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TR 26-2

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dy.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR : BOB HARTMANN
FROM : JIM CANNON *Jim*
SUBJECT : Presidential Trip to Boston

MR 7

The attached is forwarded for your information
in advance of the President's trip.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Cannon

FROM: Dick Parsons

SUBJECT: Presidential Trip to Boston

I note that the President will be in the Boston area later this week.

As you know, I have been meeting, on the President's behalf, with a number of groups from the Boston area on the situation regarding desegregation of the Boston public schools. I would be very surprised if the subject of busing did not come up during the President's trip. Herewith, some thoughts on this matter.

In responding to a press inquiry last October concerning his views on the situation in Boston, the President, while calling upon the citizens of Boston to respect the law, stated his personal opposition to forced busing to achieve racial balance as a solution to quality education. I believe that this statement has been misinterpreted by groups on both sides of the issue. The antibusing forces have been encouraged in their belief that by simply defying the law they can somehow prevail in their struggle. Conversely, those attempting to abide by the court's decision have referred increasingly to "self help" as the only way to protect the safety of their children, since the local government can't and the Federal government won't.

If asked to comment on the school desegregation situation, I believe that it would be more conducive to stability if the President simply called upon the people of Boston to respect and abide by the law. He might even point out that, as President of the United States, it is his constitutional responsibility to "take care that the laws are faithfully enforced" -- whether or not a particular law coincides with his view of what the law ought to be. This would be very unpopular with some, but it would:

-- end speculation as to what his official position is;

- place him on record as being for the constitutional process and against lawlessness; and
- assure the people of Boston that they have not been abandoned by the Federal government in these very difficult times.