

Canon

—

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Phil-
This is the letter from
memo that we discussed.
I've incl. some background
info for context.
-m

VIA FACSIMILE

TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: Weldon H. Latham, DNC Managing Trustee; Vice C
Business Council; Honorary Vice Chair, Clinton/Go
DATE: May 21, 1997
RE: Issues of Concern to the African American Community

Thank you for the invitation to join other supporters for a meeting with you this evening to discuss issues of concern. Unfortunately, I am in California. The invitees have strong records of support for you and the Vice President. We value the opportunity to inform you of the reaction from our community to the Second Term of your Administration. In recent months I have been forced to become a defender of your Administration to your most loyal supporters, i.e., African American voters, and in particular professionals and business owners. There is disappointment in the African American community that your Administration does not appear to be as responsive as it was in the First Term and is not currently assuming an aggressive posture on our behalf.

Examples of issues

...will discuss this evening are:

1. Appointment of a successor duties including specific ties, as well as appointment within the White House

Jim -

6/25

with
zi-

Maurice Lewis began working on a

2. Establishment of an e with particular emphasis on inclusion in the A

response to this, but probably is not qualified to do so. Can you work on

ram,
quita-

3. Enhanced communication, such as your p

response - BC Sig - ~~BC~~ and coordinate with
Meyon (Ben Johnson). Sylvia should sign off

erican
ina-
ussed;

4. African American and other appointees must do. Pats should sign before July 4. Phil
minority community and must not succumb to attacks from right wing Republicans.

mi-

Mr. President, my continued support for you is unshaken and the fact that you are reaching out to meet with us today demonstrates why support in our community continues to be strong, but you now have an opportunity to lead historical advancements for all minority and female Americans and the appointees you select must be equally committed to that goal.

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE

MARKING INITIALS: DB DATE: 07/29/19
2019-0774-S

VIA FACSIMILE

TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Weldon H. Latham, DNC Managing Trustee; Vice Chair DNC Democratic Business Council; Honorary Vice Chair, Clinton/Gore '96

DATE: May 21, 1997

RE: Issues of Concern to the African American Community

Thank you for the invitation to join other supporters for a meeting with you this evening to discuss issues of concern. Unfortunately, I am in California. The invitees have strong records of support for you and the Vice President. We value the opportunity to inform you of the reaction from our community to the Second Term of your Administration. In recent months I have been forced to become a defender of your Administration to your most loyal supporters, *i.e.*, African American voters, and in particular professionals and business owners. There is disappointment in the African American community that your Administration does not appear to be as responsive as it was in the First Term and is not currently assuming an aggressive posture on our behalf.

Examples of issues that I trust you will discuss this evening are:

1. Appointment of a successor to Alexis Herman as *Assistant or Counsellor* to the President, with duties *including specific responsibility for the African American and other minority communities*, as well as appointments to senior domestic and international policy-making positions within the White House and Cabinet Agencies;
2. Establishment of an effective and comprehensive/government-wide minority business program, with particular emphasis on helping minority owned companies attain the "next level" of equitable inclusion in the American economy;
3. Enhanced communications with the Congressional Black Caucus and outside African American business supporters particularly when developing programs to address continuing discrimination, such as your proposed "Race Commission" and the town meeting we previously discussed;
4. African American and other appointees must demonstrate your commitment to America's minority community and must not succumb to attacks from right wing Republicans.

Mr. President, my continued support for you is unshaken and the fact that you are reaching out to meet with us today demonstrates why support in our community continues to be strong, but you now have an opportunity to lead *historical* advancements for all minority and female Americans and the appointees you select must be equally committed to that goal.

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE

MARKING INITIALS: DB DATE: 07/29/97
2019-0774-5

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DATE: May 21, 1997

TO: Honorable President Clinton/Ms. Betty Currie

FAX NUMBER: 202/456-2883

(If outside USA include Country & City codes) (Always provide Area Code)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS COVER: 2

FROM: Weldon H. Latham

USER ID NO.: 0064

DIRECT DIAL: (202) 663-9228

COMMENTS:

① JH please copy and put in action folder.

② Nancy, H. 5/25/97
should we
draft a response
to Weldon? *asked*
Weldon
smat

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1997

Weldon Latham
Shaw, Pittman,
Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Weldon:

Thanks for your May 21 memo. ~~We missed you at last month's meeting, but I appreciated your recommendations.~~ As you ^{we will discuss} know, Erskine has met with African American business leaders, and I had a very productive meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus.

As we move forward with the ^{advice} race initiative, we'll need your continued ^{counsel} help and support. Keep sending your suggestions and stay in touch with Sylvia -- she gets your ideas through.

Sincerely,

advice: counsel

work w/ them
→ letter not just on race initiative -- also on appointees, etc

Mr. Latham has been in contact w/ Sylvia. We had

i.e. meetings w/ biz leaders (i believe Mr. Latham attended such a meeting)

Murphy

Sylvia met with recommendations firming up details, getting recommendations from receptive ideas from

the May 21st meeting. We're in the process that Mr. Latham work done that Mr. Latham work done in his office

firm up on...
Ming...
not w/ them
check
w/ ~~Erskine~~
for ~~Erskine~~
w/ biz
leaders
I know you
were there