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LUNCHEON ADDRESS  
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HYATT REGENCY HOTEL  
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BY:  
STANLEY S. SCOTT  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

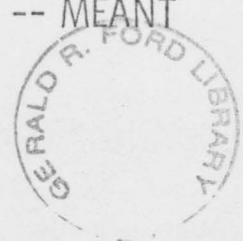
WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR INVITATION TO SPEAK THIS  
AFTERNOON, AS A JOURNALIST, I WAS STRUCK BY THE FACT  
THAT, INDEED OUR TWO PROFESSIONS HAVE AN INTERESTING  
SIMILARITY -- AS JOURNALISTS AND ATTORNEYS OUR MOST  
ESSENTIAL PROFESSIONAL TOOLS ARE WORDS -- I'VE KNOWN  
YOU LAWYERS TO USE THEM WITH THE PRECISION OF A SURGEON  
WITH A SCALPEL IN HIS HAND TO CUT TO THE HEART OF AN  
ISSUE WHICH MAY, TOO, MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE  
AND DEATH! AND I, AS A REPORTER, OUT ON THE BEAT IN  
NEW YORK COVERING THE NEWS OF THE DAY HAVE IN THOSE  
MOMENTS AFTER PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON A STORY  
THAT I FELT GOOD ABOUT, LOOKED UPON THE JOURNALISTIC  
ART AS THAT OF TRYING TO PAINT A PICTURE FROM A PALLET  
OF WORDS.

BUT IN THINKING ABOUT SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT I WOULD  
LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU FOR THE NEXT 15 MINUTES, IT WAS



STRIKING TO ME THAT I HAD TO LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE  
TRADITIONAL TITLES USED FOR MEMBERS OF YOUR PROFESSION,  
TO FIND THE WORD THAT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE AS THE  
KEYNOTE FOR MY COMMENTS TODAY. THAT WORD IS "ADVOCATE."  
TODAY, I WISH TO CHALLENGE YOU AS ADVOCATES, TO TAKE UP  
A MORE VISIBLE ROLE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AS ADVOCATES  
OF SOCIAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND  
POLITICAL NEEDS AS BLACKS. FOR YOU WHO THRIVE ON ISSUES,  
THE FIELD IS FUTILE, THE CONDITION OF OUR HOUSING, THE  
QUALITY OF OUR SCHOOLS, THE MANAGEMENT AND COMPOSITION  
OF OUR POLICE FORCE, AND THE "WHY" OF DISPROPORTIONATELY  
HIGH POPULATIONS OF BLACKS IN OUR LOCAL, STATE AND  
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

WHEN WE LOOK TO THE ORIGINS OF THE WORD "ADVOCATE,"  
WE FIND IT ROOTED IN LATIN IN THE COMPANY OF ALL THOSE  
OTHER LATIN PHRASES THAT YOU LAWYERS LIKE TO REVERT TO  
WHEN ALL ELSE IS LOSS. THE LATIN WORD ADVOCARE -- MEANT



TO SUMMON TO ONE'S ASSISTANCE, WHEN USED AS A NOUN, IT DESCRIBES ONE WHO ASSISTS, DEFENDS, OR PLEADS FOR ANOTHER. IN ITS ACTION FORM, THE VERB "ADVOCATE" -- YOUR WEBSTER, MR. BLACK, MAKES MY POINT FOR ME; THE ADVOCATE IS THE ONE WHO SPEAKS OUT ON ISSUES, LENDS SUPPORT, VINDICATES OR RECOMMENDS PUBLICLY HIS STAND -- OR THAT OF HIS CLIENT OR ORGANIZATION. IT'S THE JOURNALIST IN ME, I GUESS, THAT KEEPS ME ALWAYS ON THE PROWL FOR GOOD COPY. RIGHT HERE IN THIS AUDIENCE SITS MANY OF THE BEST AND MOST FINELY LEARNED LEGAL MINDS IN THIS COUNTRY. I WANT TO HEAR, AND I KNOW THAT BLACK LAW STUDENTS, POTENTIAL LAW STUDENTS AND BLACK PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF BLACKS WHO ARE THE FIRST FIRED WHEN A NATIONAL CRISIS MAKES JOB CUTS NECESSARY, OR THE DeFUNIS CASE OR WHEN BLACK PRISONERS ARE LOOKING FOR A SPOKESMAN TO NEGOTIATE THEIR INTERESTS.





I CAN APPRECIATE THAT IT CAN POSE A BURDEN TO ASSUME SUCH A ROLE, WHEN THERE ARE ONLY 4-5,000 BLACK ATTORNEYS OF THE MORE THAN 300,000 ATTORNEYS IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT AS BLACKS, WE ALL KNOW THAT IT HAS OFTEN BEEN THE CASE THAT WHILE WE MAY LACK NUMBERS TO PRESS AN ISSUE, WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE BY PURE ARDOR HAS BEEN PROVEN BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT WHEN WE LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS SINCE YOU, THE BLACK ATTORNEYS, FROM TOPEKA TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND LEAD US VICTORIOUSLY TO THE SUPREME COURT IN BROWN vs THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. YET IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSPIRE AND TANGIBLY HELP THOSE CHILDREN WHO TWENTY YEARS AFTER, BROWN STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO GET A QUALITY EDUCATION -- OR HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO GET A DECENT JOB -- MUCH LESS TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL.

AS I MET MANY OF THE MEMBERS OF YOUR YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION OF THE NBA, I HAVE NO FEAR THAT YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY



OF HELP. THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE ENJOYED THE FORTUNE OF HAVING INFINITELY MORE DOORS OPENED TO THEM THAN THOSE OF US IN THE '39 AND HOLDING" SET, WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE SATISFIED WITH RESTING ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST. THE RANKS OF WELL-TRAINED BLACK LAWYERS ARE INCREASING AT AN ASTONISHING RATE. I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM COMMENTS BY PROFESSOR HARRY EDWARDS IN A LAW STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, THAT IN 1972, THERE WERE MORE THAN 4,000 BLACKS STUDYING LAW ACROSS THE COUNTRY -- A FIGURE WHICH THEN ALMOST ECLIPSED THE ESTIMATED TOTAL NUMBER OF BLACK ATTORNEYS THEN PRACTICING AT THE BAR. WITHIN YOUR PROFESSION, YOU HAVE SEEN HOW AN OVERWHELMING PREPONDERANCE OF BLACK LEGAL TALENT HAS IN THE PAST BEEN DIRECTED TO THE AREAS OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE, FAMILY LAW, PERSONAL INJURY CARE AND LANDLORD-TENANT LAW. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION YOUR TALENTS ARE MUCH



NEEDED WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT YOU NUMBER 1 TO 5,000  
BLACKS AND MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD  
CERTAINLY BE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. MY STINT IN  
GOVERNMENT SERVICE HAS FORCEFULLY DRIVEN HOME THE  
POINT THAT OUR INTERESTS AS BLACKS ARE NOT BEING FULLY  
REPRESENTED WITHIN THE FACTIONS OF POWER WHERE DECISIONS  
ARE MADE OVER LUNCH WHICH MAY AFFECT THE JOBS OF  
THOUSANDS OF BLACKS. THUS, THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION  
OF BLACK ATTORNEYS IN THESE AREAS TO THE EXCLUSION OF  
SUCH AREAS AS TAX, ANTI-TRUST, BANKING, CORPORATE,  
LABOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW -- HAS LEFT BLACKS BADLY  
UNDER REPRESENTED -- TRUE BY A LONG AND BITTER HISTORY  
OF DISCRIMINATION, IN THESE AREAS OF LAW WHERE  
SPECIALIZATION CAN BE PROFITABLE NOT ONLY IN A PECUNIARY  
SENSE BUT IN TERMS OF THE FACT THAT IT DENIES TO THOSE WHO  
DOMINATE THESE AREAS, A BLACK PERSPECTIVE AND TO BLACKS





ANY FORCEABLE REPRESENTATION IN THOSE SPHERES OF  
ACTIVITY WHICH ARE AT THE VERY HEART OF THE DECISION-  
MAKING PROCESS.

I WOULD AGREE WITH THOSE WHO POINT OUT THAT IF THE  
INCREASING NUMBER OF HIGHLY CAPABLE BLACK ATTORNEYS  
WHO ARE GRADUATING EACH YEAR FROM DISTINGUISHED LAW  
SCHOOLS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY---WHICH 20 YEARS AGO HAD,  
ONLY A TOKEN NUMBER OF BLACKS IF ANY---WERE TO GO INTO  
THE CORPORATE LAW, THE NEED FOR BLACK ADVOCACY IN THE  
COURTS WOULD BE EVEN MORE SERIOUS, BUT I WOULD AT LEAST  
LIKE TO SEE THE NBA DOING ALL THAT IT CAN TO RESOLVE THE  
DILEMMA OF SMALL NUMBERS OF BLACKS TO REPRESENT THE  
INTERESTS OF BLACKS IN CRIMINAL, CIVIL, OR DOMESTIC  
RELATIONS BUT, I THINK THAT WE AS A RACE HAVE BECOME  
SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT WITH POWER COMES  
MORE POWER AND AFTER ALL, HASN'T OUR STRUGGLE FOR  
THE LAST TWO DECADES BEEN ALL ABOUT OUR REFUSAL TO BE



EXCLUDED FROM THE CITADELS OF POWER. IF WE HAVE A  
CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHT TO VOTE, WE DEMAND  
TO BE ABLE TO VOTE WITHOUT HARASSMENT; IF WE HAVE A  
RIGHT TO SHARE IN THE WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY, EARNED BY  
LONG YEARS OF TOIL IN THE DIRTIEST AND MOST DIFFICULT  
JOBS, BIG BUSINESS CAN AFFORD TO FUNCTION WITHOUT TAKING  
OUR INTEREST INTO CONSIDERATION. WE TOO, CAN PLAY THE  
ROLE OF POWER BROKERS! MY TRAINING, AS AN OBJECTIVE  
REPORTER OF HOW THE CHIPS FALL IN OUR SOCIETY, ALLOW  
ME TO EDITORIALIZE A BIT AND SAY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO  
MORE QUALIFIED BLACK PROFESSIONALS TO CHAMPION THE  
SOCIAL NEEDS OF BLACKS THAN THOSE OF YOU WHO SIT HERE  
IN THIS ROOM. WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO SAY THAT  
THERE JUST AREN'T ENOUGH BLACK LAWYERS IN THE ANTEROOMS  
OF OUR CRIMINAL COURTS TO PRESS FOR MORE REPRESENTATION  
AT THE BOARD ROOMS OF THE CORPORATE ESTATES. MORE AND  
MORE YOUNG, SHARP, INNOVATIVE, AND CUNNING BLACK LEGAL



MINDS ARE BEING TRAINED EVERY DAY. LET'S NOT LIMIT OUR ADVOCACY TO THOSE LEGAL JOBS THAT YOUR MAJORITY COUNTER-PARTS ARE TOO BUSY MAKING MONEY AND DECISIONS ABOUT STOCK OPTIONS TO CARE ABOUT OR KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH AS WE BLACKS. COULD IT BE THAT THOSE BLACKS WHO SAY THEY PREFER A WHITE LAWYER, FEEL THAT THE BLACK LAWYER IS "POWERLESS" TO REPRESENT HIS INTEREST WHEN CONFRONTING A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT HAS NOT YET CONVINCED THE BLACK COMMUNITY THAT IT DOESN'T MEET A DIFFERENT BRAND OF "JUSTICE" TO BLACK OFFENDERS THAN TO WHITE OFFENDERS?

IF IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO A NUMBERS GAME - OF HOW CAN THE LIMITED NUMBERS OF BLACK ADVOCATES BE IN MORE THAN ONE PLACE AT ONE TIME, THEN OBVIOUSLY THE ANSWER IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BLACK ATTORNEYS - AS I HAVE NOTED - THIS IS HAPPENING IN WELCOMED PROPORTIONS EACH JUNE AS



HUNDREDS OF BLACK GRADUATES LEAVE LAW SCHOOL. I  
RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES BLACKS ARE HAVING PASSING  
THE BAR IN MANY STATES. IN MY OWN AREA, THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA, BLACK LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE TAKING  
THEIR CASE TO COURT. WILL THE NBA BE THERE WITH THEM IF  
THEIR CASE HAS MERIT? HAS THE NBA CONTACTED THE STATE  
EXAMINERS WHERE THE GRADUATES ARE CHARGING THAT THERE  
IS EVIDENCE OF A "PATTERN OR PRACTICE" OF DISCRIMINATION.  
AS A LAYMAN, AND JOURNALIST IT IS MY JOB TO ASK! IT IS  
YOUR JOB TO GIVE ME AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY ANSWERS.

CERTAINLY THOSE YOUNG BLACK LAW STUDENTS AND LAWYERS  
WHO ARE COMING OUT OF LAW SCHOOL READY AND EAGER TO PLY  
THEIR TRADE MUST CERTAINLY WANT TO LOOK TO YOU, THE  
PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED IN YOUR ART, FOR THE  
KIND OF STRONG LEADERSHIP THAT THOSE OF US WHO ARE LAYMEN  
DEPEND ON YOU FOR WHETHER YOU REPRESENT OUR INTEREST IN





THE COURT ROOM, CITY HALL, THE STATE LEGISLATURE, THE CONGRESS, OR THE CORPORATE BOARD ROOM.

FOR AS ADVOCATES, WHO ARE IN THE TRUEST SENSE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR RACE, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU RECALL THESE EXCERPTS FROM THE PREAMBLE OF THE LEGAL CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY -

"LAWYERS, AS GUARDIANS OF THE LAW, PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE PRESERVATION OF SOCIETY.....

"THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY DEPENDS UPON THE RECOGNITION OF THE CONCEPT THAT JUSTICE IS BASED UPON THE RULE OF LAW, GROUNDED

IN RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS CAPACITY THROUGH REASON FOR ENLIGHTENED SELF-

GOVERNMENT. LAW SO GROUNDED MAKES JUSTICE

POSSIBLE, FOR ONLY THROUGH SUCH LAW DOES THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL ATTAIN RESPECT AND PROTECTION. WITHOUT

IT, INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS BECOME SUBJECT TO UNRESTRAINED



POWER, RESPECT FOR LAW IS DESTROYED, AND RATIONAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE."

".....(A) LAWYER MUST WITH COURAGE AND FORESIGHT BE ABLE AND READY TO SHAPE THE BODY OF LAW TO THE EVER-CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS OF SOCIETY."

I WOULD ONLY ADD, THAT IT IS TO YOU LAWYERS TO WHOM THE BLACK COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS LOOKED TO TAKE OUR CASE TO THE COURT HOUSE; NOW THAT MANY OF YOU SIT IN THOSE SAME COURT HOUSES AS JUDGES, I CHALLENGE YOU TO BE CERTAIN NOT ONLY THAT YOU REPRESENT US WELL AND LOUD, BUT THAT YOU LET US BE ASSURED THAT YOU, AS MEMBERS OF THE NBA WILL BE IN THE FOREFRONT, READY NOT ONLY TO SHAPE THE BODY OF LAW TO THE EVER-CHANGING RELATIONSHIPS OF SOCIETY - BUT TO CHANGE SOCIETY IN SUCH A WAY THAT WHEN ANOTHER BLACK OFFENDER IN THE D. C. JAIL LOOKS AT A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT AGAINST HIM, THEIR WON'T BE



SUCH A TONE IN HIS VOICE AS HE SAYS TO HIS LAWYER, "LOOK  
AT THIS, THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS AGAINST ME. IT SAYS RIGHT  
HERE IN BLACK AND WHITE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
vs. JOSEPH JONES, I AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!!! I'M COUNTING  
ON YOU TO GIVE JOE A CHANCE!!!

