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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

24 July 1995

Dear Roger:

My profound apologies for not responding to your 26 April 1995 letter until now. It got misplaced and Janice found it just the other day.

First, I agree with both you and Patricia about the "wonderful" picture in Newsweek. How's that for a typical Administration position?

Second, I hope you are fairly comfortable with the President's recent speech on affirmative action. As you know, there was a lot of debate inside, but, it is my view that, under the circumstances, it came out all right.

Third, I am not that involved in the "welfare reform" meetings and discussions, but to the extent that I am involved, I have strongly urged your point. As you know, the President is very focused on education, which is all well and good, but as we learned during World War Two and the two decades following, there is nothing like a high demand for labor to give people the economic self-sufficiency and self-confidence needed to function and build a strong society.

Enclosed is a copy of the transcript of the President's affirmative action "remarks" of 19 July 1995.

I am going to have Janice call to set up a dinner at your convenience. My love to Pat and Elizabeth.

My very best wishes,

Harold

Harold Ickes
Assistant to the President
and Deputy Chief of Staff

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