

The original documents are located in Box F12, folder “Calhoun, John” of the President Ford Committee Campaign Records, (1968, 1971-74) 1975-77 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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September 28, 1976

TO: ELLY PETERSON

FROM: JOHN CALHOUN

(1.C.)

For Your Information.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 28, 1976

Dear Mr. Poston:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your very kind letter of August 11.

The plan you have recommended certainly has merits, and I have taken the liberty of forwarding your proposal to the President Ford Committee and the Republican National Committee.

Thank you for your support of this Administration.

With our best wishes,

Sincerely,

JOHN CALHOUN
Special Assistant to the President

Mr. William L. Poston
Chairman of 1st Republican
Congressional District
4462 Lee Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63115



13
Suggestion for Campaign

John Callahan
~~11/11/76~~
4462 Lee Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63115
August 11, 1976

President Gerald R. Ford
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I realize that this request may seem exuberant based on the amount of votes that has been produced in black neighborhoods in the past. However, we are bringing in 90% new committee people willing to work, and in order to be successful they must be armed with some sorts of funds. The news media is a fine way of communicating; however, it will be very difficult to win if for every vote that we get by this method, one or two get stolen per precinct in the northern portion of the city. For this reason I'm enclosing a rough campaign for the northern portion of the city. It is not a cure all but a plan that will change the voting total 18 to 25%. In a close election this may be just enough state wide, and national candidates. This proposal is based on the 18 to 21 year olds, and not on the fifty year plus, who are predominately democate. The young voters is not party affiliated nor party orientated, and if the republican party is to make a head way, this voter group untapped must be the target for black republican.

Yours very truly,

William L. Poston

William L. Poston
Chairman of 1st
Republican Congressional
District



Proposed precinct development

Part time staff--3 Persons--3 months

Rent and utilities 11,400

Primary Election training precinct workers

General election 4 week extensive campaign 21,000
\$26,000

I realize the request sounds excessive, but in 190 precincts, our target will be the 18 year olds which an untapped voting group that is neither locked in or party orientated.

By all means this will not be a total amount we will need, and we have already raised approximately \$2,000 of our own funds and have set ourselves a goal of 15,000 to 20,000 in our own community. If you or anyone else is interested in assisting us in our efforts, I will be prepared in 10 days to furnish step by step details.



October 4, 1976

TO: BOB KEYES

FROM: JOHN CALHOUN

For Your Information.



FORD AIDE THINKS SO

Blacks Leaving Carter?



JOHN C. CALHOUN
Morehouse Speaker

By JOHN YORK

A lot of blacks think Jimmy Carter forgot about them after his nomination, and they just may forget about him come election day, according to a black man who works for President Ford.

To be realistic, probably no more than 25 per cent of the black vote will go to Ford, but that may well be more than Carter can afford to lose, said Ford's special assistant for minority affairs, John C. Calhoun.

Calhoun was in Atlanta Thursday to speak at Morehouse College on minority self-reliance. Though he kept his speech nonpartisan, he said later that the students' comments to him showed the kind of political concern he has heard a lot lately.

There's the talk that Carter doesn't care about blacks anymore. Now, Carter has badmouthed the memory of Lyndon Johnson. And, "Daddy King doesn't seem to be able to get a phone call in to Jimmy Carter lately." Those things are not necessarily Calhoun's own beliefs, he insisted, but are only representative of what he has heard from other blacks.

It's something of a middle-class discontentment, Calhoun suggested. "You find a great deal of coordination between middle income whites and middle income blacks. They're finding what President Ford said about a tax break very attractive."

To be fair, he said, Gov. Carter has made "overtures to the black community," by advocating programs aimed at benefiting the poor.

But, Calhoun went on, "Quite candidly, I think that after the debate, blacks are beginning to wonder where that money is coming from for those programs."

Turning then to his own area of concern, minority self-reliance, Calhoun talked about the need for private enterprise, not government, to come to the aid of minority-owned businesses.

Soon that topic brought Calhoun back to the presidential race.

"I don't think Gov. Carter has focused in on minority business," he said. "I'm not sure he knows what it's about." And the same goes for other problems, Calhoun said, mentioning national health insurance as a typical Carter solution.

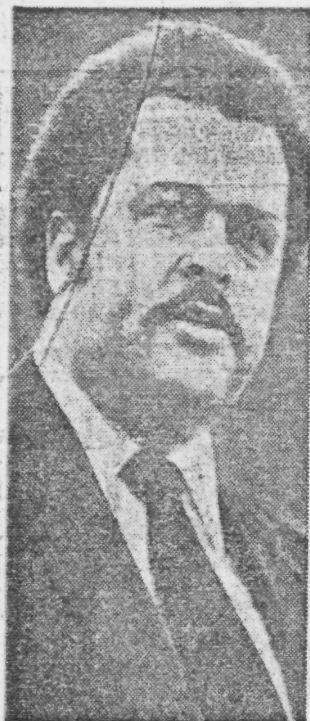
"Those things will lead us more and more toward socialism ... You stifle the entire free enterprise system," Calhoun said. "I don't think he understands that. It's very difficult to make national programs work."

President Ford hasn't been making promises, he said, but "blacks are tired of hearing politicians' promises."

And, he added, Ford has definitely not written off the black vote. "The President has not written off anybody."



'Black destiny to a large extent is in our own hands. We must come to grips with that.'



John Calhoun

FORD ASSISTANT

Students Urged To Get Involved

By ALEXIS SCOTT REEVES

John Calhoun, special assistant for minority affairs to President Gerald Ford, urged students at the historically black Morehouse College here Thursday to be competitive and active to improve the future of black Americans.

"You are the future black leaders of the nation and of the world," Calhoun told students who packed an auditorium on the campus.

Noting that he was not going to make a partisan speech in this election year, the native Georgian said, "Black Americans must rise above political rhetoric and become active in the third generation."

Aware that the majority of blacks in the nation—and as it turned out, in the auditorium—are Democrats, Calhoun warned, "Too long we relied on emotions for guidance (in politics) without understanding the issues."

He urged the students not to be apathetic about national and foreign affairs, particularly the current problems in Africa over majority rule.

"We ought to be concerned about our country's effort to bring about a peaceful transition (in Africa)," he said.

Calhoun said that "less than 10 letters have come to the White House from black Americans" regarding the situation in Africa.

"That apathy must not be a part of the agenda for the third generation," he said.

Calhoun did, nevertheless, get in pitches for Republicans and swipes at Democrats.

"Politics has an impact on everything you do," he said. "When you're in a bag, candidates can afford to take three positions or no positions on an issue."

He also talked about the accomplishments of Secretary of Transportation William Coleman, a Ford cabinet member. He added that there are "blacks working in every key section of the White House."

Calhoun joined the White House staff as staff assistant

in minority and public liaison affairs. He was appointed to his present position by President Ford on Nov. 21, 1975.

Calhoun also told the students that he had "recently started a movement" by setting up a task force that will become a Presidential Advisory Commission for Black Colleges.

The commission will have presidents of black colleges as members and also representatives of the business community, he said.

"Less than 1 per cent of the money spent by business and industry goes to black colleges," Calhoun said. "And we will try to turn that around."

"Black destiny to a large extent is in our own hands," he added. "We must come to grips with that."

He said blacks must participate in the political process, and "forget labels and remember the agenda."

Looking over the history of blacks in America, Calhoun said most of the time was spent trying to "survive. We must bury the survival syndrome and reach out through competition for our place in America."

"There is no room for complacency, but we have ample justification to be proud of ourselves and the future of America, the future of Africa and the future of mankind."

"The right to self-determination and majority rule are universal," he said in concluding. "Until each citizen can enjoy these rights, we all have need for concern."

The Democratic sentiment among the students came out in response to remarks made by C.A. Scott, a leader of black Republicans in the state and editor of the Atlanta Daily World.

Scott said he wouldn't say who would win the election, but the students did. Several yells of "Carter" sprang from the group.

Later, Morehouse President Hugh Gloster said Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter has accepted an invitation to speak at the college.

LIBRARY

Lee May

Running With Us, Jimmy?

You can say Jimmy Carter talks too much about lust, Jesus, and LBJ but you can't accuse him of a runny mouth when it comes to what he's going to do for blacks.

For the most part, Carter has been politically silent, relying on general promises of fair treatment rather than on a program proposals tailored for blacks. Ideally this would seem to be the way to go. The approach says we as a country have advanced to the point where we think beyond race, where we deal in human appeals rather than in racial ones.

Besides (and this may be the most important consideration), the strategy seems to be working. At least in Atlanta. Or is it? It is true some of Atlanta's biggest blacks are in Carter's corner. And most blacks I have talked with say they will vote for him (though many say with reservations and the realization "there isn't much choice"). But they will vote for him. If they vote at all.

And that "if" is what makes Carter's black strategy questionable. Blacks are considered one of Carter's strong suits. If people of color stay home Nov. 2 in the numbers predicted for the overall population, there may be joy in Grand Rapids.

Dorothy Bolden, founder and president of the National Domestic Workers Union, understands this and has some comments on Carter's black strategy. "You wonder if black people have a program or agenda or sealed envelope . . . that black masses of people could benefit from."

"Every time he pops up in the paper you see some (black) advisers. But those advisers haven't come forward and told any of the black people what Jimmy Carter has offered."

Gently, I reminded Bolden how often those advisers have reminded us of the fact that Jimmy Carter is a good, decent man.

Said Bolden, "We can all be good. But doing is the most important thing. If you don't have a program to offer people, you're wondering where we fit it in."

Dr. Horace Tate, black educator and Georgia state senator, figures blacks fit into



Carter's program just fine. Tate says, "He has said where compensatory programs are needed he's willing to go on record as pushing for fostering those. He's saying if a compensatory program is needed in the Appalachian area, we'll have it there. If it's needed in California among migrant workers we'll have it there."

"I don't think he's offering blacks anything special. I believe he's offering all America the opportunity to be led by a president who is a man of integrity, sincerity and honesty."

Two black views of Carter's black strategy. I can't say whose view will emerge as accurate on election day. I do know however that blacks in many places outside Atlanta are wondering what makes people like "Daddy" King and businessman Jesse Hill run with Jimmy and they wonder, "Are You Running With Us, Jimmy?" They're wondering—after the victorious primaries and the peace-and-love convention—if a vote for Jimmy Carter is worth a trip to the polls.

Perhaps realizing this, the Carter campaigners are compiling a publication to be called "The Record." It will outline minority progress during Carter's tenure as governor of Georgia. It is scheduled for release in October, and Carter people hope it will go a long way toward quieting questions about the candidate's record and about his administration if he becomes president.

You have to wonder why the Report is coming so late in the campaign. Perhaps strategists didn't believe black support was in jeopardy before. Or maybe to have released such a document before would have labelled Carter too much of a "liberal."

Giving Carter folks the benefit of doubt however the report may be late coming because they just couldn't get around to it before. At any rate if The Report comes out as scheduled it may be enough to turn on a few people. Otherwise there will be a lot of black voters who don't go to the polls and many of those who do will go and vote for Jimmy Carter, saying as Dorothy Bolden says: "We don't have but one way to go. We can't go for Ford. Jimmy Carter knows that."

A reluctant vote is still a vote but it's not much of a start for an administration that's supposed to bring us together again.

October 6, 1976

TO: MR. ROBERT KEYES

FROM: JOHN CALHOUN

For Your Information.

How do you like these peanuts ?



Jimmy Carter: Savior Or Hypocrite

By Rev. Carlton Coleman

"My Doctrine is not mine, But His that sent me," (John 7:16). Beware of Jimmy Carter's peanut farmer hypocritical smiles. His doctrine is full of lies and designed to brainwash us Black folks.

If Jesus Christ, the savior of the world doctrine was not totally accepted by mankind, then no way can Jimmy Carter's be.

We saw at the Democratic Convention an enactment of the Evangelical Movement still totally white, reflecting its historical origin in the South where Carter's own church in Plains, Ga. is still segregated, despite a majority of Blacks in that small peanut town.

Jimmy Carter knows that several Blacks are already in his pocket, but what some of these Blacks are not aware of is that they are not included in the



REV. CARLTON COLEMAN

80-million estimated Evangelical Movement.

The use of the word LOVE by Jimmy Carter is leading Black

people into his camp like the wolf leading the sheep to be slaughtered. Beware of Jimmy Carter. We are living in the day that was prophesied. Think about what I stated earlier. My Doctrine is not mine, But His that sent me.

If any man including Jimmy Carter will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. Anyone who speaks of himself as Jimmy Carter does, "I am not obligated to anyone," is seeking his own glory and there is no truth or love in him.

If Jimmy is not obligated to anyone, then Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., Congressman Andrew Young and all other Black people are not doing anything by supporting him for the presidency.

I am not a Carter supporter, because the word of God instructs me that any man who seeks to be a friend of the world, becomes an enemy to him and secondly, his granting of amnesty to Vietnam War draft resisters.

The very Blacks who are looking up to Mr. Carter as their salvation, failed to accept the fact that he is not the expected Jesus Christ. ("Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do").

Jimmy is the son of Southern Baptist slave masters. His grandparents were slave masters and Jimmy's roots go deeply into Southern Slavery, and he remembers the war between the states, and how that war brought an end to chattel slavery.

As a peanut farmer, he has become a modern day master

(economic businessman) excluding Blacks from becoming owners of land like himself. Only one out of every ten Black farmers owns any land, and scarcely half of these have enough to make a living.

Nothing is being done to better the conditions of Blacks in southern states and the Southern Baptist Church has also joined in ignoring the plight of these poor Black people.

This is the same church that justified slavery, fought in the Civil War to protect it, and through the succeeding decades had to protest against the Klan lynch mobs of Blacks.

Beware of Jimmy Carter, "Charity begins at home," then spreads abroad. Jimmy Carter by-passed Black people when he was governor, and now all is supposed to be forgiven. No way.

If he believed in God, he would not have denied equal rights to us.

He supports the Humphrey Hawkins bill, but has not made it clear to the people; it's just another means of brainwashing Black people. I could go on and on, telling what I am instructed about the phony Jimmy Carter, but I will wait until I make my personal appearance and then finish John 7:16, "My Doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me."

Beware of Jimmy Carter and be not deceived by his smiles. God is not mocked, When the Wrath of God comes upon Jimmy, you will say, the prophet Black Messiah, Rev. Carlton Coleman told me so.

Rev. Carlton Coleman is pastor of Rock Gospel Time Church based in Harlem.



October 12, 1976

TO: MR. PETE ROSELLE
FROM: JOHN CALHOUN

*Bob
Keyes*

For Your Information.



HEIGHTS SAVINGS Association

FROM THE DESK OF
JIM BOWIE

9-17-76

DEAR JOHN.

WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT
FORD COMMITTEE OR THE
RNC GOING TO DO ABOUT
THE BLACK VOTE.

I HAVE WRITTEN CONALLY,
PETERSEN AND A FEW OTHERS
WITH NO RESPONSE AT ALL.
WHERE DO WE GO FROM
HERE?

Jim



October 12, 1976

TO: MR. ROBERT KEYES

FROM: JOHN CALHOUN

For Your Information.



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HERE?

Jim



Keyes

October 12, 1976

Mr. John Calhoun
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear John:

This is to acknowledge receipt of the two press releases,
"Blacks Leaving Carter" and "Students Urged to Get
Involved," and thank you for your cooperation and help.

Sincerely,

Martin L. Dinkins
Director
Black Desk

cc: Elly Peterson
Tom Ruffin
Robert Keyes ✓



A circular logo with the text "People for Ford" inside. The word "People" is on the top line, "for" is in the middle, and "Ford" is on the bottom line. The logo is black with white text.MEMORANDUM

TO: John Calhoun .

October 14, 1976

FROM: Marty Dinkins

SUBJECT: Request for an Advocate Speaker in Annapolis, MD

This is to confirm our conversation today regarding the request of Dr. Aris Allen to have you speak to a group of 30 prominent black leaders (Democrats, Independents, and Republicans) from Anne Arundel County, Maryland, at a reception to be held at the Annapolis Hilton Hotel on October 24, 4-6 p.m. This is an invitation-only affair and needs to be confirmed as soon as possible to facilitate printing of invitations.

Thank you for your cooperation.



~~Old~~ Executive
Room 197

Hennis Jones



Natp 0 news

Jad: for whomever is doing John C. Calhoun:

Mr. Jim Sheets

(501) 375-2371

Dorothy Webb, Little Rock PFC, would like him to shoot over to Little Rock after ~~his~~ he is done in Forest City, Ark., this Saturday.

Events:

Press conf. at ~~the~~ new Minority Office Headquarters in Little Rock.

Banquet: 7:30 Sat. p.m.

↓
Black Minorities Conf. - covers five states. More than 200 people.

Main speaker: Dr. Lawrence Davis, black educator, formerly Pres. of the U. of Ark. at Pine Bluff.

Calhoun would have 5 mins. to speak for the President. Also just attend banquet to talk with people about Pres.

10/21

no, has to attend a State Department dinner.

both contribute
press conference at
banquet for minority
contractors

