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ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

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7/23

July 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

BILL TIMMONS

FROM:

GORDON STRACHAN

SUBJECT:

Convention Tickets

Would there be any problem in obtaining two spectator tickets for the Convention for a pollster who deserves a small reward? Harry O'Neill, of Opinion Research Corporation, would make all other arrangements, but has asked if we could obtain these two guest tickets.

Please advise if there are any problems.

GS/jb
FU - 7/23

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 20, 1972

4:00 p. m.

To
HWH
✓ FYI
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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE FILE

FROM: DWIGHT L. CHAPIN

SUBJECT: Telephone Call with Billy Graham

Graham did not favor having Johnny Cash handle the Invocation or a prayer at the Convention. He feels that it's subjecting an actor to a religious event for political purposes and that it just wouldn't set right. He felt that if we want a layman we should go to the moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the USA or perhaps Graham's father-in-law. Also the President of the Southern Baptist Convention might be good.

Graham and I talked about good black ministers for the program. He talked about Joseph Jackson who is the one who supported the President in '68. He said that Jackson was hurt, had had no attention, was bitter and that although he is the head of the largest black church in the country, he may not do it because of his feelings of being neglected. We also talked about the fact that Jackson is elderly and maybe would not project the best image. We also discussed Dr. Isaac Green of Pittsburgh who evidently is a big Nixon supporter. He's an older man but he's very popular and has the largest black church in Pittsburgh. The other man we discussed is Dr. Lockridge, a black from San Francisco who is evidently one of the best orators among the blacks at this time. Graham is going to check Lockridge to see whether or not he would be agreeable to appear if asked and also to get a reading on his feelings regarding the President.

I talked to Graham about Sammy Davis, Jr. doing the National Anthem. He said that he thought that would be very helpful and very good. He did not feel that Davis would in any way alienate the South. He said he is a symbol to the black community and that that would be a good move for us.

Regarding Graham's personal participation in the Convention, he said he did not feel that he should do it. He said that he would be willing to appear if the President felt it would be helpful. He went to length pointing out that he is appearing as a nonpartisan on a number of talk shows and that by not being tied actively to the Republican Convention or to the President he can appear more nonpartisan. He used the example that it's more like being John Connally. I'm sure we can get Graham if we want to put the heat on. The question is do we want him badly enough to tell him that the President has asked that he appear.

We talked about Anita Bryant and agreed that she would be good at the Convention.

I asked him where the conversation stood in terms of Rabbi Tannenbaum whom I knew Bob was going to talk to him about. He said that Tannenbaum was probably the most influential Jewish rabbi in the country. He is probably a Democrat by registration but very pro the President. He is for the President because of the great things the President has done for Israel. We agreed that the best one to call Tannenbaum would probably be Kissinger. Evidently Tannenbaum owes Kissinger some favors. If Kissinger won't do it, Graham will.

Kelman (?), the other rabbi that we have from New York, is known to Graham and Graham feels he would be okay but that Tannenbaum would be better.

cc: H. R. Haldeman