

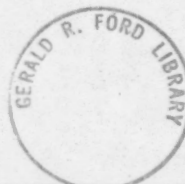
**The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “9/24/76 - National Issues Conference for Black Women” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Date Issued 9/22/76By P. Howard

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

FACT SHEET  
Mrs. Ford's Office

Event Reception  
 Group Participants of the National Issues Conference of Black Women  
 DATE/TIME 9/24/76 4:00 p.m.  
 Contact Jeanne Holm (Karen Keesling) Phone 2663  
 Number of guests: Total approx. 200 Women x Men a few Children --  
 Place State Floor  
 Principals involved Mrs. Ford  
 Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) yes ?  
 Remarks required no  
 Background The National Issues Conference of Black Women is being held in Washington, D. C. at the Sheraton Park from Sept. 22 thru 24.

## REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list yes (Jeanne Holm's office will distribute.)  
 Invitations no Programs no Menus no  
 Refreshments yes (coffee, iced tea and tea pastries)  
 Entertainment no  
 Decorations/flowers yes  
 Music yes  
 Social Aides yes  
 Dress Short Dresses for the Ladies - Business Suits Coat check yes - DRR  
 Other --

Press: Reporters yes  
 Photographers yes  
 TV Crews yes  
 White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. no  
 Other --

Technical Support: Microphones no PA Other Rooms no  
 Recording no  
 Lights no  
 Transportation cars (enter thru SW Gate)  
 Parking South Grounds  
 Housing --  
 Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) no

Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

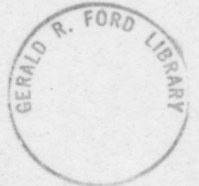
September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO:

MARIA DOWNS

FROM:

SUSAN PORTER



On Friday, September 24th, at 4:00 p.m., Mrs. Ford will receive the approximately 400 participants in a National Issues Conference of Black Women which will be held in Washington at the Sheraton Park, September 22-24. Dr. Louise White, the contact (347-7203), has been told that your office will be in touch with her regarding the required list and specific arrangements.

Prior to the reception itself, Mrs. Ford will meet around 3:30 p.m. with 8-10 participants from the group. Jeanne Holm will work directly with Dr. White to determine which participants will attend this brief meeting. This small meeting will not be covered by the press and will be an opportunity for Mrs. Ford to learn more about the discussions at their meetings. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Jeanne Holm  
John Calhoun  
William Nicholson  
Jerry Jones  
Terry O'Donnell  
Mike Farrell  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: MARIA DOWNS  
FROM: SUSAN PORTER

On Friday, September 24th, at 4:00 p.m., Mrs. Ford will receive the approximately 400 participants in a National Issues Conference of Black Women which will be held in Washington at the Sheraton Park, September 22-24. Dr. Louise White, the contact (347-7203), has been told that your office will be in touch with her regarding the required list and specific arrangements.

Prior to the reception itself, Mrs. Ford will meet around 3:30 p.m. with 8-10 participants from the group. Jeanne Holm will work directly with Dr. White to determine which participants will attend this brief meeting. This small meeting will not be covered by the press and will be an opportunity for Mrs. Ford to learn more about the discussions at their meetings. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Jeanne Holm  
John Calhoun  
William Nicholson  
Jerry Jones  
Terry O'Donnell  
Mike Farrell  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1976

FOR: MRS. FORD  
FROM: MARIA DOWNS

Attached for your review and information is the Briefing Paper for your Reception for the Participants of the National Issues Conference of Black Women on September 24, 1976 at 4:00 p. m.

Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE  
OF BLACK WOMEN PARTICIPANTS

Blue Room

4:00 - 4:45 P.M.

Friday, September 24, 1976

From: Jeanne Holm 



I. PURPOSE

To greet the attendees of the National Issues Conference of Black women.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: Last year during the Black Congressional Caucus, several Black women decided to have a formal Black women's meeting.

The purpose of this three-day conference is to provide an opportunity for Black women from diverse backgrounds to meet and establish mutual social and political imperatives in the context of national priorities and to develop a Black women's agenda. The Conference has five plenary sessions, discussing employment and economics, health and the quality of life, housing and community development, strengthening the family unit, maximizing education resources, legislation, law and justice, and political consciousness and responsibilities.

- B. Participants: Approximately 150 attendees including Dr. Louise White, Conference Coordinator; presidents of several Black women's sororities; Dr. Gloria Scott, President of the Girl Scouts; Margaret Bush Wilson, President of the NAACP; and Constance Newman, Assistant Secretary of HUD.

- C. Press Plan: Several members of the Black press have been invited as guests.

### III. SCENARIO

At approximately 4:10 p.m. Maria Downs will escort you to the Blue Room where you will receive your guests from a position along the South end of the Room.

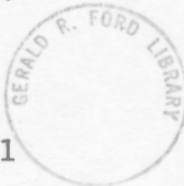
The principal will be Dr. Louise White, Conference Coordinator, who will be the first person through the receiving line.

At approximately 4:35 p.m. The receiving line will conclude. You may wish to join your guests in the State Dining Room or return to the family quarters.

### IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jeanne Holm and John Calhoun of the White House Staff will be in attendance.

Military social aides and a military musical unit will be present.



The Black Woman's Agenda (The National Issues Conference  
of Black Women)

Dr. Louise White, former head of Teachers Corps, now  
with HUD's Council of Community Development

Gloria Scott, Girl Scouts of America

Ethel Allan, Ford delegate from Pennsylvania and member  
of Philadelphia City Council

Dorothy Height, President, National Council of Negro  
Women

Margaret Bush Wilson, President, NAACP

Others attending include representatives from black  
women's sororities, unions, domestic workers and  
educational groups. Generally, Connie Newman describes  
it as an older group.



Background, The Black Woman's Agenda

This is not an organization, and this conference is a first. The participants are predominantly black professionals without any strong associations with the traditional civil rights group. The program is attached along with an article about Myrlie Evers, widow of the Mississippi Field Secretary of the NAACP.





1976



*BEYOND THE BICENTENNIAL*

THE

BLACK

WOMAN'S

AGENDA

SHERATON PARK HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24, 1976



## AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1976

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Coffee

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Task Force Meetings

12:00 noon Registration

Wardman Tower Lobby

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Opening General Session

Continental Room

Opening Remarks: Dr. Louise R. White,  
Conference Coordinator

Greetings: Dr. Bennetta Washington,

Special Assistant, Training and Employment,  
U.S. Department of Labor

Keynote Address: The Honorable Ethel Allen,  
Member, City Council, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. WORKSHOPS I, II, III, IV

### I. Family Life—Self Images

Nathan Hale Room

Presentors:

Dr. Lena Meyers, Professor of Sociology,  
Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

Ms. Norlisha Jackson, Director,  
YWCA Tower, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Beryl Rice, Division of Mental Health,  
Howard University Hospital, Washington, D. C.

### II. Health and the Quality of Life

Thomas Paine Room

Presentors:

Dr. Jacqueline Jackson, Duke University  
Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina

Dr. Marjorie Costa, Community Relations,  
Maternal and Child Health Service, HEW

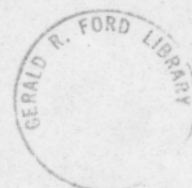
### III. Employment: Affirmative Action and Employment Rights

Ethan Allen Room

Presentors:

Dr. Freddy Groomes, Florida State University

Ms. Joyce Skinner, Women's Coordinator,  
U.S. Department of HUD



Resource Persons:

Ruth Bates Harris, Deputy Assistant,  
Administrator, Community and Human  
Relations, NASA  
Oscar Faye Hilton, Affirmative Action  
Coordinator, U.S. Department of Transportation

**IV. The International Black Woman**

Ambassador Room

Presenter:

Mrs. Patricia Eaton, Director of Public  
Relations, Africare

**7:30 p.m. Foreign Embassy Reception**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976**

**9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Plenary Session**

Nathan Hale Room

Greetings: The Honorable Yvonne B. Burke,  
Chairperson, Congressional, Black Caucus

Address: The Honorable Constance B. Newman,  
Assistant Secretary for Consumer Affairs and  
Regulatory Functions, HUD

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon WORKSHOPS I, II, III, IV**

**I. Parental Responsibility and Your  
Child's Education**

Nathan Hale Room

Presentors:

The Honorable Willie Hardy, Member,  
District of Columbia City Council

Mrs. Leola Bynum, Director, Kelly Miller  
Houses Community Center, Washington, D. C.

Joanne Wilson, Student, Carter G. Woodson  
High School, Washington, D. C.

Resource Person: Johnnie Tilman

**II. Meeting Community Health Needs Through  
Food Programs**

Thomas Paine Room

Presentors:

Dr. Thurmond Evans, Member,  
District of Columbia Board of Education

Dr. Lenore Maragne, Nutrition Education and  
Training, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

**III. Household Workers—The Lowest Paid  
Worker in America**

Ethan Allen Room

**Presentors:**

Ms. Anita Shelton, Executive Director,  
National Committee on Household Employment

Ms. Katy Poole, Legislative Aide to  
The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Congress \*

Ms. Ruby Mignott, Member,  
National Committee on Household  
Employment, Household Technician

**IV. Maximizing Educational Resources**

Ambassador Room

**Presentors:**

Dr. Gloria D. Scott, President,  
Girl Scouts of America, New York

Ms. Gladys Handy, Acting Commissioner  
of Higher Education

**12:00 noon-2:00 p.m. Open Lunch**

**2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Plenary Session**

Continental Room

Address: Ms. Lillian Benbow, Director,  
Housing Programs, Michigan Civil Rights  
Department

**3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. WORKSHOPS I, II, III, IV**

**I. Educational Policy and Resources,  
Implication for the Black Community**

Nathan Hale Room

**Presentors:**

Dr. Geraldine Rickman, President,  
National Association of Black Professional  
Women in Higher Education

Ms. Cheryl L. Dobbins, Executive Director,  
Positive Futures, Inc., Washington, D. C.

Dr. Peggy Brown, Rockefeller Fellow,  
Joint Center for Political Studies,  
Washington, D. C.

**II. Can You Afford To Be Sick?**

Thomas Paine Room

**Presentors:**

Anita Burney, MPA, Program Coordination  
Branch, Division of Hospitals and Clinics,  
HSA/HEW



Mrs. Jacqueline Fassett, MSW/ACSW,  
Director of Social Services, Mount Sinai  
Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

### **III. Black Women—Non Traditional Employment**

Ethan Allen Room

#### **Presentors:**

Dr. Freddy Lucas, Lobbyist, General Motors  
Ms. Mel Johnson, Cox Broadcasting Company  
~~Inez Arrendal, Wardell and Reed,~~  
Mutual Fund and Insurance Brokers  
Ms. Dottie Ross, Special Assistant to  
The Honorable Cordiss Collins, U.S. Congress

### **IV. Voter Participation—Operation Big Vote**

Ambassador Room

#### **Presentors:**

Dr. Paulette Coleman, Former Public Policy  
Fellow, Joint Center for Political Studies,  
Washington, D. C.  
Yvonne Price, Legislative Assistant, NAACP  
Charlotte B. Adams, Program Coordinator,  
Operation PUSH, Washington, D. C.  
Carolyn Jordan, Esq., Assistant Counsel,  
Banking, House and Urban Affairs Committee,  
U.S. Senate  
Gracia Hillman, Special Assistant to the  
Massachusetts Black Caucus  
Pat Jacobs, Esq., Assistant, Select Committee  
on Small Business Enterprise, U.S. Senate  
Maudeen Cooper, Esq., Deputy Director,  
Washington Bureau, National Urban League  
Resources Persons:  
Malachi Knowles, Special Assistant to the  
President, Joint Center for Political Studies  
Sarah Austin, Vice-President,  
National Urban Coalition  
Jeanne Fox, Deputy Director, Joint Center for  
Political Studies, Research Department  
Rosa Black, President, Opinion Poll  
Research, Inc.  
Carol Garvin, Law Student,  
University of Maryland  
Eufaula Frazier, Director, Tenant Education  
Association of Miami



6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.      **Reception (Cash Bar)**  
Cotillion Foyer

7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.      **Dinner**  
Cotillion Room

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1976**

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.      **Plenary Session**  
Nathan Hale Room  
Address: The Honorable Eleanor Holmes  
Norton, Member, Civil Rights Commission,  
State of New York

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon      **WORKSHOPS I, II, III**

**I. Strategies for Political Involvement**  
Nathan Hale Room

Presentors:  
Lois Felder, Co-Director, Community Relations,  
Retail Clerks International Association  
Gwendolyn Cherry, Esq., State Representative,  
State of Florida

**II. Black Women and the World of Business**  
Thomas Paine Room

Presentors:  
Dr. Florence Hicks, President,  
Ebon Research Systems  
Adenia Taylor, Manager, District of Columbia,  
Postal Credit Union

**III. Housing for the Black Community**  
Ethan Allen Room

Presentors:  
Ms. Nadine Winter, Member,  
District of Columbia City Council  
Ms. Barbara Hill, Community Services,  
Specialist, HUD  
Mrs. Helena Hicks, Consultant—Low-Income  
and Minority Housing, Baltimore, Maryland

12:00 noon      **Plenary Session**

The Agenda—Recommendations and  
Resolutions  
Address: Mrs. Myrlie B. Evers, Director,  
Community Relations, Atlantic Richfield  
Company



### **AGENDA TASK FORCES**

**Employment and Economics:**

Mildred Goodman, Mildred Freeman

**Health and the Quality of Life:** Barbara Hill

**Housing and Community Development:**

Johnie Tilman, Doris Washington

**Strengthening the Family Unit:** Gwen Mitchell

**Maximizing Education Resources:**

Margie Wilson, Linda Harris, Betty Holton

**Legislation, Law, and Justice:**

Nira Long, Valerie Pinson

**Political Consciousness and Responsibilities:**

Myrlie Evers, Faye Williams

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

# Myrlie Evers: 'We Should Not Wait for a Moses'

By Jacqueline Trescott

She had lived "with the knowledge, rather than the fear, that something could happen." But when she heard the shots and looked out the window into the Mississippi night and saw her husband, Medgar Evers, crawling up the driveway, knowledge and fear and death fused. It was June 12, 1963.

After her husband's burial at Arlington Cemetery, Myrlie Evers took the family to the White House and told President Kennedy, "I wanted them to have fonder memories of Washington than the burial."

Myrlie Evers was the first of those public widows of the '60s, women



Photo by Bob Burchette—The Washington Post



# Myrlie Evers: Toward a Future Not Overshadowed by the Past

EVERS, From D1

"And I wanted to fight. I wanted to strike out, to hurt, and I was ready to fight physically."

The last 12 years, all in Claremont, Calif.—and she counts them off by whispering to herself the date of Evers' murder—have brought a mellowing, marred by several mild racial incidents.

"A few things happened. Two or three neighbors moved," she recalled, smiling at the stereotype. "My daughter and I were called names while bike-riding. A few stones were thrown. But I considered it good for me and the children. It showed them those things could happen everywhere."

What she did for herself was slowly build a reputation as a smart and independent woman. Her continuous struggle was to unravel the blanket of protection she had received as the only child of a Vicksburg, Miss., truck driver and domestic (who despite their poverty gave her piano lessons), her marriage at age 18, and her life in the shadow of a famous husband, and finally his memory.