

The original documents are located in Box 26, folder “February 14, 1975 – “Think Tank” Session” of the Stanley Scott Papers 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. Bettye L. Scott donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her husband’s unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.

"THINK TANK"
SESSION
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1975
12:00 P.M.



I. WELCOME TO WASHINGTON...THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY. KNOWING THAT ALL OF YOU JOINING US HERE TODAY ARE DOERS.... WE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT YOU LEFT BUSY SCHEDULES TO BE WITH US.

PURPOSE:

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE HERE TODAY ?
YOU ALL RECEIVED LETTERS FROM MY OFFICE REQUESTING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS "THINK TANK" SESSION...ONE IN A SERIES THAT IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE IN PURSUIT OF NATIONAL UNITY...AND TO STRIVE TOWARD TRANSLATING NOBLE PRECEPTS INTO SOLUTIONS TO THE NATION'S REMAINING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

WE KNOW...READILY ACKNOWLEDGE...THAT WE DON'T HAVE ALL OF THE ANSWERS...SO, WE SOLICIT YOUR HELP AS RECOGNIZED LEADERS...AND AS CONCERNED AMERICANS IN THIS EFFORT.

I WOULD ADD THAT THIS EVENT WAS SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT FORD IN THE AFTERMATH OF A MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE...SOME OF YOU ATTENDED THAT MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY...WHETHER YOU BE REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS OR INDEPENDENTS...HE IS OUR PRESIDENT...AND HAS PLEDGED TO BE PRESIDENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND OF OURS...PRESIDENT FORD IS TRAVELLING THE COUNTRY TO TALK TO AND WITH THE PEOPLE...BLACK, WHITE AND BROWN PEOPLE.

HE WANTS OUR INPUT..YOUR INPUT...AS WE MOVE TO COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS IN THE WHITE HOUSE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

I THINK YOU HAVE SHOWN BY YOUR WORK...BY YOUR TRACK RECORDS WHERE YOU LIVE..THAT YOU ARE COMMITTED--NOT ONLY TO BLACKS BUT TO A BETTER AMERICA FOR ALL OF US..WE NEED YOU ON OUR TEAM..WE WANT YOUR EXPERT HELP...WE WANT TO COUNT ON YOU IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AS AN EXTENSION OF OUR OFFICE...AS WE DO OUR PART TO MOVE AMERICA FORWARD.

AFTER WE MAKE SOME INTRODUCTIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO BREAK OUR DISCUSSION DOWN INTO SEVERAL BROAD AREAS---POLITICS, BUSINESS-ECONOMICS, AND EMPLOYMENT.

II. EMPLOYMENT--BUSINESS/ECONOMICS--POLITICS

I SOLICIT YOUR BEST THINKING ON THESE ISSUES. OUR SECRETARIES WILL BE TAKING THIS INFORMATION DOWN...IT WILL BE TAKEN BACK TO THE PRESIDENT, TO OUR DOMESTIC COUNCIL...TO THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS MAKING DECISIONS IN THESE AREAS.

IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAVE A PRESIDENT THAT IS INTERESTED AND CAPABLE OF DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR PEOPLE. VOTING RIGHTS ACT EXTENSION, BILL COLEMAN, REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT ON RHODESIAN CHROME..MEETINGS WITH ALL AMERICANS--BLACK CAUCUS, MUHAMMAD ALLI, LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS, THE BLACK PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, REV. LEON SULLIVAN'S OIC, THE URBAN LEAGUE, ETC.

III. INTRODUCTION OF JOHN WILKES...NEWLY APPOINTED MINORITIES DIRECTOR OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE. HE HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF OUR OFFICE AND THE ADMINISTRATION...WE WANT TO WORK WITH HIM...WE WANT YOU TO WORK WITH HIM...WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER...JOHN WILL GIVE YOU HIS OVERVIEW..HIS PROJECTIONS ON WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.

IV. FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE IS PRESENTLY INTERVIEWING AND LOOKING FOR TOP-LEVEL BLACK CANDIDATES FOR JOBS. WE NEED YOUR HELP IN THIS AREA. WE WANT YOU TO--AS INDIVIDUALS--TO SERVE AS A COMMITTEE OF ONE AND SEND US THE RESUMES OF TOP-LEVEL...QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL JOBS.. SPREAD THE WORD THAT THE CANDIDATES MUST BE QUALIFIED AND WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED.

V. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS--WHITE PAPER

VI. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE BUSINESSMEN..WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS OMBE AND SBA...WE WANT TO PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL FORUM FOR YOU AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS TO OUR DECISION MAKERS ON WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PROGRAMS...PROGRAMS AFFECTING HUNDREDS OF MINORITY BUSINESSMEN.

