

The original documents are located in Box 20, folder “Smith, A. Kendall, 1972” of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 7, 1972

9:30 a.m.



NOTE FOR MR. BROWN

Mr. Brown -

I have just finished talking by telephone to the Rev. A. Kendall Smith of the National Committee of Black Clergymen.

The reason he called me was that at the time of the death of the late Adam Clayton Powell he talked to me about getting a message to the President to provide a military plane to bring Mr. Powell's body back to NYC for his funeral -- I am sure you will recall this and the fact that it was referred to you.

The purpose of Mr. Smith's call this morning was to inform me that on Nov. 14 he had received a telegram for you asking his help in assisting the President during his new term of office. The result of this was that he came to Washington and saw Paul Lavarkas of your staff. This displeased him for he felt Paul "immature" and with "no possible comprehension of the problems of Blacks." Moreover, he was upset that he did not see you and emphasized that he felt he ought to at least see someone in the White House proper and not in the Old Executive Office Building.

Mr. Smith told me that on yesterday (Dec. 6) he had sent a teleg. to the President about the run-around he is getting and he asked me to see that he did see someone of importance.

There was a great deal more that Mr. Smith said that was "bitter" but the most important thing he said to me was "I am pleased and ready to do one of the most bizarre demonstration outside The White House that has ever been witnessed."

I might add that in talking of Adam Clayton Powell he told me that we were dishonest in saying that Presidential planes were only used for Members of Congress and cited the fact that the President had provided a plane for Mrs. Margaret Truman Daniel to go to her ailing father.

M. Rawlins
(David Parker's Office)

Mr. Smith is at the
Pitts Hotel , Rm. 212