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Robinson, Jackie

June 3, 1960

Mr. Jackie Robinson  
425 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Jackie:

I thought you might like to know that I have received many favorable comments, both personally and through correspondence, on your column in the New York Post which followed our recent luncheon.

In reading your article, and reflecting upon our conversation, I think we agree that henceforth no political party or special interest group can take the American Negro vote "for granted." The growing assurance and political sophistication of this group now goes far beyond economic gain; they want and are entitled to the basic freedoms and opportunities to which you referred in your column. Lip service and demagoguery in the field of civil rights will, I trust, have less effect in the November election than in any previous one in our nation's history.

As I attempted to indicate to you at lunch, I have consistently taken what has been called a strong position on civil rights, not only for the clear-cut moral considerations involved, but for other reasons which reach beyond our nation's borders.

The first reason relates to our leadership of the Free World. Obviously, unless we show consistent, direct action in strengthening our moral posture in this field, we will suffer in the eyes of the emerging nations and the uncommitted peoples. Beyond this, however, our present struggle with the forces of atheistic Communism is an economic as well as an ideological battle. To deny ourselves the full talent and energies of 17 million Negro Americans in this struggle would be stupidity of the greatest magnitude.

A summary of my votes, rulings and positions I have taken in

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the civil rights field is enclosed, as you requested at the luncheon.

I look forward to the get-together in Washington which we discussed on the phone. Don Hughes will call your office and arrange a mutually convenient date for the three of us.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

DN

Richard Nixon

*edited & OK'd  
by RN to RMW  
by phone 4/3/60*