Samuel S. Fels High School

Can Laws Change Racism?

I believe laws can't change racism in America today. There is no way someone can make a law saying that you have to obey a certain law stating that you shouldn't be a racist or you'll be punished. It doesn't work that way, and I believe it won't work if there is a law enforced. People from older generations are the one's usually who are most likely to be more racist than the younger generation. I think if the government tries to put out a law about racism, it would probably cause some sort of chaos. You can't make people do something they don't want to do. If they want to be bigots, oh well.

Ever since the early ages, there has always been racism. Racism will never go away, even if you try to enforce a law. It's sad how we all can't understand ourselves. If we could understand ourselves, racism would end.

Ruth Colon
Law Review
Fels High School
12/16/97

CAN THE LAW CHANGE RACISM ?

Racism is something that grows very slowly because of your life experiences . There are no reasons for racist behavior, but in some way I think it's part of our imperfect human nature. If people all looked the same, talked the same and believed in the same things, People would still question differences in each other.

The only law that can change racism is the unwritten law-the law of human existence . Laws that we are born with as inhabitants of this world . A law that comes from our hearts. You can make a million laws about racism but as long as people can have their own mind, they can think what they want.

We have to attack racism from the inside. We have to let them know that the consequences of hate can drown every goodness that we've worked so hard to have around us. Children's tears need to be dried. People's lives need to be recovered. We shouldn't just do this for our future but for the people who had to pay tragically before us because of hate.

So, what I guess I'm trying to say is kind of what Anne Frank said, "In some one, everyone there there is still kindness" and I believe that too.

Bryan Knight
BK.#401
Law Review

Can Law Change Racism?

In my opinion law cannot change racism. Laws can stop people from discriminating to a point, but there is always a loophole (and if you're in government you know this all too well).

Racism is in people's heads. It can't be controlled. Take me for example, until I meet an African-american I look at them as less of a person. The reason is that, even though nobody will accept it, white people are beat, chided, and altogether stepped on because there are so many racist blacks out there.

I guess the point is racism begets racism, so because we have it now we will always have it.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1998

Dear Representative Borski:

Thank you for your letter to the President concerning your constituents' views regarding race relations in our nation.

I have forwarded your letter to Judith Winston, Executive Director of the President's Initiative on Race, for her consideration and review. In the meantime, if I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Brophy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Brophy
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Robert A. Borski
House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR JUDITH WINSTON

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that was sent to the President from Rep. Robert A. Borski (D-PA).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached letter and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Chris Walker, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at 456-7500.

Enclosure