

The original documents are located in Box 23, folder “Watergate and Black America, June 1974” of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

KEN W. CLAWSON ✓
STANLEY S. SCOTT ✓

FROM:

LARRY SPEAKES LG

Attached is the draft of an article "Watergate and Black America" by John Calhoun. John has done an excellent job and the article contains a message that would be beneficial to us.

I would appreciate any suggestions on content you might have and recommendations for placement.

Attachment

cc: John Calhoun



WATERGATE AND BLACK AMERICA

By JOHN CALHOUN

There is a "Watergate" in Black America.

It strikes every five to fifteen minutes. It is a \$14 billion a year rip-off. And it robs Blacks of nearly one-third of their total income each year.

This is not the Watergate on national television. It is a Watergate without a Chairman Rodino or a Judge Sirica or a Sam Ervin.

It is a Watergate that goes almost unnoticed in white America.

This Watergate is crime in Black America--one of the many problems which concern minorities in this country far more than Washington's Watergate.

To America's minorities, the true "what's-wrong-with-America" issue.

The Washington Watergate is of little concern to most Blacks, except it was wrong and wallowing in it doesn't make it vanish. Despite the national preoccupation with Watergate, Blacks generally could care less and want to move on.



Black America sees it this way: Congress is spending \$10 million to investigate Watergate--while many needs of the Nation's Blacks and the poor are not being dealt with. Congress has a full year on Watergate and spent little--if any--time on the economic issues, business development, and programs that are needed by the Nation's minorities.

As the national television focuses on "expletives deleted," Blacks know these are words you can pick up from almost any inner city youth under the age of five.

No matter what the din in the national press suggests, minorities are listening to a different drumbeat: economics.

We have abandoned the old approach of "We Shall Overcome... Someday," and turned to what is happening today.

The gut issues of our times are what Blacks are focusing on--not the acts of the past.

The marching in the streets has stopped.

The cities, for the most part, are quiet.

The Vietnam War is over.

Minorities looking for the action in 1974 are finding it where it has always been: in the board rooms, in the ballot box, and in the free enterprise system.



Blacks are pleased with their progress; and recognize that there is a long way to go for parity, but there is evidence of some success:

1. A total of 108 Blacks now govern cities throughout the United States, including Detroit, Grand Rapids, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Newark, more than 11,000 sit on city councils.
2. Black estimated total income dramatically increased from \$38 billion in 1969 to \$51.1 billion in 1973.
3. There are 53 minority-owned banks. In 1969 there were 15. A combined Government/private sector program has brought a 110 percent increase (\$537.7 million) in deposits between 1970-1973.
4. Blacks who have new car dealerships now total 287. This compares to 14 in 1969.

Progress, of course, but still just a drop in the bucket.

Blacks, other minorities, and poor people can't afford the luxury of wallowing in the past--the Bay of Pigs, Tonkin Gulf, or Watergate.

If Congress and the special prosecutor can't exorcise and punish the demons of Watergate in all this time, Blacks--indeed all Americans--ought to insist that it be concluded and bury the monster.



Capitalism is a word shared and respected on Wall Street or in Harlem. So Blacks are insisting that America bring perspective to Watergate--and get down to the issues that really count: a better Nation for all Americans



(John Calhoun, a 36-year-old Black on the White House Staff, is a Staff Assistant to the President.)