

**News
release**



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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FOR RELEASE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9
AND THEREAFTER

A progress report to the people hailing the achievements of the Eisenhower Republican Administration in the field of civil rights was released today by Val J. Washington, Director of Minorities for the Republican National Committee.

In the report, Mr. Washington said that President Eisenhower's approach on civil rights had been one of action instead of words.

"The Republican Party has fulfilled each of its specific promises on civil rights made during the 1952 campaign," said Mr. Washington. "These were published in a pamphlet entitled 'The Republican Party and the Negro' and with the appointment of E. Frederic Morrow to the White House staff, the program of campaign promises to minorities has been fulfilled."

President Eisenhower acknowledged receipt of the report in a letter to Mr. Washington in which he said that "the Republican Party has been firm in its insistence that there can be only one class of citizenship and has been effective in its practice of this conviction; thereby it has proved itself, in our day, a vigorous and productive champion of the ideals and purposes of Lincoln."

The report stressed the ending of segregation in the Nation's capital, the elimination of bias and jim crow in Federal departments and bureaus, the appointment of Negroes to important Federal positions, the strengthening of the Civil Rights Section of the Justice Department which prosecutes violations of civil rights laws, and the enforcement of the non-discriminatory clauses of the Taft-Hartley law.

A copy of the report is attached and the text of the President's letter of acknowledgment follows:

"The White House, Washington
August 1, 1955

"Dear Val:

"Naturally, every report on the fulfillment in this Administration of Republican pledges made in the campaign of 1952 gives me a great deal of satisfaction. In a special sense, however, your letter on the complete realization of fourteen points presented to the Negro voters of the Nation during that campaign is particularly heartening and gratifying. You relate an achievement which emphatically proves that the unity of the American people is neither a mere political platitude nor a purely philosophical concept.

(more)

"As Americans, we believe in the equal dignity of all our people, whatever their racial origin or background may be; in their equal right to freedom and opportunity and the benefits of our common citizenship. Now, during this Administration, we have advanced far -- on every front of our daily life -- the factual application of our belief. We have demonstrated a dynamic loyalty to the principles on which the Republic is founded.

"All of us realize that much must still be done. All of us, whatever our position or our party may be, must still work tirelessly toward the goal of a stronger and more warmly human unity. But all of us have reason for just pride in the tremendous advances of the past thirty months. The credit should be widely shared.

"You, and millions of others like you, have contributed greatly by an outstanding devotion to the Republic and by unfaltering service to it; thereby, the esteem, the respect of your fellow citizens has been earned. The Republican Party has been firm in its insistence that there can be only one class of citizenship and has been effective in its practice of this conviction; thereby it has proved itself, in our day, a vigorous and productive champion of the ideals and purposes of Lincoln.

"But I am sure, the major credit must go to the people of the United States. Their sense of fair play, their recognition that all our citizens are bound in a common destiny, their spiritual faith in the dignity of all men under God -- these deeply rooted characteristics of the American people are the ultimate source of the achievement reported by you.

"My thanks are yours for the report you have made. My best wishes to you and to all associated with you on the Committee and in the field.

"Sincerely,

"Dwight D. Eisenhower (signed)

"Mr. Val J. Washington
Republican National Committee
1625 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C."

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