

77/8/40
TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

P.P.M.
6730
July 1, 1940

Claude A. Barnett x¹⁰
American Negro Exposition Authority
3507 South Parkway
Chicago, Illinois

x3994

The following telegram from the President is to be read in connection with the opening of the American Negro Exposition on July fourth: #

"It gives me great pleasure to send cordial greetings to you and through you to all who are participating in the opening of the American Negro Exposition in Chicago.

"The steady progress of our Negro citizens during the three-quarters of a century that have elapsed since their emancipation emphasize what can be accomplished by free men in a free country. Moreover, their achievements in art, letters, science and public service possible during a brief seventy-five years of freedom should give all Americans renewed determination to marshal all of our strength to maintain and defend and perpetuate our priceless heritage of free institutions. xPP730

"In extending my greetings may I express confident hope that a race that has achieved so much in so few years may go forward to ever nobler things in the generations ahead. xPP74765

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT"

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

xPP7415
x373

"O. I.
FDR"

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

Claude A. Barnett
3507 South Parkway
Chicago Illinois

FROM

The White House
Washington

July 1, 1940.

10-0481

x65
The President will press a button July fourth
one oclock PM EST to open American Negro Exposition. Also will
send you in advance telegraphic greetings from President to be
read on opening program.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 1, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RODIER & MR. LONG
MISS LeHAND
STEPHEN EARLY

The President has agreed to press a button on July fourth at 1:00 P.M., E.S.T. to signal the opening in Chicago of the American Negro Exposition. Costs of the wire, etc. will be paid by the Exposition officials as agreed to by Claude A. Barnett, 3507 South Parkway, Chicago.

Please see that the necessary arrangements are made, and that the wire, with the telegraph key for the President to press, is placed beside the President's seat at the luncheon table in the dining room of his Hyde Park home -- the big house.

S.T.E.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 1, 1940.

*File
Copy*

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S.T.E.

TELEGRAM

The White House

5WUAB 82 D.L. 12:34 a.m.

Washington

FC., Chicago, Ill., June 29, 1940

STEPHEN T. EARLY:

At Senator Slatterys suggestion, arranging with Western Union for President Roosevelt to press button July 4th opening American Negro Exposition at one p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Will advise any other information after Western Union's report Monday morning. All costs borne on this end. Exposition authority would appreciate telegram from President Roosevelt to be read on opening program, addressed to Truman K. Gibson, Jr., Executive Director, American Negro Exposition. Would appreciate telegraphic assurance that above will be provided.

Claude A. Barnett,
3507 South Parkway.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1940

MEMO:

STE talked on the 'phone to Sen. Slattery in Chicago. Afterwards he told me that Slattery was going to call and give the exact minute of the button pressing for the Negro Exposition in Chicago on July 4th.

As soon as the exact time is received we are to give orders to the switchboard to set it up (it will be done at Hyde Park) and make arrangements with the President.

R.R.

Hold

June 25, 1940

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of June twenty-second, calling attention to the opening of the American Negro Exposition at the Coliseum in Chicago, July fourth next, at 2:00 P.M. I note your desire to have the President participate in these exercises by opening the Exposition with the pressing of a button and perhaps making a brief radio address.

The stress of foreign relations which you mention in your letter has not lessened and I am afraid there will be no relief of the very great tension under which the President must perform his duties these days.

I need hardly assure you that the President has a very deep interest in the success of the American Negro Exposition and I am sure it will give him great pleasure to open the Exposition by pressing a button.

May I explain to you, however, in strict confidence, that the President probably will be in Hyde Park on that day. Quite frankly, this office has no funds available from which to defray expenses for the necessary telegraphic arrangements. If the Exposition desires to underwrite the expenses, I think it will be possible to arrange with the President to press the button.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Mr. Claude A. Barnett,
American Negro Exposition,
3632 South Parkway,
Chicago, Illinois.

WDH-rr

x1367 Mrs. Broadcasting Folder

June 25, 1940

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Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Mr. Claude A. Barnett,
American Negro Exposition,
3632 South Parkway,
Chicago, Illinois.

WDH-rr

June 24, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HASSETT:

Dear Bill:

While it is true that the President in all probability will be in Hyde Park on July fourth, and while it is equally true that it will not be possible for him to prepare and deliver a Radio Address, I do think that we should endeavor to make wire connections, if the exposition authorities will pay the expenses, so that the President can press a button to open this Exposition. We send messages and press buttons and do a lot for New York and San Francisco — why not Chicago for the colored brethren?

S.T.E.

AMERICAN NEGRO EXPOSITION

CHICAGO COLISEUM—JULY 4 TO SEPT. 2

SPONSORED BY
STATE OF ILLINOIS



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CHICAGO

EXPOSITION AUTHORITY

3632 SO. PARKWAY
CHICAGO, ILL.
TELEPHONE, KENWOOD 7800
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SECRETARY-TREASURER
CLAUDE A. BARNETT
ROBERT BISHOP

June 22, 1940

Mr. Stephen T. Early
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Early:

Permit me to call your attention again to the opening of the American Negro Exposition at the Coliseum in Chicago, July 4th at 2 P. M.

As you know it is our hope that the stress of foreign relations may have eased sufficiently to permit resident Roosevelt to open the exposition by pressing a button, and that, perhaps, he might use the occasion to make a brief radio address.

Our program can be adjusted even if his decision is made at the last moment, and I hope you may have an opportunity to bring the matter to his attention.

Sincerely yours

Claude A. Barnett
Claude A. Barnett,
Exposition Authority,
American Negro Exposition.

CAB:hg

TELEGRAM

The White House

File

Washington

43WU. RA. 53-

Chicago, Illinois, July 3, 1940

Stephen Early.

All arrangements completed with Western Union for President Roosevelt to press button at one p.m. eastern standard time July fourth, starting the American Negro Exposition. Program timed for pause two minutes before one to await flash which will start lights. All costs borne on this end. Thanks for your fine cooperation.

Claude A. Barnett.