

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 12, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William D. Hassett

The Urban League asked for its usual message on the first of June. I am attaching a draft which has been approved by Mr. Niles.

He was especially interested in mentioning the Two Friends Award, since it comes in connection with their service on a Presidential Committee.

PHILLEO NASH

If signed pls mail out & return
file to WDH

File
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P.P.F.

2685

August 25, 1950

Dear Mr. Granger:

I am indeed happy to extend greetings to the National Urban League Conference in the fortieth anniversary year of the Urban League movement.

We Americans respond enthusiastically to the idea of teamwork. Whenever our country has been threatened by external enemies, we have united as a fighting team to defend our country. In the great depression when we were threatened with economic disaster, the people of our country in a mighty joint effort beat back the threat of unemployment. In the years that lie ahead, I confidently believe we can mobilize ourselves into the same great team and reach our goals of lasting peace and prosperity.

x PPF 318
x 33
x 264
x PPF 120

The history of our country has been one of continuously expanding opportunity. As we have increased the opportunity of all Americans for good housing, good education, good health, and the best job a man is equipped to hold, our country has grown great and strong. And as we have shared the rewards of economic enterprise, we have acquired fresh confidence and trust in each other and increased respect for individual differences.

x PPF 196
x 63
x 107
x 103
x PPF 25
x PPF 172

I understand that one feature of this meeting will be the presentation of the Two Friends Award to Mr. John Sengstacke and Mr. Dwight R. G. Palmer. It is a source of much gratification to me that the award is being made in connection with their work on the President's Committee for Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. The work of this Committee will bear fruit for years to come, and I am happy that this outstanding example of teamwork is being recognized through this award.

x PPF 1715
x PPF 4551
x 357
x 1285-0

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Lester B. Granger,
Executive Director,
National Urban League,
1133 Broadway,
New York 10, New York.

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mg



-1910 - NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE - 1950
FOR EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

1133 BROADWAY WATKINS 4-0505 NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

September
Twenty-eighth
1950

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Dear President Truman:

I am acknowledging with appreciation your greetings extended to the National Urban League Conference on the occasion of our Fortieth Anniversary year. The officers and delegates present at the Conference were especially gratified over your reference to Mr. John Sengstacke and Mr. Dwight R. G. Palmer, who were the recipients of the National Urban League's "Two Friends Award". Your specific reference to their work on the President's Committee for Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services provided the accomplishments of the Committee with a deserved prominence.

In this connection, may I also thank you for your letter addressed to me on September 21st, in acknowledgment of my own Committee membership. Those of us who gave time to this important task were thoroughly conscious of our difficult undertaking, and were greatly encouraged by the support which you gave to our efforts. We were realistically aware that our findings and recommendations constituted a minimum rather than a maximum plan of action, and that constant vigilance must be exerted by the White House and the Office of Defense to make certain that in the Army especially gains continue to be recorded along the line of our Committee's recommendations.

As a member of that Committee, may I express the hope that you will recognize the need for such constant supervision and follow-up by designating an official body, representative of the public interest, to examine into continuing developments and make appropriate recommendation to the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States.

Very truly yours,

Lester B. Granger
Lester B. Granger,
Executive Director.

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Copy filed 1285-01

August 25, 1950

Dear Mr. Granger:

I am indeed happy to extend greetings to the National Urban League Conference in the fortieth anniversary year of the Urban League movement.

We Americans respond enthusiastically to the idea of teamwork. Whenever our country has been threatened by external enemies, we have united as a fighting team to defend our country. In the great depression when we were threatened with economic disaster, the people of our country in a mighty joint effort beat back the threat of unemployment. In the years that lie ahead, I confidently believe we can mobilize ourselves into the same great team and reach our goals of lasting peace and prosperity.

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Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mr. Lester B. Granger,
Executive Director,
National Urban League,
1133 Broadway,
New York 10, New York.

wdh-mm
mg

Draft - July 12, 1950

~~HOLD UNTIL AUGUST 25th~~

Aug 25, 1950

Dear Mr. Granger:

I am indeed happy to extend greetings to the National Urban League Conference in the 40th anniversary year of the Urban League movement.

We Americans respond enthusiastically to the idea of teamwork. Whenever our country has been threatened by external enemies, we have united as a fighting team to defend our country. In the great depression when we were threatened with economic disaster, the people of our country in a mighty joint effort beat back the threat of unemployment. In the years that lie ahead, I confidently believe we can mobilize ourselves into the same great team and reach our goals of lasting peace and prosperity.

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and I am happy that this outstanding example of teamwork is being
recognized through this Award.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. Lester B. Granger
Executive Director
National Urban League
1133 Broadway
New York 10, New York

June 3, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE DAVID K. NILES:

Respectfully referred for the preparation of appropriate message for the President to send to the National Urban League Conference, if you approve the sending of such a message.

*Inter Office
hold
G*

W.D.H.

HW

Let. to Pres., 6-1-50 from

Lester B. Granger,
Executive Director,
National Urban League
1133 Broadway
New York 10, N. Y.

Asks for message to conference which marks 40th anniv. of their movement. During week of Sept. 3-9 delegates from all parts of the country will convene at Grand Rapids, Mich.

~~See 7~~



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AMONG NEGROES

1133 BROADWAY

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NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

June
First
1950

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WILLIAM D. HASSETT

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250 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta 3, Georgia

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Truman:

I am writing at the request of the officers of the National Urban League to invite you to send a message of greeting to our National Urban League Conference in this year which marks the Fortieth Anniversary of our movement.

During the week of September 3rd through the 9th, delegates from Urban Leagues throughout the country will convene at Grand Rapids, Michigan, for our annual session of discussion and planning for our program of equal economic opportunity and better race relations. Outstanding leaders in American life, from all walks of life - business and industry, labor and religion, social welfare and civic organizations - are to be found on the Executive Boards and working committees of local Urban Leagues, as well as the National Urban League. Many of these will be in Grand Rapids, and their numbers will be added to by representatives of our total professional staff of more than 400 men and women.

During the last forty years the National Urban League has grown from a movement housed in a small office, with two staff members, to our present stage of operations, in which more than a million and a half dollars is expended annually in thirty states and the District of Columbia. Since in Urban League cities approximately one-half of our urban Negro population is to be found, it follows that our Urban League movement has played an important role in shaping the adjustment, advancement and development of the Negro population as it has moved during the last forty years from rural to urban environments - and largely from the South to the North.

Today, as never before, it is imperative that American citizens accept unequivocally our moral responsibility for insuring equality of opportunity to all members of our society, regardless of their race, religion or national origin. It is the Urban League's special responsibility, using the tools of social work and the methods of interracial cooperation, to work for equality

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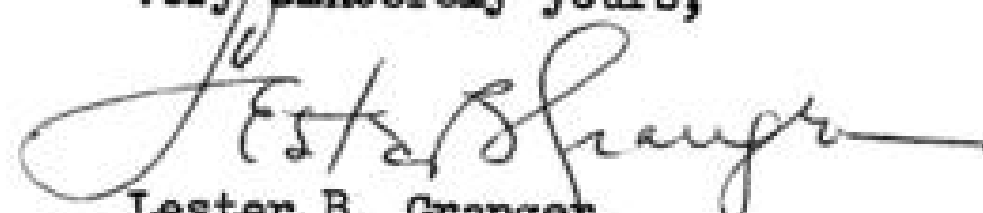
The Honorable Harry S. Truman
Page two
June 1, 1950

of economic opportunity. This we have sought to accomplish in opening new job opportunities for Negro workers, giving inspiration and guidance to Negro youth so that they might qualify for occupational advancement, improving neighborhood conditions in communities where Negroes are resident, and otherwise developing a greater degree of American Teamwork between white and Negro leadership.

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A message from you addressed to this theme on the occasion of our Annual Conference during our Fortieth Anniversary Year will be enormously stimulating, not only to our members but to the millions of Americans who support our objectives and are aware of our helpful influence.

Very sincerely yours,



Lester B. Granger,
Executive Director.

LBG/b