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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 16, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON

FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT: Letter from Black College Presidents

The attached letter from Dr. Robert Threatt, President of Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"I would like a report by my return on the feasibility and desirability of each of these proposals. Domestic Council and/or HEW."

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney
Jack Marsh

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jack Marsh

I would like a
report by my return on
the feasibility & desirability
of each of these proposals.

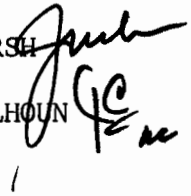
Domestic Council of

or H. E. W.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
THROUGH: JACK MARSH
FROM: JOHN CALHOUN



Handwritten signatures of Jack Marsh and John Calhoun. The signature of Jack Marsh is written over the printed name 'JACK MARSH'. The signature of John Calhoun is written over the printed name 'JOHN CALHOUN'. There is a small vertical mark below the signature of John Calhoun.

As discussed in your meeting with Black College Presidents on Wednesday, August 11th in the Cabinet Room, I have attached their letter to you.

Attachment

Dr. Robert Threatt
President
Morris Brown College
643 Martin Luther King Drive, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30314
August 11, 1976

Mr. Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Dr. Forrest David Mathews on Wednesday, August 11, 1976 in the Cabinet Room of the White House.

We greatly appreciate your genuine interest and willingness to effectively support the historically Black public and private colleges and universities of this Nation.

We are further grateful to you and the Secretary for your historical and current contributions of the historically Black colleges and universities.

We are specifically grateful to you, Mr. President, for the commitments which you made during our meeting to assist these institutions.

In view of your positive statements and the commitments you made in the meeting of August 11, 1976, we ask your immediate follow-up and implementation of the following:

1. To assure the continuance of the Advance Institutional Development Program, Title III, and to develop explicit and succinct plans for future long-range funding at a

level substantially above the present level of funding. (The authorization level of this program is currently at \$120 million dollars. Currently, funding is \$10 million dollars below the authorized level.)

2. To assure removal of restrictions on AIDP programs, Title III program guidelines and regulations, and to permit and encourage the use of AIDP funds for fund-raising from the private sector. (Historically, use of Title III funds were permitted for direct fund-raising.)
3. To direct the Secretary of HEW to withdraw the application of the HEW loan limiting agreement of the federally insured loan program upon the historically Black colleges and universities. (The applications of the HEW loan limiting agreement will deny loans to thousands of new and former students whose only access to higher education is through existing loan programs.)
4. To direct the Secretary of HEW to maximize all aspects of student financial assistance to aid low-income students in having access to opportunities in higher education.
5. To direct the Secretary of HEW to fully support and give assistance in developing the appropriate legislation for the proposed Patterson Endowment Plan to assist historically Black colleges and universities.

6. To direct the Secretary of HEW to immediately establish a Secretary's Task Force made up of presidents of historically Black colleges and universities to fully explore with the Secretary how HEW may give maximum funding support to the subject institutions from existing HEW programs, and to explore new legislation needed to assist the historically Black colleges and universities.
7. To direct the Secretary of HEW to explore ways and means within existing programs to provide immediate funding to support graduate education in historically Black colleges and universities and to further explore needed new programs or legislation that would give substantial support for graduate education in these institutions.
8. To personally express your positive interest, concern, and wishes for immediate and affirmative support of the historically Black colleges and universities to all Cabinet officers. We specifically ask that each Cabinet officer immediately seek to make funds available from his office to the subject universities.
9. To express your personal support of the historically Black colleges and universities to key persons in the corporate and business community as well as among foundations and private philanthropists. This expression would make clear the intent of the Federal Government to include historically predominately Black colleges and universities as a vital component, in the long-range plans of higher education for the national community.

10. To express your personal support of the historically Black colleges and universities to the leadership of the private, business and corporate sectors of the Nation; and, we petition that you specifically request in behalf of the subject colleges and universities that private gifts given to the historically Black colleges and universities be increased from the present amount of approximately 1% of all gifts to higher education to at least 10% in 1977-78.

11. To consider an amendment to the Executive Order creating the National Alliance of Businessmen or issue a new Executive Order which would specifically establish an organic unit of business corporations which would be targeted on the development of historically Black colleges and universities. (This may be developed by adding a new section to the NAB Executive Order.)

12. To further carry out your interest in the subject colleges and universities, we ask you to immediately establish the President's National Advisory Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This committee would be composed of the presidents of these institutions who would be accessible to you for advice on issues relevant to these Black colleges and universities and on higher education in the national community.

As additional evidence of your most positive support of the subject colleges and universities, we ask your immediate actions in the following tangible assistance:

- A. We ask you to immediately make available through the U.S. Office of Education a one-time incentive grant of not less than \$100,000 to each accredited historically Black college and university to assist in support of the institutions' most crucial present need. (The total amount of not more than 11 million dollars could be allocated from present funds available in HEW.)

- B. We ask you, Mr. President, to request each Cabinet officer in your Administration to thoroughly explore ways and means by which his department can provide some immediate funding for the historically Black colleges and universities. We further ask that the sum of 30 million dollars be made available immediately through existing channels of authority and programs in these departments to assist the historically Black colleges and universities. (This amount would represent less than 3 million dollars per Cabinet department, excluding HEW.)

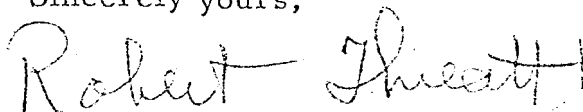
Mr. President, we, the college and university presidents who met with you on August 11, 1976, were greatly impressed with your sincere, genuine, positive attitude and your desire to assist the historically Black colleges and universities.

We left the meeting with a distinct feeling that you made definite commitments to us and that you have a positive interest in exploring additional ways to assist us.

We will be waiting with keen anticipation, as we know that you will act positively on the above items.

We are deeply grateful to you, Mr. President, for meeting with us. We also thank you for investing so much time listening to our message on behalf of Black colleges and universities. We are counting on you to help our cause; please let us hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Threath". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Robert Threath, Chairman
Committee on Black Colleges
and The Third Century

Dr. A. I. Thomas, Co-Chairman

Dr. Mabel McLean, Secretary

Dr. Herman R. Branson

Dr. Oswald Bronson

Dr. Milton K. Curry, Jr.

Dr. Luther H. Foster

Dr. Archie Hargraves

Dr. Charles L. Hayes

Dr. Thomas D. Jarrett

Dr. Charles A. Lyons

Dr. James Luther Myers

Dr. Maceo Nance, Jr.

Dr. George A. Owens

Dr. John A. Peoples

Dr. Prezell R. Robinson

Dr. Granville Sawyer

Dr. M. A. Southerland

Dr. Herman Stone