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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

27 Nov 79

Jack Watson

The attached is forwarded to  
you for appropriate handling.

Rick Hutcheson

Arnie Miller  
Louis Martin

0206

*Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.*

234 SUNSET AVENUE, NORTHWEST  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

November 19, 1979

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059362

President Jimmy Carter  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Dr. Thomas K. Minter, presently Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Office of Education, to the position of Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education in the new Department of Education.

Dr. Minter's record shows him to be an educator long committed to principles of educational equity. His career began at Bowie State College, an historically Black institution of higher education in Bowie, Maryland with which you are familiar. He next served in the Junior and Senior High Schools of East Harlem, New York, as both a teacher and administrator, at a time when school disruptions were taking place as a part of the struggle for educational justice. Later, he became a District Superintendent in Philadelphia, where his talents for management and his leadership qualities were widely recognized and lauded.

Dr. Minter was next named Superintendent of Schools, in Wilmington, Delaware. In the only case of its kind, eleven independent school districts merged to form the Wilmington - New Castle County District. Under Dr. Minter's reasoned leadership, plans were made for this huge desegregation effort, which has subsequently been accomplished without any racially inspired violence or disruption. This is a glowing example of the kind of progress through nonviolence that my husband believed in, and to which The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change continues to be committed.

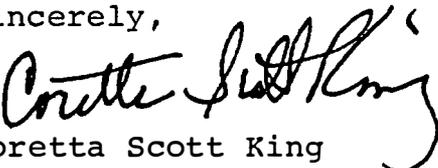
Recognizing his leadership skills, in March, 1977, your administration selected Dr. Minter from among a field of highly qualified candidates for the position of Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education. During his tenure of nearly three years, Dr. Minter has administered a network of some 40 educational programs with a total budget of \$5.5 billion, the largest program Bureau in the Office of Education. His competence as an administrator has been ably demonstrated as he has

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worked toward the fulfillment of your administration's initiatives in education. In addition to developing effective relationships with the principal education organizations, and with parent groups, Dr. Minter has also sought out the involvement of Atlanta University in the development of important parts of this nation's educational policy.

I am personally aware of your commitment to educational equity. Therefore, it is with a great deal of pride that I bring Dr. Thomas K. Minter's name to your attention, and urge his appointment as Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Coretta Scott King". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Coretta Scott King

cc: Secretary Designate Shirley Hufstedler