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ID 793563

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DATE: 29 AUG 79

FOR ACTION: JACK WATSON

*Watson will prepare letter responding*

INFO ONLY: LOUIS MARTIN

STU EIZENSTAT

*DF -  
see JW count  
BY*

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CORETTA SCOTT KING RE RANDLOPH  
BLACKWELL AND THE OFFICE OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE  
AT COMMERCE

+++++  
+ RESPONSE DUE TO RICK HUTCHESON STAFF SECRETARY (456-7052) +  
+ BY: 1200 PM FRIDAY 31 AUG 79 +  
+++++

ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR COMMENTS

STAFF RESPONSE: ( ) I CONCUR. ( ) NO COMMENT. ( ) HOLD.

PLEASE NOTE OTHER COMMENTS BELOW:

0000  
0000  
0000

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/28/79

rick hutcherson --

i don't know who would be  
most appropriate to acknowledge  
on behalf of president.

please forward to whoever  
for response, asking if  
possible for a bcc to me

thanks -- susan clough

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID # 054047

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 79108117

Name of Correspondent: Coretta Scott King

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Personal Friend

**ROUTE TO:**

**ACTION**

**DISPOSITION**

Originating Office, Your Last Name	Refer Action Type Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PR Clough</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>79108120</u>			<u>1 1</u>
Office/Agency, Last Name	R	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
	R	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
	R	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
	R	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

REFER TYPE: A - Agency  
S - Staff

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action  
C - Comments  
D - Draft Response  
F - Fact Sheet  
I - Info Copy  
R - Direct Reply w/Copy  
S - For Signature  
X - Interim Response

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Acknowledged  
B - Non-Special Referral  
C - Completed  
S - Suspended

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

# RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

## CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: 7 Media: L Individual Codes: 5.300 4.400 . . . . .

Prime Subject Code: EG 020.08 Secondary Subject Codes: HU 010. PP  
EG 020. HU 013.30  
OE 006. . . . . .

## PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

<u>Code</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Form</u>
<u>C</u> _ _	_____	<u>Time:</u> _____	<u>P-</u> _____
<u>DSP</u>	_____	<u>Time:</u> _____	<u>Media:</u> _____

### SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn** - Presidential Correspondence
  - n - 1 - James Earl Carter
  - n - 2 - Jimmy Carter
  - n - 3 - Jimmy
  - n - 4 - JC
  - n - 5 - J
- CLn** - First Lady's Correspondence
  - n - 1 - Rosalynn Carter
  - n - 2 - Rosalynn
  - n - 3 - R
- CBn** - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
  - n - 1 - Jimmy Carter - Rosalynn Carter
  - n - 2 - Jimmy - Rosalynn

### MEDIA CODES:

- B** - Box/package
- C** - Copy
- D** - Official document
- G** - Message
- H** - Handcarried
- L** - Letter
- M** - Mailgram
- O** - Memo
- P** - Photo
- R** - Report
- S** - Sealed
- T** - Telegram
- V** - Telephone
- X** - Miscellaneous
- Y** - Study

5  
Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.

234 SUNSET AVENUE, NORTHWEST  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

SC August 14, 1979

Mr. James E. (Jimmy) Carter, President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

054047

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you today about a matter of great importance and consequence to this Administration and to minority people wherever they may be in the country.

On May 4, 1977 Secretary Juanita Kreps announced the appointment of Dr. Randolph T. Blackwell to direct the Office of Minority Business Enterprise. We who have known Dr. Blackwell were especially pleased with this appointment based on his commitment and performance over the past sixteen years, during which time he served as Field Director of the Voter Education Project, as Program Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and as Executive Director of Southern Rural Action, Inc. Just as we expected, shortly after Dr. Blackwell became the OMBE Director, he became the national advocate of new directions for OMBE in the form of growth industry development; contending that it was also possible to continue to do the traditional OMBE management technical assistance programs.

The growth industries program as advocated, we perceive as being in line with your growth industrial pronouncement of September 1977. We certainly agree that if significant economic change is to occur in the minority community the communities must go beyond the "mom and pop" single proprietorships. In spite of certain handicaps within the OMBE structure the growth industries program grew rapidly in national popularity. Growth industry demonstration projects for youth, veterans, rural people, senior citizens and the like were quickly accepted. Perhaps the most widely known of all of these projects is one in Selma, Alabama, a project that OMBE under Dr. Blackwell's leadership funded in 1977 as the first federally funded grass roots gasohol project. This project is being viewed by hundreds of rural people as their first ray of hope in a long time.

From Maine to Hawaii, Alaska to Florida, proposals poured in suggesting growth industry demonstration projects. As time progressed and the new programs developed the need for a special growth industries demonstration office became more apparent.

Mr. President  
August 14, 1979  
Page 2

On March 1, 1979 the Secretary of Commerce issued a press release creating the Office of Minority Enterprise Program Development (OME PD) with Dr. Blackwell at the head. In so doing, Secretary Kreps said:  
"Randy Blackwell has the creative abilities that this challenging new position requires. He will be able to bring to bear all the Department's resources on minority business program development."

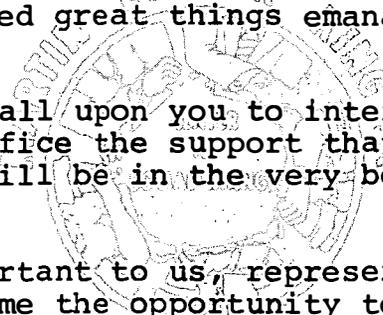
The new Office was allotted a staff of six personnel, an administrative budget of \$250,000. and a program budget of \$1,000,000. These were commitments for the period between March 1, and September 30, 1979. Now, against a background of this widely circulated press release, the facts are that this Office is still not operational. None of the program money has been used. Only a very small portion of the administrative budget has been used, and only one staff person has been hired.

The net result has been to visit disappointment on thousands of citizens who have known Dr. Blackwell's work over the years and who anticipated great things emanating from this new Office.

Now Mr. President, we call upon you to intercede in this matter, assuring to this new Office the support that it needs. We feel that for you to do so will be in the very best interest of the nation.

Because this is so important to us, representatives of the undersigned would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at an early date to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
*Coretta Scott King*  
Coretta Scott King

*John Cox*  
John Cox

*M. L. King Sr*  
M. L. King Sr

*Grace T. Hamilton*  
Grace T. Hamilton

*Mildred Glover*  
Mildred Glover

*Lottie H. Watkins*  
Lottie H. Watkins

*Benjamin Mays*  
Benjamin Mays

*Nelson McGhee, Jr.*

Nelson McGhee, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 7, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR RICK HUTCHESON

FROM:

JACK WATSON *Jack*

SUBJECT:

Action Memo from Coretta Scott King

This matter does not warrant the President's attention. It is a long-standing and sensitive personnel problem in the Department of Commerce of which Secretary Kreps is fully aware. Because of the interest of such people as Ms. King, the new position was created for Randy Blackwell in Atlanta but to date he has not fulfilled the responsibilities of the job (see the attached letter from Fred Schenck).

I have asked that a similar letter be sent to Ms. King et al from Secretary Kreps.

*Send to Chuck  
Seymour.*

*Steve*

ID 793563

*mike.* THE WHITE HOUSE  
*Call Mike Doyle & home*  
WASHINGTON

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FOR ACTION: JACK WATSON

INFO ONLY: LOUIS MARTIN

STU EIZENSTAT

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*Foral Sheske.*

*Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr.*

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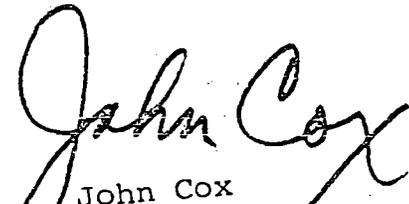
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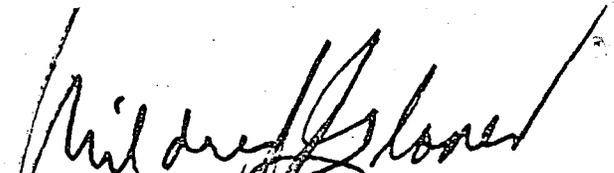
Sincerely yours,

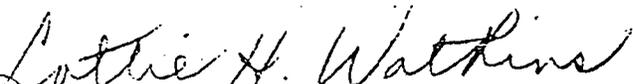
  
Coretta Scott King

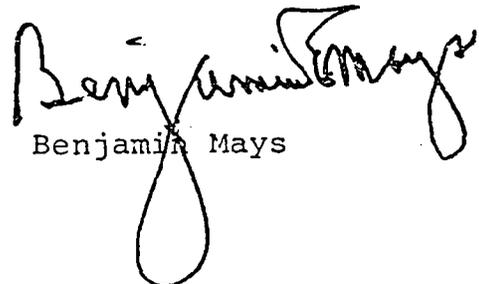
  
John Cox

  
M. L. King Sr.

  
Grace T. Hamilton

  
Mildred Glover

  
Lottie H. Watkins

  
Benjamin Mays

  
Nelson McGhee, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Sam

file

4/022

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/29/79

TO: Rick Hutcheson

FROM: Sarah Weddington *J.W.*

I am specifically sending  
this bcc to the President  
because of his handwritten  
note to me on my memo to  
him of August 25 saying  
"Meet with Rosalynn soon."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rosalynn Carter

FROM: Sarah Weddington *S.W.*

SUBJECT: Appointment Request

I would appreciate an opportunity to visit with you as soon as you find it convenient in what I know is a hectic schedule.

I would like to review my recent memo to the ERA White House Task Force (attached), before I call a meeting of the group, to get your response to the various items suggested.

I would also like to visit with you about my new responsibilities and suggestions that you might have. I am completing an outline of the goals and responsibilities for the President and will forward you a copy by the weekend.

My staff and I are very excited about the new possibilities to be of service. I look forward to working closely with you and your staff.

bcc: ✓ President Carter

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1979

TO: White House ERA Task Force

Jack Watson  
Anne Wexler  
Phil Wise  
Frank Moore  
Steve Selig  
Landon Butler  
Louis Martin  
Nelson Cruikshank  
Esther Peterson  
Kathy Cade  
Maxine Isaacs  
Emily Sheketoff

FROM: Sarah Weddington *S.W.*

RE: Proposed ERA Functions for the Fall

The following items are proposed on behalf of the ERA this fall. Please let me know: (1) your thoughts about the suggestions; and, (2) other suggestions you might have.

For your information, we have submitted a pro-ERA statement by the President that will appear in the November issue of several national magazines. The President's proclamation for Women's Equality Day, August 26, 1979, will also spotlight support for the ERA.

1. On September 19-21, a symposium of the Conference of State Legislatures will convene in Washington. This would be an appropriate time for a small group of carefully selected ERA sponsors to be invited to the White House to discuss with the ERA White House Task Force members their difficulties in getting ERA ratified in their states and their plans to achieve ratification.

The meeting could serve as a catalyst for those state legislators to make better plans and to inform us of their perspectives and make our future work more effective. It would also provide a yardstick against which to measure effort put forth by the sponsors in the various states. ERA legislative leadership has generally relied on other people to secure their votes for them while keeping a detached attitude towards the issue. Perhaps the request to detail for us their plans would cause them to think through their own strategy.

The fact of the invitation and the meeting should be public. The legislators will refer to their White House invitation "back home."

We should show White House interest and attention, but the responsibility to produce results is properly on those in the states at this stage of the campaign. The fact of the meeting would also demonstrate White House concern for ERA to proponent groups.

2. In late October, I am proposing that a buffet be held in the White House to spotlight top-level support for ERA and to build momentum for ratification efforts. Another purpose is to bring together a broad representation of supporters for the ERA. It has been recommended by the Scheduling Office.

One suggested theme is ERA: THE AMERICAN WAY. Another suggestion is that our present First Lady and her daughter be hostesses and include previous First Ladies and their daughters who support the ERA.

The following categories of people who support the ERA should be invited:

Governors

Magazine Editors Participating in the November ERA Project  
Coalition Representatives from the 15 Unratified States  
Appropriate ERA Legislative Sponsors  
Special Proponent Legislative Leaders  
Members of the President's Advisory Committee for Women  
Presidents of National Women's Groups  
Civic Leaders in Targeted States  
Public Celebrities

The President and First Lady could make appropriate remarks and future ERA events planned by the White House could be announced.

We could encourage governors' wives who attend to do similar events in their own states after the White House event.

Earlier the same day I have proposed briefings and discussions with leading women's issue proponents in response to Lynda Robb's call for an "ERA Camp David Summit." The President should participate at the end of such activity.

3. In November we could invite a carefully compiled list of those people who truly shape and influence public opinion in targeted unratified states to a briefing on ERA. Business leaders should specifically be included. Sources for names to invite would include state ERA sponsors and political leadership.

The briefing should address the merits of the issue and include a question and answer period. It would be most successful if the First Lady would participate at the end and host a reception.

4. Up-to-date speech packets should be made available at the November briefings and should also be distributed to appropriate Administration officials who give speeches regularly. The material should cover the President's statement on the ERA, copies of some of the articles in the November issues of magazines featuring the ERA, and other selected materials.

5. In a recent meeting held to focus on White House involvement in the ERA effort, Mrs. Carter expressed interest in an effort spearheaded by herself and Mrs. Mondale which would place them on a whirlwind tour of two sets of states (Oklahoma, Missouri and Illinois, and North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida). Discussion included two modes of travel: a train tour to include whistle stops along the way or a plane schedule where they could drop down to appear at airport rallies. In both cases, they would discuss the merits of ERA, hold press conferences, appear with local politicians (who are pro-ERA) and/or go on local talk shows to talk about ERA. Such a trip would have obvious benefits for the Amendment: ERA could be presented in a most favorable climate; the pros and cons issue could be discussed in some depth; and a broad base of support and supporters could be shown. It would draw favorable press attention and boost morale of the many supporters who have labored for the ERA for 7 1/2 years. The other side must also be weighed. The "advance" work needed for such an undertaking would be enormous and, the risk of pickets opposing ERA might be a factor which could result in an unfavorable political arena. This would not help the ERA and could not, politically, help the President. Expenses for such a trip might also outweigh its benefits.

We should discuss the issue further, particularly with the staff of the First Lady.

I would appreciate your prompt response to these suggestions and other suggestions you might have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc: Mrs. Rosalynn Carter