

Document A

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TWENTY WEST FORTIETH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10018 • BRyant 9-1400

Dear Friend:

A few months ago the slogan "Black Power" was introduced into the civil rights struggle. Since then it has created alarm and confusion among Americans of all races and has made it plain that civil rights groups differ not only in strategy and tactics but also in objectives.

It is therefore appropriate at this juncture in history to state--or, more accurately, to restate--the fundamental principles which have guided the NAACP since 1909. Our objective now, as then, is the full participation of Negro Americans, without discrimination, in all phases of American life.

During these six decades we have employed many methods to achieve that objective. If these methods have any single common denominator, it is that they have always been non-violent. Today non-violence is stridently challenged on the premise that Negroes must defend themselves when attacked. But the right of Negroes and of all others to self-defense is not truly an issue. The NAACP has always defended this right.

What we oppose is the doctrine that Negroes should stand in armed readiness to retaliate and deal out punishment on their own. The record of unpunished murders of Negroes and civil rights workers makes this position emotionally understandable, but its fruit would be disastrous. As private vigilante vengeance, it would inevitably breed white counter-vigilantism and would furnish a pretext to any law officer wishing to "crack down" on Negro protest.

A more serious issue is posed by the slogan "Black Power." No matter how often it is defined, this slogan means anti-white power. In a racially pluralistic society, "Black Power" has to mean that every other ethnic group is the antagonist. It has to mean "going it alone." It has to mean separatism.

We of the NAACP will have none of this. We have fought unceasingly for genuine pride of race and for the inherent nobility of equal citizenship. We deny that racial dignity requires the ranging of race against race.

We are Americans as well as Negroes. While we will fight to defend this country, we are also determined to improve it. I urge you to help us in this historic struggle by contributing generously to the NAACP Special Contribution Fund. Your contribution is a vote against all forms of racism; it is an affirmation of the principles for which NAACP stands.

Sincerely,

Roy Wilkins
Roy Wilkins

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THE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FUND IS THE ONLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CHANNEL FOR AIDING THE WORK OF THE NAACP,
A NATION-WIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WITH BRANCHES IN ALL 50 STATES

Document B

"The Paper That's Published For Its Readers"



P. O. BOX 2179

Little Rock, Arkansas

Mr. Roy Wilkins
20 West 40th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Conditions are yet pretty rough in the school for the children. Last week, Minnie Jean's mother, Mrs. W. B. Brown, asked me to go over to the school with her for a conference with the principal, and the two assistant principals. Subject of conference: "Firmer disciplinary measures, and the withdrawal of Minnie Jean from the glee club's Christmas program." The principal had informed Minnie Jean in withdrawing her from the program that "When it is definitely decided that Negroes will go to school here with the whites, and the troops are removed, then you will be able to participate in all activities." We strongly challenged this statement, which he denied making in that fashion.

We also pointed out that the treatment of the children had been getting steadily worse for the last two weeks in the form of kicking, spitting, and general abuse. As a result of our visit, stronger measures are being taken against the white students who are guilty of committing these offenses. For instance, a boy who had been suspended for two weeks, flunked both six-weeks tests, and on his return to school, the first day he knocked Gloria Ray into her locker. As a result of our visit, he was given an indefinite suspension.

The superintendent of schools also requested a conference the same afternoon. Clarence and I went down and spent about two hours. Here, again we pointed out that a three-day suspension given Hugh Williams for a sneak attack perpetrated on one of the Negro boys which knocked him out, and required a doctor's attention, was not sufficient punishment. We also informed him that our investigation revealed that there were many pupils willing to help if given the opportunity, and that President Eisenhower was very much concerned about the Little Rock crisis. He has stated his willingness to come down and address the student body if invited by student leaders of the school. This information was passed on to the principals of the school, but we have not been assured that leadership would be given to children in the school who are willing to organize for law and order. However, we have not abandoned the idea. Last Friday, the 13th, I was asked to call Washington and see if we could get FBI men placed in the school December 16-18.

Document C

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*A. P. Randolph
NAACP Conference*

5787

Mr. Walter White, Secretary
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
69 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Walter:

Just a word of remembrance and good hope that you are feeling fine.

Now I have been thinking about the Negro and national defense and have come to the conclusion that something drastic has got to be done to shake official Washington and the white industrialists and labor forces of America to the realization of the fact that Negroes mean business about getting their rights as American citizens under national defense. To this end I have decided to undertake the organization of a march of ten thousand Negroes or more upon Washington. When I come back East I want to talk with you about it.

I hope it may be convenient for you to join with me and a few other persons in the issuance of a call to the Negro people for such a march.

If we are able to mobilize Negroes on such a program it is certain to have a favorable effect upon your splendid plan to get the whole question of national defense and the Negro probed by the Senate.

It is my hope that we may be able to plan the march to take place either before or directly after the conference of the NAACP in Houston.

Cordially yours,
Philip
A. Philip Randolph

APR:kw