The original documents are located in Box 8, folder "Conference on Inflation, 1974 - General (2)" of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Stanley S. Scott

FROM: L. William Seidman

SUBJECT: Conference on Inflation
September 27-28, 1974

I would like to invite you to attend the Conference on Inflation. September 27-28, 1974, at the Washington Hilton. All delegates who participated in the twelve pre-Conference meetings have been invited to attend the Conference, which will be chaired by the President. Attached is additional information about the two-day meeting. A detailed agenda, a record of the sector meetings, and lists of participants will be available under your name in Room 263, Old Executive Office Building, between 12:00 and 6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 26, and at the "Delegates" registration desks at the Washington Hilton on Friday, September 27, from 7:00 a.m. A section of seats has been reserved for senior White House Staff and special Congressional guests on both sides of the table and closest to the stage.

I also hope that you can attend the White House reception for delegates Friday evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DELEGATE INFORMATION
CONFERENCE ON INFLATION

Time: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Friday, September 27
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Saturday, September 28

Place: The Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. (202-483-3000); Reservations: (202-483-3700).

Registration: All participants must register in order to obtain tickets, identification badges, agenda and other needed material. Registration desks will be open from noon Thursday, September 26 until midnight, and from 7:00 AM Friday, September 27. The Registration desks are located on the Terrace Level. Your packet will be held at the desk marked Delegates. There will be a registration fee of $10, which will cover the cost of lunch on Friday and coffee Friday and Saturday mornings.

Seating: You will be seated with your fellow delegates from your sector meeting in a special section marked TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION, etc.

Agenda: A detailed agenda will be available with your registration packet.

White House Reception: There will be a White House reception Friday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM for Conference delegates. It will be necessary for each delegate to have his invitation and a White House admittance card in his possession. These will be included in your registration packet.

Messages: A message center will be available for delegates, telephone (202)-232-8999.

NOTE: ALL DELEGATES MUST BE IN THEIR SEATS BY 8:45 AM ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1974

The Honorable Stanley S. Scott
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scott:

Thank you for your communication recommending Mr. Karl D. Gregory participate in the series of meetings on inflation.

While a wide representation was desired, I am sure you can appreciate that the size of the meetings had to be limited in order to ensure a constructive and useful dialogue leading up to the Conference on Inflation on September 27-28, 1974. I am confident that the individuals selected broadly represented the interests of their respective sectors of the economy. Nevertheless, all additional ideas are welcome.

Therefore, if he would like his specific views on inflation included in the official record of the Conference and considered by the President's team of economic advisers, I would like to suggest that they be directed in writing to my attention at The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500.

The Conference on Inflation is a bipartisan national effort to deal with our number one domestic problem. Your participation in this way will contribute a great service to our country.

Sincerely,

L. Wm Seidman

L. William Seidman
Executive Director
Conference on Inflation

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

September 26, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: STAN SCOTT

FROM: CLIFF GRAVES

SUBJECT: Report on the Black Economic Summit

I've been reading the subject report. Without analyzing its recommendations in detail, I found it to be a very thoughtful document whose recommendations merit full consideration in the President's Economic Summit deliberations.

However, the report is much more than an Economic Summit package; I'd hate to see its use limited to that forum. It deserves attention in other policy contexts.

Taken as a whole, the report is a very good assessment of the situation of Blacks and other minorities, particularly in urban areas. Some of the problems listed are made worse by current economic conditions, but will not be solved when inflation is slowed. Education and housing are examples.

Therefore, I suggest you include the report in the series of issue papers on Black concerns that you're reviewing. Also, you might try to have the recommendations considered as "special concerns" to be dealt with whatever the decisions on economic policy.

Good luck.

Cliff

National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education

2001 S Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20009 • Suite 450 • Telephone (202) 232-8500

September 28, 1974

Mr. Stanley Scott
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scott:

In light of the absence of official representation from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education at the President's Economic Summit Meeting, I am enclosing a statement entitled THE IMPACT OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISES UPON THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES with the hope that it will be included in the record.

I will be in touch with you in the very near future.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Miles

Miles Mark Fisher, IV
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: One

STATEMENT ON: THE IMPACT OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISES UPON THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

PREPARED BY: Miles Mark Fisher, IV
Executive Secretary
National Association for Equal Opportunity
in Higher Education

September 28, 1974

These are bad times for the country and especially for the historically black colleges and universities. The impact of the present financial crises is taking its toll upon these institutions, students, faculty, families and sources of financial support. In view of their long time and historical place in the lowest part of the economic strata, black colleges have never been generators of inflation. However, these institutions, along with the black community in general, bear a disproportionate share of the burden of inflation, unemployment and recession trends that are at work today.

Black educational institutions with an overwhelming high proportion of low income students, limited and often no endowments coupled with extraordinarily limited resources and access to resources are victims of policies that cater and respond to developments in higher education in general with little or no regard for the strategic and yet peculiar position of black colleges. In the present policy debates, much is said about enrollments leveling off and declining in higher education but it must be noted that in the black colleges enrollment pressures and demand continue to be high. Black colleges have had to decline admission to students because of limited student financial aid and limited capacity to service them. These students with excellent potential are not in college and many will be lost to society today and tommorrow.

There is every evidence that black youth continue to place a high premium on higher education in the black colleges. Thus, rather than cut back programs which have just begun to service and partially meet the needs of black colleges and impact upon students from low income families, the federal government must expand resources going to these institutions to allow them to more effectively meet the needs of large numbers of black youth and support them in the battle with the higher cost of providing education.

Increased costs in salaries, fuel, utilities, labor, services, operational expenses, higher interest rates and rehabilitation of physical plants are of particular concern to these institutions. Attempts by institutions to increase their charges to students in order to recover their inflationary losses are disasterous for schools serving large populations of low income persons who don't have the funds in the first place and who must depend upon student assistance which has been diluted because of the increase in the pool of eligibles for a restricted amount of money together with the problem of lending in the banking community.

Marginal endownments are in trouble because of the returns to the institutions. Corporations, Foundations and Government are talking cutbacks at a time when institutions are about to pull themselves together. Individuals are reluctant to donate large sums to such endeavors because of the uncertainty of their economic future. None of these areas can afford to be tampered with in there institutions.

The present economic crises tends to reveal that the status of black people is deteriorating and that if followed to its logical conclusion those most disadvantaged will continue to be the ones who bear the brunt of the crises that is upon this nation. Young blacks are being forced to drop out of colleges at disproportionate rates. Those that graduate are faced with the reality of earning less than the average nonblack graduate. Investing federal dollars in student aid rather than unemployment compensation for black students would be of greater long-range benefit to this society.

Though federal funds to these institutions have increased over the past years, they do not makeup for years of chronic neglect. It is hoped that in the attempt to balance the federal budget in 1976 that the education programs that have promoted the best interest of these institutions in particular and minorities in general will not be cut back thereby continuing to perpetuate the chronic underfunding of these institutions and impeding the realization of equal educational opportunity with achievement for all students. Cutbacks hurt students, burden faculty and staff, impact programs and defer maintenance.

Educational programs that impact these institutions must be increased to allow for the erosion of buying power due to inflation. Institutions that are heavily dependant upon student assistance funds need increased aid. Holding down of interest rates on student loans is also essential.

The historically black colleges and universities of this nation have made tremendous contributions to our nation and continue to be of vital importance. They have championed the cause of equal opportunity for quality education and have provided this opportunity to those who were denied it or could not afford it; assumed leadership in the development of techniques for overcoming handicaps of the educationally disadvantaged; served as custodians of archives of black Americans and as centers for the study of the black man's problems and achievements; and developed and expanded programs of education and occupational retraining for minority adults.

These 107 institutions of higher education enroll more than 180,000 students annually and graduate more than 30,000 students annually with baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees. This trained manpower has been a major force in the ability of black Americans to benefit from the lowering of racial barriers in business, industry, and government at the federal, state and local levels and will continue to be so in the future.

The Federal Interagency Committee on Education has called the black colleges a national resource in view of their fostering meaningful participation of blacks in the mainstream of American life.

These institutions continue in their efforts to inspire black youth and other youth of America and to help them realize their aspirations. There are today ever increasing numbers of these youth completing college and entering the job arena equipped to make valuable contributions.

In these transitional and oft times confused days, when changes are being made, and budgets slashed, the role of the federal government will be vital to the future of these institutions.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 31, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: STAN SCOTT

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

-- I've read. Very interesting with some good suggestions.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 1974

BLACK ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING

Statler Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

CONVENERS

DOROTHY HEIGHT
President
National Council of Negro Women

MAYNARD JACKSON
President-Elect
National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.
Executive Director
National Urban League

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman
Black Congressional Caucus

ROY WILKINS
Executive Director
NAACP

September 23, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

A national Black Economic Summit Meeting convened in Washington during the past weekend to formulate recommendations concerning the nation's present economic crisis from the perspective of black Americans, other minorities, and the poor. The meeting was convened by the undersigned and attended by leaders of national black organizations.

The conference resulted in a major position paper entitled "Economic Crisis in the Black Community: A Call for Action", a copy of which is enclosed with this letter. It is our sincere hope that you will give this position paper close and careful consideration as you develop your positions and policies for dealing with our nation's economic ills.

Repectfully,

Dorothy Height
Dorothy Height

Maynard Jackson
Maynard Jackson

Vernon E. Jordan
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Charles B. Rangel
Charles B. Rangel

Roy Wilkins
Roy Wilkins

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 1974

BLACK ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING

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National Urban League

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman
Black Congressional Caucus

ROY WILKINS
Executive Director
NAACP

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY:

A CALL FOR ACTION

FROM THE BLACK ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING

THE CALL

The President of the United States, in convening an economic summit meeting on inflation, indicated that he is looking for action that is "practical, possible and as rapid in its effects as we can possibly expect." Participants in the Black Economic Summit Conference would like to believe that the President is sincerely committed to that purpose and to implementing whatever progressive action suggestions and policy recommendations may surface in his summit meeting.

Bold and creative approaches will be required to adequately meet human needs and to ease the burden of inflation on the American consumer -- particularly on blacks, other minorities, and the poor.

The economic crisis now gripping this nation calls for the implementation of anti-inflationary alternatives which address the problems of black and minority people. Leaders representing almost every sector of the black community (civil rights, businesses, fraternal groups, education, religious denominations, the professions, the poor, civic groups, elected officials, and labor) attended this Black Economic Summit.

THE PRINCIPLES

The American economy belongs to the American people. The burden of halting inflation must not be placed on those least able to shoulder the costs--consumers, workers, the working poor, and the poor. While economists debate whether or not we are in a recession, the black community, which historically has been economically deprived, is enmeshed in a depression of the first magnitude.

It is therefore crucial that the President's Economic Summit not serve as a mechanism for burying the economic plight of blacks under distorted economic theories and policies. Such theories and policies only serve to maintain the economic imbalances that fall, all too heavily, on the poor.

The Black Economic Summit proceeded from the following principles:

a. there is no tolerable level of unemployment. One of the success measures of any economy or system of government is its ability to provide meaningful jobs in the public and private sector at an equitable and adequate wage for all citizens who are willing and able to work. Full employment is our goal;

b. social programs have traditionally enhanced the participation of blacks in America's economy. It is imperative that these programs not be cut;

c. the military budget is not sacrosanct. There must be immediate reduction in wasteful, inefficient military expenditures;

d. the present federal monetary and tax policies serve to perpetuate imbalances in our economy. They result in amassing and concentrating most of our economic resources in the hands of a powerful few through special tax shelters, loopholes and massive subsidies for wealthy corporations.

THE PROBLEMS

The American economy is suffering from the combined effects of inflation, unemployment, and recession. The Black Community bears a disproportionate share of each of these trends. This burden is reflected in escalating unemployment rate, now twice, and in many low income communities, triple, the national rate, and reduced purchasing power resulting from the spiraling costs of food, fuel, health care, and housing.

Specific areas of concern include:

Employment — The black unemployment rate is double that of whites. Census data shows that for the second quarter of 1974, the black unemployment rate was 9.7 percent, while the white unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. Unemployment rates for black males have increased by twelve percent over last year's figures. However overall national unemployment statistics do not adequately reflect the severity of unemployment in the black community. Innercity neighborhoods have unemployment rates approaching twenty percent, and sub-sections of the population, such as black teenagers, have unemployment rates at the 36 percent level.

Women

Statistics show that the number of unemployed women has steadily increased. Declining job opportunities have caused a number of working mothers to withdraw from the labor market, and have prevented others from entering. The black family, in order to meet its basic survival needs, has traditionally required two or more wage earners. The unemployment that has plagued the black community has had a particularly devastating impact on the increasing number of black women who are heads of household. These women earn wages that are generally below that of white men, white women, and black men.

<u>Child Care</u>

The working mother has been forced to withdraw from the labor force because of rapid cost increases in child care services. These cost rises (between 5.4 percent and 8.5 percent in the last year) have significantly undercut the purchasing power of black families.

<u>Education</u>

Education for Black people is a fundamental human right too long denied by American society. The limited advances recently made in the exercise of this right are being consistently undermined by the present inflation crisis. Young blacks are being forced to drop out from colleges at disproportionate rates. The black high school drop out rate is twice the national average. Black college graduates face the reality of earning less than the average white high school graduate.

<u>Health Care</u>

Adequate health care services and delivery systems are the right of every citizen, and must not be compromised. Health care services, as presently administered, do not meet the needs of a vast sector of black people. Health costs have increased nearly 50 percent since 1970. (A semi-private hospital room that averaged $68 per day in 1970 now costs $106). Existing federally supported health program are inadequate with respect to funding levels and delivery mechanisms.

Welfare

Contrary to current myth half of the black families below the poverty level receive no public assistance.

Likewise half of the black families headed by women are below the poverty level, and only one out of five is completely dependent on public assistance. Statistics also show that despite the fact that over half of the women heads of black families work, many are in need of public assistance to supplement their inadequate wages.

Food

Rapidly rising food costs are a source of urgent concern to consumers. Politically motivated manipulations of the world food supply has exacerbated the problem. America's poor and elderly traditionally have borne the heaviest weight of an economic downturn and face disaster as a result of current spiraling food prices. The prices of basic foodstuffs, those consumed by the poor, have increased far more rapidly than have higher priced foods ordinarily purchased by middle or upper income families.

Energy/ Utilities

The present rate structures for utilities are currently designed to benefit heavy users, not moderate consumers. Fuel and utility costs associated with residential living have increased 20.0 percent from July 1973 to July 1974. Low-income groups spend an average of 7 to 8 percent of their income for gas and electricity, while upper income groups spend an average of 2 percent.

Black Business

The present economic crisis has created critical shortages of materials vital to American businesses in general, and minority businesses in particular. Even more distressing is the increasing failure rate of minority businesses at a time when there were optimistic signs of growth. Many of these firms have been looking forward to the time when they could compete in the mainstream on an equal basis with other businesses.

Community Development and Housing

The goal of the 1968 Housing Act calling for "a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family" has not been achieved. The cost of homeownership and rental units has increased 20 precent since July 1973. The majority of black families in this nation cannot afford to compete in the housing market.

Inflationary pressures reflected in increased costs of money, labor, and materials have contributed to this dilemma Likewise national policies which resulted in restrictions on the housing sector have prevented that sector from assuming its traditional role in the total economy. The neglect of total community development needs and inequities in public and private sector delivery mechanisms have further compounded the problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Tax Reform and Reordered Budget Priorities. We are alarmed at official pronouncements that suggest social programs must be cut in order to trim the federal budget. It is clear that a budget in the vicinity of $305 billion is not in itself inflationary and that federal expenditures in relation to overall national spending are relatively stable.

   Social needs can be met by: reordering budget priorities, including shifting funds from a swollen $90.5 billion Defense budget (FY 75); thorough-going reform of income, Social Security and property taxes; erasing inequities created by tax loopholes and subsidies (such as capital gains taxes, agricultural subsidies, and oil depletion allowances) for individuals and corporations.

   Pending the enactment of thorough-going tax reform, we urge the prompt adoption of fiscal legislation which will relieve inflationary pressures on the economy while easing the effects of inflation in those low income sectors which bear its burden, disproportionately.

As immediate steps we recommend:

a. sharply-increased taxes on excess profits, which are at record levels;

b. a surtax on upper-income recipients;

c. direct tax relief to the lower-income wage earners in the form of an increase in the personal exemption or replacement of the exemption by a tax credit.

2. <u>Full Employment</u>. We strongly support the concept and implementation of a full employment economy which provides a job with an adequate income for every person willing and able to work. This concept must be embedded in fiscal and monetary policies for economic expansion and must be sustained and supported by measures that include tax incentives for industry.

We recommend the immediate establishment of a public service employment program providing no less than 1 million jobs. The program we envision should be a first step toward a broader, permanent program of national public service employment to meet unmet needs in the public sector. It should include the following crucial aspects:

a. jobs created should carry decent salaries, provide opportunities for career advancement, and include a training component. Consistent with the provisions of the Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act of 1976, as introduced by Congressman Augustus Hawkins and co-sponsored by 60 other Congressmen, we demand that job placement provisions be an integral part of the total job training component;

b. the program should be national in scope, but allocation of "job-creation" funds should be concentrated in local areas of high unemployment, including inner-city neighborhoods. Strong federal guidelines should be set and enforced. In addition to the funds allocated to municipalities, there should be provisions for the direct delivery of some federal funds to the impacted communities for the creation and distribution of jobs;

c. strong anti-discrimination provisions must be an integral part of the program and minority representation in the program should be extensive enough to offset the high levels of non-white unemployment. We further call for the vigorous enforcement of all ex[illegible]i-discriminatory laws, executive orders and agency regulations;

d. jobs created should absorb both skilled and unskilled workers;

e. public service employment will not only respond to the need for jobs but will also enhance the ability of hard-pressed cities to provide necessary public services in the areas of recreation, environmental control, public safety, health care, child welfare, and manpower. Entities such as Community Action Programs and Community Development Corporations located in and serving low-income communities should also be used as vehicles to implement a public service employment program;

f. we strongly oppose the Administration's concept embodied in the recently-published Labor Department's Work Incentive Regulations. To require recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program grants to be forced into menial jobs is not an answer to true welfare reform;

g. current eligibility requirements for federally-supported child care services effectively discriminate against those families with incomes marginally above the low-income level and those with moderate incomes. This forces women out of the job market. We urge the elimination of these unjustly stringent requirements and the implementation of universal free child care;

h. We urge the establishment of employment training programs which will address the needs of the 200,000 black veterans who have received less than honorable discharges;

i. we recommend the establishment of meaningful training programs to provide ex-offenders with the skills necessary to obtain gainful employment.

3. Housing and Community Development. We propose that immediate steps be taken to address the serious community development and housing crisis affecting black and poor communities with particular emphasis on:

   a. targeting to minority communities an equitable amount of the funds authorized under the Comprehensive Planning Assistance Program and Community Development Block Grants;

   b. utilizing all contract authorities for the construction of housing for low and moderate income families;

   c. making funds available for the rehabilitation of existing housing units so as to bring them within the reach of low and moderate income families;

   d. assuring that blacks and other minorities participate in all aspects and levels of housing delivery systems;

e. utilizing Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs consistent with a national full employment policy.

4. Lower Interest Rates and Monetary Policy. Under the guise of fighting inflation, the tight money policy has become a major inflationary factor. It has increased financing costs of cities and special purpose government borrowing, thus adding to the future tax burden in an unproductive way. It also has crippled the housing industry, while artifically increasing the costs of renting and buying homes. But lowering interest rates in itself will not assure that scarce credit resources will be allocated to priority sectors of the economy. We propose that lower interest rates be tied to releasing credit for the housing industry and other priority needs while at the same time restricting loans for non-priority business and consumer credit. The institution of capital controls to restrict dollar outflows by multi-national corporations to overseas markets should be a major part of an eased monetary policy.

5. <u>Price Controls</u>. The outrageous rise in prices requires attention and relief. We call for an immediate roll-back and firm controls to keep prices from rising.

6. <u>Replacement of Food Stamps by Cash</u>. The rise in food prices which has had a devastating effect on the poor and on low income families cannot be tolerated. The food stamp program offers one approach to lessening the unfair burden on such families. But it is now too restricted in eligibility and purchase stipulations. Only about a third of currently-eligible persons participate in the program because of the high cost of the stamps, the failure of authorities to adequately publicize the program, and the stigma of participation.

We propose that a cash allowance with built-in inflation indices be added to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments in lieu of the present food stamp program. Benefits should be increased and eligibility expanded. We also call for a similar cash allowance for all persons who although not on AFDC are eligible for participation in the current food stamp program.

7. Economic Development and Aid to Minority Businesses. Presently, many minority businesses are being liquidated because of the inability to repay federal loans. We recommend a one-year moratorium on federal loan repayments. There should be a significant increase in set-asides and subsidies to minority businessmen.

A system of tax concessions for financial institutions and other investors should be developed immediately. Such loans and investments should be made available for business development and mortgage financing in black and other poverty communities.

There are several federal programs that have begun to work effectively in minority communities to aid in the economic and business development of rural and urban low-income communities. Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Corporations (MESBICs) and Community Development Corporations (CDCs) have been primary mechanisms for providing an economic base for these areas. A commitment must be given to these enterprises in order that they may play a greater role in resolving the dual problems of inflation and unemployment. Immediate consideration should be given also to the creation of a domestic development bank for the purpose of aiding in the redevelopment of rural and urban depressed areas.

8. Participation in Decisionmaking. We strongly urge the President to appoint black and other minority men and women to key decisionmaking positions in all areas which affect national economic affairs, including the Council of Economic Advisors, the Office of Management and Budget, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Domestic Council.

Continued economic policies that tolerate high rates of inflation and of unemployment have dire consequences not only for our economy, but for our society as a whole. Unfair burdens have been placed on the backs of those least able to bear them, and the continuation or worsening of this condition may well snap the tender threads that bind our society. The spectre of widespread misery and bitter competition for scarce jobs can only increase social and racial tensions to an unbearable degree. The coming bi-Centennial year could thus find our Republic breaking apart as it celebrates the historic event of its coming together.

Our analysis of the economic situation reveals that the economic status of black people has deteriorated to an alarming degree, and that the people most disadvantaged have been the very ones chosen to bear the brunt of the nation's economic distress. Our recommendations draw a clear path out of the tangled jungle of economic problems and into the open fields of an equitable and just prosperity. On the eve of the Summit that will discuss alternatives, we ask that our suggestions be followed, for the sake of black people, for the sake of low and moderate income families of all races, and for the sake of the nation.

# # # # #

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 1974

BLACK ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING

Statler Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

CONVENERS

DOROTHY HEIGHT
President
National Council of Negro Women

MAYNARD JACKSON
President-Elect
National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.
Executive Director
National Urban League

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman
Black Congressional Caucus

ROY WILKINS
Executive Director
NAACP

SIGNATORS

Dorothy Height, President
National Council of Negro Women

Maynard Jackson, President-Elect
National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Executive Director
National Urban League

Charles B. Rangel, Chairman
Black Congressional Caucus

Roy Wilkins, Executive Director
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People

Luthermae E. Adams
National President
Gamma Phi Delta

Lillian Benbow
President
Delta Sigma Theta

Berkeley G. Burrell
President
National Business League

Marion H. Bluitt
Representing
Phi Delta Kappa

Wiley Branton
Grand Sire Archon
Sigma Pi Phi Boule'

Juanita Brown
President
National Association of
Colored Women's Clubs

Willie Brown
President
National Association of
Black Accountants

Dr. Robert Browne
President
Black Economic Research Center

Malcolm L. Corrin
Executive Director
Interracial Council for
Business Opportunities

Harold Cook
Executive Director
Omega Psi Phi

Thelma Dailey
President
Trade Union Women of
African Heritage, Inc.

Christopher F. Edley
Executive Director
United Negro College Fund

Pauline A. Ellison
President
The Links, Inc.

Faith Evans
Associate Director
National Welfare Rights
Organization

Jack Gloster
President
Opportunity Funding Corp.

Gleason Glover
President
Council of Urban League
Executive Directors

Earl H. Gray
Officer
Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order,
Nobes of Nobles of the Mystic
Shrine

Junius Hayes, III
President
National Association of
Black Manufacturers.

Vivian Henderson
President
Clark College

Norman Hill
Associate Director
A. Phillip Randolph Institute

M. Carl Holman
President
National Urban Coalition

Charles P. Howard, Jr.
Representing
National Bar Association

H. H. Holloway
Polemarch
Kappa Alpha Psi

Rev. Jesse Jackson
President
Operation PUSH

Philip Johnson
Executive Director
National Congress for Community
Economic Development

Janice Kissner
Supreme Basileus
Zeta Phi Beta

Rev. Bernard S. Lee
Executive Vice President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Theresa Leeke
Representing
Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc.

John Lewis
Executive Director
Voter Education Project

William Lucy
President
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Dr. Charles Lyons, Jr.
President
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

Rosalie MacGuire
President
Negro Business and Professional Women

Dr. B. T. McGraw
Representing
National Association of Real Estate Brokers

Dr. Charles A. Moore, Jr.
President
Frontiers International

Evelyn K. Moore
Executive Director
Black Child Development Institute

Phyllis Rogers
Representing
Lambda Kappa Mu

Rev. Imagene Stewart
Representing
Black Methodists for Church Renewal

French F. Stone
Executive Secretary
American Savings and Loan League

Edith B. Sloan
Executive Director
National Committee on Household Employment

Maceo Sloan
President
National Insurance Association

Bernice Sumlin
Supreme Basileus
Alpha Kappa Alpha

Franklin Thomas
President
Bedford Stuyvesant
Restoration Corporation

Robert C. Vowels
Representing
Caucus of Black Economists

William A. Walker
President
Alpha Phi Alpha

Gladys L. Welch
President
Iota Phi Lambda

Dr. Harvey Webb, Jr.
Vice President
National Dental Association

Fran Womack
Representing
National Association of
Minority Contractors

Eddie Williams
President
Joint Center for
Political Studies

Robert White
President
National Alliance of Postal
and Federal Employees

Rose Wylie
National Chairperson
National Tenants Organization

OCTOBER 25, 1974

MEMORANDUM

FROM: CLARENCE MITCHELL
DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON BUREAU, NAACP
422 FIRST STREET, S. E.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20003
TELEPHONE: 202 / 544-5694

SUBJECT: SELECTED ITEMS MERITING ACTION BY PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD AS OF THE DATE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

Over the years the writer of this memorandum and Mr. Roy Wilkins, Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have been present together at meetings of this kind with Presidents of the United States. Unfortunately, Mr. Wilkins is unable to be present at this meeting but it is understood that there will be a future meeting at which he will be present. At that time, Mr. Wilkins will discuss matters current at the time of his visit to the White House.

As of this date, October 25, 1974, the following are selected problems that require favorable action by President Ford:

1. On September 21 - 22, 1974, Mr. Vernon Jordan, Executive Director of the National Urban League, and Mr. Wilkins were two of six conveners of a "Black Economic Summit Meeting." We support recommendations of that meeting and urge favorable Presidential action on matters therein which require the Chief Executive's implementation.*

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* A press release giving the highlights of the two day meeting is attached.

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2. Sections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act banning literacy tests and requiring prior clearance of registration and voting laws in covered states and political subdivisions must be extended in 1975. We urge that President Ford give his full support to the extension of these sections of the law.

3. Brown v. Board of Education (II) 349 U. S. 294 (1955) lists school transportation systems among remedies available to courts in eliminating racial segregation in the public schools. A long line of cases affirm the principle of using transportation of students to accomplish desegregation.. In recent years a code term "forced busing" has been and is widely used to attack and discredit lawful and proper court decisions. We urge that the President state and give his full support to all lawful means of accomplishing desegregation in the North as well as the South, including transportation of students. We also urge that the President and all officials of government cease using the term "forced busing" when referring to court orders that require such action. The Boston school problem makes this imperative.

4. The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, was founded in 1913 to represent black postal workers, as the National Alliance of Postal Employees. The United States Postal Service now refuses to permit this union to represent its members in collective bargaining and the handling of grievances. We presented this matter to the White House when President Nixon was in office. The details have been handled by Messrs. Leonard Garment and Brad Patterson. We urged that the President direct that the Postal Service and appropriate members of his staff work with the interested parties to achieve a solution that will give the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees recognition and bargaining rights.

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5. The problem of discrimination in the Federal Government continues to be acute. A flagrant example is the attempt of some elements in the State Department to oust Ms. Barbara Watson from her post of Administrator, Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, and replace her with a white man. The Department made its first effort to oust her during President Nixon's Administration after she served as spokesperson for black employees seeking promotions and better opportunities. A second attempt was made after President Ford took office, apparently without his knowledge or consent -- even though this is an appointment that requires Senate confirmation.

As the highest ranking black employee in the State Department, Ms. Watson has frequently been mentioned as an example of the progress that is being made to end racial discrimination in the Federal government. It is urged that President Ford retain her on the basis of her high level performance as attested to in written expressions of President Nixon and Secretaries of State, including the present Secretary, Mr. Kissinger.

6. One of the ironies of our times is that a large number of blacks who did not resist the draft and who, in many instances volunteered for duty in the armed services, are now the victims of unfavorable discharges. The NAACP has found that the vast majority of the unfavorable discharges that have come to our attention were given unfairly and based on racial discrimination. We believe it is imperative that the President set up a system for prompt and fair review of unfavorable discharges in order to permit those who are the victims of this problem to get full and corrective redress. We will be ready to give technical advice on how this can be done.

OEO

7. The Office of Economic Opportunity was one of the most effective agencies of government in the war against poverty. We shall continue to work for the restoration of this program and we urge that the President give his full support to this effort.

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 1974

BLACK ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING

Statler Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After two days of intense deliberation, the first Black Economic Summit has called on the President of the United States and the Congress to institute "bold and creative approaches.... to ease the burden of inflation on the American consumer--particularly on blacks, other minorities, and the poor."

This unprecedented meeting held at the Washington, D.C. Statler Hilton Hotel on September 20-22, attracted a cross-section of the nation's black experts and leaders representing a combined constituency of over six million citizens.

Leaders from academia business, the pofessions, civil rights organizations, religious organizations, community groups, and government convened under the joint sponsorship of Ms. Dorothy Height, president, National Council of Negro Women; Maynard Jackson, president-elect, National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., executive director, National Urban League; Charles B. Rangel, chairman, Black Congressional Caucus and Roy Wilkins, executive director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a soul-searching position paper released today and entitled, "The Economic Crisis and the Black Community: A Call for Action", the Black Economic Summit recommends a number of measures aimed at easing inflation's 'disproportionate' pressures on minorities.

The recommendations call for tax reform and reordered budget priorities, a public service employment program of at "least one million jobs", equity in the distribution and delivery of adequate housing and community development services for minorities and the substitution of cash for food stamps.

The paper discredits the notion of "tolerable levels of unemployment" and urges the implementation of a full employment policy to create jobs for all citizens "willing and able to work."

Cutbacks in the funding of programs which serve human needs cannot be tolerated, says the paper. Instead "immediate reductions" should be made in "wasteful, inefficient military expenditures". Funds generated from the reordered budget priorities should be channeled into the improved delivery of human needs services.

The paper recommends lower interest rates while calling for restrictions in loans for non-priority business and consumer credit. It also advises the institution of a monetary policy directed primarily at capital controls on multi-national corporations with "dollar outflows to overseas markets."

It "strongly urges" the President to appoint blacks and other minorities to "key decisionmaking positions in all areas which affect national economic affairs, including the Council of Economic Advisors, the Office of Management and Budget, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Domestic Council."

In the final paragraphs of the document the meeting participants warn that "widespread misery and bitter competition for scarce jobs" can only increase social and racial tensions to an unbearable degree."

However, they conclude that "our recommendations draw a clear path out of the tangled jungle of economic problems and into the open fields of equitable and just prosperity."

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September 23, 1974

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