

February 2, 1970

PERSONAL

FOR JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

We had best get about setting a date and picking a group for the meeting on race matters which the President discussed this morning.

From within the government, I propose yourself, myself, Garment, Dent, and Rumsfeld. (It is necessary to keep reminding ourselves that Rumsfeld runs the black program in this government.)

For outsiders, I will list only men I know personally, in whose discretion I have near to absolute trust, and for whose opinions in this area I have deep regard.

David Riesman. Harvard. He is one of the wisest men in America, and in ways one of the most conservative. (I have suggested to Len Garment that if we really wanted to be brilliant, we would put him on the Court. It would overwhelm the Jews, dazzle the intellectuals, and move the Court ten degrees to the right, all in one move. Something to do with legal training!)

Edward C. Banfield. Harvard. A solid Republican, with impeccably liberal views on race, and an immense knowledge of why it is so hard to get anything done.

James Q. Wilson. Harvard. The smartest man in America on the subject of crime, cities, and the interconnection of the problem. His first book, Negro Politics, is unequalled.

Aaron Wildavsky. Berkeley. This is the man I tried to get to replace Zartman, but was vetoed as he was a Democrat. I tried to point out at the time that he supported Nixon for President. And with considerably better arguments than did most. Tough, knowledgeable, and very much willing to be of help.

Irving Kristol, N. Y. U. Editor of the Public Interest. Thoroughly tough conservative mind. Again impeccable on things like race. An extraordinary quality of realism.

Do you like any of the above? I would imagine we should pick two or three, of whom I would hope Riesman might be one.

Are we to have a black? It is close. If so, I think I would recommend Charles Hamilton, now professor of government at Columbia. An old friend of ~~Watson's~~^{Watts's} and a newer one of mine. He is the author, with Stokeley Carmichael, of Black Power. A thoroughly intelligent, non-spastic professor and citizen.

Daniel P. Moynihan

DPM/crm