

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
March 4, 1997

Bruce -
Have you seen this?
First, take a look at the agenda. Does it strike you as odd?
Second, take a look at the briefing materials. Some were prepared by Diana and Steve in response to a request

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS MEETING

DATE: Friday, March 7, 1997
LOCATION: VP Ceremonial Office
TIME: 4:30 - 5:30 pm
FROM: Richard Hayes

from OPL. ● OPL omitted all references that made it clear that the materials were from this office. At the very least, our response to this should be to call Maria and tell her that when next she wants help from our staff in preparing briefing materials she should check in with me or us first.

I. PURPOSE

Your second meeting with the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) will offer you an opportunity to follow-up issues raised by the group in January and to continue a dialogue on other key policy issues. The meeting's second purpose is to introduce the President's new team at the Office of Public Liaison, who will be responsible for working with LCCR to carry out their agenda.

II. BACKGROUND

Elena

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is a "loosely" organized coalition of over 180 national organizations committed to the advancement of civil rights laws and policies. Founded in 1950 by A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkinson, and Arnold Aronson, LCCR represents minorities, women, labor, persons with disabilities, gays and lesbians, older Americans, and major religious organizations. Dr. Dorothy Height, President of the National Council of Negro Women, is LCCR's Chairperson and Wade Henderson, former Director of the Washington Office of the NAACP, is the Executive Director.

LCCR is the legislative arm of the civil rights movement, and should not be confused with the Black Leadership Forum (BLF), which consists of the leaders of the oldest and most influential civil rights and service organizations addressing the needs of the African-American community. The Honorable Joseph Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is BLF's Chairperson and Dr. Yvonne Scruggs, is the Executive Director. Membership of the two organizations overlaps to a small degree, but they are two separate and distinct groups.

You last met with LCCR on January 6, 1997, when they briefly presented their policy agenda for the 105th Congress, asked about the status of appointments in the second Clinton Administration, and presented you with a draft of their recently completed report on the rise of hate crime violence in the United States. You consented to holding this second meeting to further discuss their policy concerns. You also promised to follow-up on several issues they raised at the first meeting: (1) Employment Non-Discrimination Act; (2) INS disability and naturalization regulations; (3) White House conference on hate crimes and discrimination; and (4) second term appointments.