

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:
Bob Johnson Dinner

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March 22, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR LEON PANETTA

FROM: Alexis Herman

RE: Bob Johnson Dinner

In the Fall of '94, you and I agreed that we would meet quarterly in order to keep a dialogue going beyond my immediate office with opinion leaders in the African American community. The decision to hold these off the record informal discussions periodically, grew out of the concerns expressed last year that African Americans were not perceived to be a part of the inner circle with the President or Chief of Staff on political discussions and strategies.

We had hoped to begin these meetings last October but due to scheduling problems, we were not successful in our efforts until now.

The objectives of the dinner are two-fold: 1. to start an early political dialogue on issues that are important to the community and, 2. to have this group (and others like it) be perceived as a real sounding board for the Administration.

The following issues are likely to be raised tonight:

1. Affirmative Action as it relates to minority business since these are business leaders.
2. District of Columbia
3. Party leadership
4. The President's commitment to stand with minority Cabinet members.

The discussion is informal, off the record and unstructured.

Bob Johnson, as you know, is the President of Black Entertainment Television. He is an early supporter and the largest African American donor historically to the Party. All others are political and financial supporters of the President.

Guests:

Mary Frances Berry	Chairperson, U.S. Comm. on Civil Rights
Carol Mosely Braun	U.S. Senator/Illinois
Melvin Clark	President, Metroplex Corporation
Ron Gault	M'g'g Dir., J.P.Morgan
Edward Lewis	Chairman & CEO, <u>Essence</u>
James Lowery	President, James H. Lowery & Associates
Mary Ann Mitchell	President, CC/OPS
Al Nellum	President, A.L. Nellum and Associates
Lottie Shackelford	Vice Chair, Democratic National Comm.
Sidney Smalls	President, Amn. Urban Radio Network
Marianne Spraggins	Wall St. Journal Financier, DNC Trustee
Herbert Wilkins	President, W&J Management

White House	Leon Panetta
	Alexis Herman
	Bob Nash
	Ben Johnson

cc Harold Ickes

Name	Date
Sally Payton	2/25/98

Coursed