The original documents are located in Box 7, folder "Busing - Presidential Meetings (3)" of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH ROY WILKINS AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMMUNITY

> Monday, June 14, 1976 2:00 p.m. (60 minutes) The Cabinet Room

FROM: Jim Cannon

I. PURPOSE

To discuss school desegregation with leaders of the civil rights community.

II BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: This is the third in a series of meetings with groups from outside the Administration who have varying views on the issue of school desegregation. Members of this group hold exceedingly strong views in favor of court-imposed school desegregation and meeting with them will permit them an opportunity to express those views to you first-hand.
- B. Participants: A list of the participants is attached.
- C. Press Plan: Meeting to be announced.

III. TALKING POINTS

- 1. As you know, we are here to discuss the posture of the Administration on the school desegregation issue. While your leader, Roy Wilkins, asked for this meeting, I have been meeting with a number of groups concerned about this issue to hear their views so that I can broaden my own perspective and thinking on the matter.
- 2. Before we discuss the particular initiatives the Administration is currently considering, I would like to try to establish a framework to guide our discussion. There should be no question in the mind of any person in this room as to my total commitment to the goal of equality of educational opportunity for all Americans. The notion of separate schools for separate races and any action of the part of any public entity to foster separate schools is totally abhorrent to me. I also believe that every American child has a right to a good education. The question, then, is not whether we are

for or against these objectives; rather the question is how best do we achieve these objectives.

- 3. In my view, court-ordered, forced busing is not the best way, or even a good way, to achieve any of the objectives I have talked about. And I believe that most people, black and white, know this as a matter of common sense. This is why, with the help of the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and others within the Administration, I am looking for alternatives to court-ordered busing.
- 4. I know that each of you has a strong view on this matter, however, which I would like to hear.

PARTICIPANTS

ARONSON, Arnold
Secretary, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights;
National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council;
Rye, New York.

BIEMILLER, Andrew AFL-CIO.

BRODY, David
Director, Anti-Defamation League B'nai B'rith; Chevy Chase.

BROWN, Ronald Washington Director, National Urban League.

BURKE, (Hon.) Yvonne Chairperson, Congressional Black Caucus, U.S. House of Representatives.

CAPLAN, Marvin
Executive Director, Washington Office, Leadership
Conference on Civil Rights.

GREENBERG, Jack
Director and Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund;
New York City.

HEIGHT, (Miss) Dorothy
President, National Council of Negro Women; New York City.

HIGGINS, Msgr. George Secretary for Research, U.S. Catholic Conference; Washington, D.C.

JONES, Nathaniel, Esq.
General Counsel, NAACP; Ridgewood, New Jersey.

JORDAN, Vernon
Executive Director, National Urban League;
Hartsdale, New York.

MITCHELL, Clarence Legislative Chairman, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Director, Washington Bureau NAACP.

POLLARD, William
Director, Civil Rights Department, AFL-CIO;
Washington, D.C.

RAUH, Joseph L., Esq. Counsel, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Washington, D.C.

RUSTIN, Bayard
Chairman, Executive Committee, Leadership Conference
on Civil Rights; President, A. Philip Randolph Institute;
New York City.

WARDEN, Richard
Director of Legislation, UAW; Washington, D.C.

WILKINS, Roy Chairman, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Executive Director, NAACP; Jamaica, New York.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi Secretary F. David Mathews, HEW

Jim Cannon
Jim Cavanaugh
Paul O'Neill
Dick Parsons
Ed Schmults

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE DATE DESTRICTION				
DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION	
Form	Executive Protective Service appointment form for meeting in the Cabinet Room on June 14, 1976 (2 pages)	6/14/1976	С	

File Location:

James M. Cannon Files, Box 7, "Busing - Presidential Meetings (3) (6/13/1976 - 6/17/1976)" / SMD/ 2/11/2015

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

To:

Jim Cannon

From:

Phil Buchen

Attached is the background information for the people who will be attending the meeting with the President on Monday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m., which will be needed for clearance purposes.

cc: Jim Connor
Jane Dannenhauer
Executive Protection Service
Secret Service



WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	List of Participants for June 14, 1976 meeting (3 pages)	N.D.	С

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

PHIL BUCHEN

Attached is a list of people who have been invited to attend the meeting with the President on Monday, June 14, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the busing issue. It is possible that not all of the people listed will be able to attend.

cc: Ed Schmults
Dick Parsons
Bobbie Kilberg



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

SEVENTEEN NINETY BROADWAY

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • 212-245-2100

June 9, 1976

Mr. Philip W. Buchen Counsel to the President The White House Office 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Buchen:

Enclosed is the full listing of invitees to the meeting with the President on Monday, June 14, at 2:00 p.m. It is probable that some of them will not be able to attend on that date.

Very sincerely yours,

Roy Wilkins

Executive Director

RW:erb Enclosure

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LIST OF PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD MONDAY, JUNE 14, 1976, at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Arnold Aronson

National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. Secretary, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Mr. Andrew Biemiller . Director, Legislative Department, AFL-CIO (OR: William Pollard . . Director, Civil Rights Department, AFL-CIO) Mr. David Brody Director, Anti-Defamation League B'nai B'rith Hon. Yvonne Burke Chairperson, Congressional Black Caucus Executive Director, Washington Office. Mr. Marvin Caplan Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Miss Dorothy Height President, National Council of Negro Women Msgr. George Higgins U. S. Catholic Conference Nathaniel Jones, Esq. General Counsel, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Mr. Vernon Jordan Executive Director, National Urban League Mr. Clarence Mitchell Legislative Chairman, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Director, Washington Bureau NAACP Joseph L. Rauh, Esq. Counsel, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Mr. Bayard Rustin Chairman, Executive Committee, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

Rights.

Director of Legislation, UAW

Chairman, Leadership Conference on Civil

Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Mr. Richard Warden

Mr. Roy Wilkins

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Baptie

THE WHITE HOUSE

Date:

May 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON

SUBJECT:

Roy Wilkinson, Chairman, Leadership

Conference on Civil Rights

The attached is for your appropriate handling.

Thank you.

The Thite House SICS IPMHTZZ CSP 2 #23 #35581 TOMT WASHINGTON DC 66 #5-21, #133P PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD TOWHITE HOUSE DC "URGENT THAT A DELEGATION OF OUR NATIONAL LEADERS MEET WITHTY DISCUSS THE SCHOOL DESEGREGATION POSTURE OF YOUR ADMI - "ITS IMPLICATIONS. "IT WOULD BE TRAGIC FOR OUR NATION IF THIS ISSUE IN THE POLITICS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. "TRAGIC, TOO, IF YOUR STATEMENTS WERE MISCONSTRUED "RESISTANCE TO LAW AND ORDER. MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE READY TO 20 WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY IRMAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON VE NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DC 20036 AND 1790 25 BROADWAY NEW YORK NY

26 HNNN

DECISION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 25, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNO

SUBJECT:

Request by Roy Wilkins for a Meeting

to Discuss School Desegregation

Roy Wilkins has requested that you meet with a delegation representing the leadership conference on Civil Rights to discuss the Administration's school desegregation posture. It is apparent that he wants to discuss the Boston case.

It is our understanding that the Supreme Court has indicated to the Justice Department that, if it is going to file a brief in the Boston case, it must do so by the end of the week, not later than Friday morning. While your senior advisers are agreed that you should meet with Wilkins and his delegation, we are not agreed as to the timing of such a meeting. There are two options:

1. Meet with Wilkins on Thursday, May 27.

This would be responsive to Wilkins' request and would afford you an opportunity to explain to him personally your view on this matter, the substance of your conversation with the Attorney General, and your desire to establish a continuing dialogue on school desegregation matters.

On the other hand, the Attorney General points out that meeting with this group would require you to meet with all other groups involved in the case and "disfigure the Justice Department's decision." Moreover, he states that such a meeting would be "outrageous and shocking." Given the lateness of the hour, if the Justice Department files in the Boston case on Friday morning,

it could and would be interpreted as a slap in the face to the Civil Rights group.

2. Meet with Wilkins after the Justice Department's decision has been made.

This would preserve the integrity of your decision to allow the Attorney General to determine whether it would be appropriate for the Administration to intervene in the Boston case. It would also allow you to broaden the scope of your discussions with the group to school desegregation in general, in just the Boston case. On the other hand, a refusal to meet with Wilkins before the Boston decision is made will probably evoke substantial criticism of the Administration and you personally from the Civil Rights community. It is possible that this group might even refuse to meet subsequent to a decision to enter the Boston case.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Option 1: Marsh

Option 2: Levi, Cannon, Schmults, O'Neill

If you choose Option 2, you may wish to telephone Wilkins to inform him of your decision to meet after the Attorney General has made his decision and to discuss the broad range of issues involved in school desegregation.

DECISION

Option 1:	Meet with Wilkins on Thursday, May 27.
YES	NO
Option 2:	Meet with Wilkins after the Justice Department's decision has been made.
YES	NO

TEXT OF TELEGRAM

President Gerald Ford White House, D.C.

Urgent that a delegation of our national leaders meet with you to discuss the school desegregation posture of your Administration and its implications. It would be tragic for our nation if this issue became involved in the politics of the Presidential campaign. Tragic, too, if your statements were miscontrued and stiffened resistance to law and order. Mr. President, we are ready to meet with you immediately.

Roy Wilkins, Chairman Leadership Conference on Civil Rights 2027 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 and 1790 Broadway, New York, N.Y. Jul Copy

- 1. The president be urged to reaffirm his belief in the Brown decision and its progeny.
- 2. The President be urged to issue a national call for obedience to the rule of law and orders of the courts.
- 3. The President be urged to condemn violence as a means of challenging court orders.
- 4. The President be urged to withdraw his policy directive to the Attorney General to seek out an "appropriate" case for Supreme Court review.
- 5. The President be urged to abandon his search for legislative alternatives to remedies already approved by the Supreme Court.
- 6. The President be urged to cease judicial and legislative efforts aimed at limiting proof of violations, and restricting the scope of remedies for unconstitutional segregation.
- 7. The President be urged to call upon the various state legislatures, state educational bodies and local boards of education to take action to eliminate segregation in urban schools.
- 8. The President be urged to direct the Office of Civil Rights of H.E.W. to move immediately to assist state and local boards of education to come into compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Can valuday att

THE PRESIDENT Congresswoman Attorney Jim Yvonne Secretary General Roy Wilkins Levi Burke Mathews Cannon Paul Richard O'Neill Warden Msgr. David Higgins Brody Dorothy Jack Height Greenberg Nathaniel Marvin Jones Caplan William Arnold Pollard Aronson Andrew Ronald Joseph Clarence Bayard Vernon Biemiller Rauh Mitchell Rustin Jordan Brown



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