

The original documents are located in Box C23, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 6/19/1975” of the Presidential Handwriting File 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. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 28, 1975

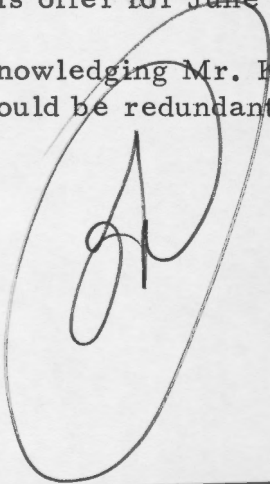
MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES CONNOR

FROM: WILLIAM NICHOLSON *Wen*

SUBJECT: Letter to the President from
Don King

Mr. King's letter was acknowledged on behalf of the President by Stan Scott in a telephone call. Also, both Stan Scott and I met with Mr. King in Scott's office to discuss his offer for June 30.

In my opinion a letter acknowledging Mr. King's letter is not needed and would be redundant.



filed as 6/19/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 10, 1975

Bill Nicholson -

Please prepare
appropriate response to the attached
letter and return to this office.

Jim Connor

9
55
June 12, 1975

President Gerald Ford
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you with an unusual request. It is born of a year-long odyssey which began for me in the cool of a springtime evening in Caracas and began to take full root in the hot, dusty, winding streets of Kinshasa, Zaire. As you may know, I am a fight promoter and I guess in that sense you might say that there are times when we are both in the diplomacy business. If you ever tried to put two guys together in the ring when each of them thinks he desires the champion's end of the purse, you'd know that the analogy is not misplaced.

But during the past year, travelling around the country and then around the world I have been deeply distressed by one recurring theme... yes, I guess you know I was a numbers runner at nine and I guess you may have read that I got my education first on the streets of Cleveland and then in a different kind of state university... and yes, I am Black.

And, sir, I played on the same kind of football fields you did, hit the books just as hard as you -- when I was listening to my mother -- and think very much the way you do about America.

So why must people -- particularly people whom I meet in Asia and Africa and Latin America -- and others who in this country would sell racism of the White and racism of the Black to us, assume that I and others like me do not love, do not feel for and do not believe in this country.

June 12, 1975

America -- for me can never be the dream deferred -- not if it can let me get as low as I was and still reach out a hand and invite me to get up and try again. America would not let you view it as the dream deferred either -- not when it took your own personal career through the athletic fields and on to the university and all the way up to that 200 million to one shot which every mother considers for her son -- the Presidency.

My point, sir, is that I am tired of doom-sayers and copouts. And I want to give whatever I can give to set the record straight. I cannot reach out and touch hands of all who make up the country I believe this to be. But like the "Little Drummer Boy" in the Christmas song, I can only offer what ability I have by way of a thank you.

On June 30, Muhammad Ali will defend his world title in Malaysia against Joe Bugner of England. On the same night in Madison Square Garden, Tony Licata, an American of Italian-Chinese descent will challenge for the middleweight championship against Carlos Monzon of Argentina on the same card in which Jorge Ahumada, a Latin-American immigrant to New York, will challenge another Argentine fighter, Victor Galindez for the light heavyweight title.

This is my show...I put it together...and I want to say thank you with the little I have. I would be honored if you would permit me to offer this two-continent show to you and your family and staff in the White House -- or wherever you plan to be -- on the night of June 30. I know that the signal corps has the capability of installing the necessary equipment but, Mr. President, if there is any way I can personally assume that cost or provide that equipment, I would be doubly honored.

On this night, on the eve of a bicentennial year, three Americans' hands could be raised as world champions. I want the people of the Third World to know that Black is beautiful but Red, White and Blue ain't bad either. And I would like very much to demonstrate to an old (or would it be better to say retired) football player, that sports builds an even stronger bond between us.

President Gerald Ford -3-

June 12, 1975

Mr. President, I am honored you have taken the time to read this. And since I can't thank all the people in a country that didn't turn its back on a man who needed help, what seems so long ago, I hope you will accept both my offer and this letter as a thank you on their behalf.

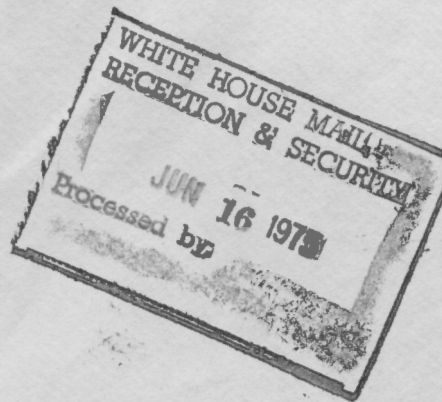
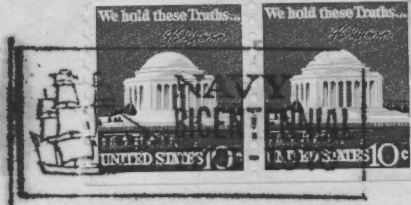
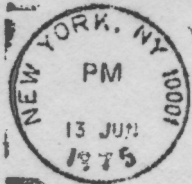
Respectfully yours,


Don King

cc: Commissioner York Nixon
The Honorable Charles Rangel
Governor James Rhodes
Stanley Scott
The Honorable Louis Stokes

Don King Productions
Suite 6700
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020

Don King
Suite 6700
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10020



President Gerald Ford
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

1975 1975 1975 1975
APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22



July 10, 1975

Bill Nicholson -

Please prepare
appropriate response to the attached
letter and return to this office.

Jim Connor

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Trusly



YOU WERE CALLED BY—



YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Dianna

OF (Organization)



PLEASE CALL —→

PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT.



WILL CALL AGAIN



IS WAITING TO SEE YOU



RETURNED YOUR CALL



WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Bill Nicholson
handled King
matter - he
should also
reply*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

STANDARD FORM 63

REVISED AUGUST 1967

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1969-048-16-80841-1 332-389

63-108

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim -

Any further action?

Trudy

*check w/ Diane
She will check
with Jerry - 7/1/75
CH*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jim -

Should I check with Rod Hills
office before writing your note to
Jerry passing on the President's
comments officially?

Yes

Jim

No

Trudy

Jerry Jones has letter

not
legally
approved.

Jim
I am having
Rod Hills
check out the
legality of this
J

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1975

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached letter was particularly well written and thought that you might like to see it.

Would you be interested in responding to Mr. King's offer to provide facilities for you to view the fight.

Yes

RAY

No

Jim Connor

MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES CONNOR
FROM: WARREN RUSTAND *CSR*
SUBJECT: Letter from Don King

The attached letter is particularly well written and it is one I think the President might like to read.

9/27
Talk with Don R.
2-11-76 D. & R. Workshop

9
55
June 12, 1975

President Gerald Ford
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you with an unusual request. It is born of a year-long odyssey which began for me in the cool of a springtime evening in Caracas and began to take full root in the hot, dusty, winding streets of Kinshasa, Zaire. As you may know, I am a fight promoter and I guess in that sense you might say that there are times when we are both in the diplomacy business. If you ever tried to put two guys together in the ring when each of them thinks he desires the champion's end of the purse, you'd know that the analogy is not misplaced.

But during the past year, travelling around the country and then around the world I have been deeply distressed by one recurring theme... yes, I guess you know I was a numbers runner at nine and I guess you may have read that I got my education first on the streets of Cleveland and then in a different kind of state university... and yes, I am Black.

And, sir, I played on the same kind of football fields you did, hit the books just as hard as you -- when I was listening to my mother -- and think very much the way you do about America.

So why must people -- particularly people whom I meet in Asia and Africa and Latin America -- and others who in this country would sell racism of the White and racism of the Black to us, assume that I and others like me do not love, do not feel for and do not believe in this country.

President Gerald Ford

-2-

June 12, 1975

America -- for me can never be the dream deferred -- not if it can let me get as low as I was and still reach out a hand and invite me to get up and try again. America would not let you view it as the dream deferred either -- not when it took your own personal career through the athletic fields and on to the university and all the way up to that 200 million to one shot which every mother considers for her son -- the Presidency.

My point, sir, is that I am tired of doom-sayers and copouts. And I want to give whatever I can give to set the record straight. I cannot reach out and touch hands of all who make up the country I believe this to be. But like the "Little Drummer Boy" in the Christmas song, I can only offer what ability I have by way of a thank you.

On June 30, Muhammad Ali will defend his world title in Malaysia against Joe Bugner of England. On the same night in Madison Square Garden, Tony Licata, an American of Italian-Chinese descent will challenge for the middleweight championship against Carlos Monzon of Argentina on the same card in which Jorge Ahumada, a Latin-American immigrant to New York, will challenge another Argentine fighter, Victor Galindez for the light heavyweight title.

This is my show...I put it together...and I want to say thank you with the little I have. I would be honored if you would permit me to offer this two-continent show to you and your family and staff in the White House -- or wherever you plan to be -- on the night of June 30. I know that the signal corps has the capability of installing the necessary equipment but, Mr. President, if there is any way I can personally assume that cost or provide that equipment, I would be doubly honored.

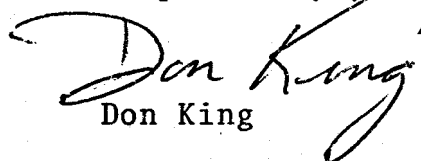
On this night, on the eve of a bicentennial year, three Americans' hands could be raised as world champions. I want the people of the Third World to know that Black is beautiful but Red, White and Blue ain't bad either. And I would like very much to demonstrate to an old (or would it be better to say retired) football player, that sports builds an even stronger bond between us.

President Gerald Ford -3-

June 12, 1975

Mr. President, I am honored you have taken the time to read this. And since I can't thank all the people in a country that didn't turn its back on a man who needed help, what seems so long ago, I hope you will accept both my offer and this letter as a thank you on their behalf.

Respectfully yours,


Don King

cc: Commissioner York Nixon
The Honorable Charles Rangel
Governor James Rhodes
Stanley Scott
The Honorable Louis Stokes

Don King Productions
Suite 6700
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020