

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
June 25, 1958

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

As an aftermath of your meeting with the Negro leaders, you may be interested in the following observations:

1. The Negro leaders were more than enthusiastic about their reception, the length of time granted for the meeting, the willingness to be heard and the willingness to speak, and the intense and sympathetic attention given them.

2. Immediately afterwards, they met with the press. Their accounts of the conference were faithful and honest. After much give-and-take, with repeated attempts to evoke criticism from the members of the group (particularly from Mr. Wilkins), a comment was made that they appeared to have been "brainwashed." Mr. Louis Lautier, only Negro member of the National Press Club, finally asked Mr. Wilkins (with some sarcasm), just what had occurred in the meeting which brought about the change in Mr. Wilkins' attitude from that of a month ago. Mr. Wilkins, visibly irritated, made no real response.

3. After a number of conversations with knowledgeable people, I am convinced that this meeting was an unqualified success -- even if success in this area is built on sand.



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